



Although a formal committee of Brighton & Hove City Council, the Health & Wellbeing Board has a remit which includes matters relating to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Local Safeguarding Board for Children and Adults and Healthwatch.

Title:	Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17	
Date of Meeting:	30 January 2018	
Report of:	Chris Robson (LSCB Chairperson)	
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Wards Affected:	All	
FOR GENERAL RELEASE		
Executive Summary		
<p>It is a statutory requirement for the LSCB to publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in the local area.</p> <p>The LSCB continues to work in partnership with member agencies to protect children from abuse and neglect, and to minimise any adverse consequences of abuse. The annual report provides an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>This paper is presented for information.</p>		
Glossary of Terms		
<p>LSCB – Local Safeguarding Children Board CDOP – Child Death Overview Panel</p>		

1. Decisions, recommendations and any options

That the Health & Wellbeing Board:

- 1.1 Notes the report and supports the City Council in their contribution to keep children safe from abuse and neglect.
- 1.2 Note LSCB achievements and challenges on page 8.

2. Relevant information

- 2.1 The LSCB is required to produce an annual report that outlines the progress it has made over the last year in respect to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- 2.2 The report covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 and briefly summarises all the activity undertaken by, and on behalf of the Board over the past year.

In summary:

- 2.3 This year we undertook two multi-agency audits, looking at the safeguarding partnership's recognition of and response to child sexual exploitation and neglect – you can read the outputs of this work on page 20.
- 2.4 One Serious Case Review was published in 2016-17 and one Learning Review concluded within the year. Two Serious Case Reviews were initiated and findings were pending as at 31 March 2017 see pages 21 and 22 –both have since been published.
- 2.5 Between April 2016 and March 2017 the CDOP was notified of 11 deaths of children who were resident in Brighton & Hove which is a decrease in numbers of deaths since last year – see page 29 and 30 for more information.
- 2.6 LSCB multi-agency training was attended by 1,042 practitioners – an increase of 139% from the year before –see pages 23 and 24. 458 professionals attended events during the Learning Together to Safeguard the City week in 2016. The week was once again run in a collaboration between the LSCB, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safe in the City Partnership Board, as well as Brighton & Hove City Council and other statutory partners and a range of charities and community groups.
- 2.7 This year we have included a section in the annual report detailing partner's internal and external reviews- see pages 17 and 18.
- 2.8 Throughout the year a number of agencies that comprise the Board have faced challenges including the organisational churn and change of structural reform. You can read about their activity to improve outcomes for vulnerable children from page 30.

2.9 Each year the LCSB faces a number of challenges and while ours are listed out fully in page 8 of the report we would like to highlight some of our achievements:

- We are more informed than ever on the numbers of children who are victims of child sexual exploitation and the effectiveness of arrangements to respond to this crime.
- We have successfully embedded learning from serious case reviews and quality assurance work into our multi-agency learning offers.
- We have re-focused our commitment to ensuring that strategic and operational responses to abuse and neglect are informed by the views and experiences of children and young people.
- Following quality assurance activity a Multi-Agency Child Neglect Consultation Group has been developed to offer a safe reflective space to practitioners and their managers to bring complex and stuck cases where neglect of children is considered to be a primary issue.
- As a consequence of a Learning Review arrangements for initiating and progressing legal interventions to remove children from their parent's care have been improved – ensuring a truly multi-agency approach and mitigating the risk of relevant information not being presented to the court which could delay or prevent the child being safeguarded.

2.10 In 2017/18 we know that the LCSB will continue to face challenges and an uncertain future. Ours are fully listed in page 8. However we would like to highlight:

- We still need to influence the implementation of Operation Encompass and be assured that Early Help and support is offered to children following an incident of domestic violence.
- A Multi-Agency Child Sexual Abuse Strategy & Action Plan needs to be developed.
- A delayed start to the Neglect Strategy has meant this has not been completed within year 1 of the business planning cycle.

3. Important considerations and implications

Legal:

- 3.1 The Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). There is a requirement under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) that at least once in every 12 month period, a LSCB must prepare and publish a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area. The report is to be submitted to the Children and Young People's Committee, the Brighton & Hove Health and Wellbeing Board, and all member agencies.
- 3.2 Section 14(1) of the Act defines the objective of an LSCB as (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established, and (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes. Whilst the LSCB has a role in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals' and organisations' work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is not accountable for their operational work. Each Board partner retains its own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 19/01/2018

Finance:

- 3.3 The full financial breakdown, plus the budget forecast for 2017 -18, can be read on page 60 of the annual report. It is important to note that the LSCB budget does not represent the true costs of the Board's business and development work and some 'hidden' costs are subsumed within the City Council and other partners' budgets.
- 3.4 There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report. The financial information presented in the LSCB Annual report is accurate and a true reflection of the LSCB financial position within Brighton & Hove City Council's accounts.

Finance Officer consulted: Brian McGonigle

Date: 04/01/2018

Equalities:

- 3.5 The LSCB through the City Council and other partner agencies will continue to work to ensure all children and families have access to safeguarding services – particularly those who are less able to communicate due to age, disability, language or for other reasons. The work of the Board contributes to improved community cohesion. Throughout the year there was been much public engagement work and the Board has developed a new website and other communication methods to increase community engagement with the work of the Board.

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Equalities Coordinator: Sarah Tighe-Ford

Date: 18/01/2018

Sustainability:

- 3.6 The LSCB is a statutory requirement and must be resourced over the forthcoming year.

Health, social care, children's services and public health:

Covered within the paper and annual report.

Supporting documents and information

Appendix1: Annual Report 2016 – 17

