

**Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance & Communications,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 8th November 2016**

**Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2015-16
- Cover Report**

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are a key system in every locality across the country to enable organisations to come together to agree on how they will cooperate with each other to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Children Act 2004 gives a statutory responsibility for the boards to be in place, enabling local partnership working to hold each other to account and to ensure safeguarding children remains high on the agenda across the area.
- 1.2 The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) was established in 2006 and brings together key representatives from local agencies. The BSCB Annual Report 2015-16 (Item 5b - attached) outlines the work of the Board over the last year and indicates its plans for continued improvement.
- 1.3 BSCB is an independent body with an independent Chairperson who is able to hold partner organisations to account for their effectiveness in safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing. The governance structure of the Board outlining its relationship with a number of other partnership groups such as the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the Children and Young People's Trust is shown on p13 of the attached report. The governance structure of the Board itself including its subcommittees who are able to progress the work of the Board, is shown on p56 of the attached report.
- 1.4 BSCB's prime responsibilities are to ensure:
- children and families are getting the help they need, including early help;
 - local services are doing what they should to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area;
 - the quality of the work done is to the highest standards;
 - lessons are learned for the future from when children have been harmed (e.g. Serious Case Reviews [SCRs]);
 - local training is provided to help professionals to keep children safe.
- 1.5 An Ofsted inspection of BSCB in 2012 highlighted that a number of areas required improvement and further development. A further inspection in 2014 acknowledged that improvements had been made which led to the Department for Education's Notice to Improve being lifted and the disbanding of the Improvement Board in January 2015. This leaves the BSCB with a significant governance role in ensuring that the comprehensive Continuous Service Improvement Plan is implemented and changes continue to be embedded.

- 1.6 BSCB's key priorities for the Board during 2016-17 are outlined on p53-54 of Item 5b including the work and progress made to achieve them as well as areas requiring further development.
- 1.7 In December 2015 the Prime Minister announced that a fundamental review of the role and functions of LSCBs within the context of local strategic multi-agency working would be undertaken. This resulted in the Wood Report which was published in May 2016 which may have implications for the Board in future, particularly in relation to Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs). A link to the Wood Report is shown below in section 4.0 of this report.

2.0 Invited Witnesses

- 2.1 At today's meeting, a number of Board representatives have been invited to answer questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of the BSCB over the last Annual Reporting year (April 2015-March 2016) as well as to talk about the work being undertaken this year:

- Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSCB
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director, People Directorate, BMBC
- Brigid Reid, Chief Nurse, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Sharon Galvin, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Barnsley CCG
- Mel Palin, Detective Chief Inspector, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Shelley Hemsley, Superintendent, SYP
- Pat Armitage, Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Nigel Leeder, BSCB Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding), BMBC

3.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

- 3.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- How confident are you that the BSCB's strategies and plans will be effective in safeguarding our children and young people?
- What sorts of harmful behaviours are children most exposed to in Barnsley and how are these being addressed?
- How effective are performance management arrangements and to what extent do we learn from good practice in other areas?
- To what extent is the BSCB effective at holding partners to account? Is there genuine challenge amongst all professionals?
- What impact has the establishment of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had?

- What is in place to ensure that the voice of our children and young people is heard by BSCB and influences its work?
- To what extent are all key stakeholders engaged in and contribute to the work of BSCB?
- What has been learnt from Serious Case Reviews and how has this influenced practice?
- What are the key challenges for BSCB for the next 12 months and how will these be managed?
- What actions could be taken by Members to assist in the work of BSCB?

4.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- BSCB Annual Report 2015-16 (Item 5b - attached)
- Working together to safeguard children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (March 2015):
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf
- Wood Report – Review of the role and functions of LSCBs (March 2016):
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/526329/Alan_Wood_review.pdf
- Government’s response to the Wood Report (May 2016):
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/526330/Government_response_to_Alan_Wood_review.pdf
- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Website:
<https://www.safeguardingchildrenbarnsley.com/>

5.0 Glossary

BHNFT - Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
 BSCB – Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board
 CAF/CASS - Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
 CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
 CDOP – Child Death Overview Panel
 LSCBs – Local Safeguarding Children Boards
 Ofsted – Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills
 SCRs – Serious Case Reviews
 SWYPFT - South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
 SYP – South Yorkshire Police

6.0 Officer Contact

Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer (01226 775794)
 28th October 2016