

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2016-17
- Cover Report

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are used 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 gave a statutory responsibility for the boards to be in place, to enable 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. 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.
- 1.3 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 March 2016. Following this, the government responded to the report's recommendations and highlighted that instead of a statutory requirement to have an LSCB, they will introduce a stronger but more flexible statutory framework that will support local partners to work together. The plans for the framework are that it will set out clear requirements for the key local partners to work together, while allowing them freedom to determine how they organise themselves.
- 1.4 Services are currently awaiting further government guidance on statutory local arrangements. However, locally, the current arrangements remain in place, with the BSCB continuing to meet to ensure that:
- 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.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The BSCB Annual Report 2016-17 (Item 5b - attached) outlines the work of the Board over the last year and indicates its plans for continued improvement. The Board's key priorities for 2017-18 are outlined on p22-23 of the attached report.
- 2.2 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 in Appendix 1 (p24) 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 in Appendix 2 (p25) of the attached report.

3.0 Invited Witnesses

- 3.1 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 2016-March 2017) as well as to talk about the work currently being undertaken:

- Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSCB
- Brigid Reid, Chief Nurse, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Barnsley CCG
- Chief Superintendent Scott Green, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Detective Chief Inspector Joanne Bates, SYP
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Monica Green, Head of Service-Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, BMBC
- Nigel Leeder, BSCB Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding), BMBC

4.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

- 4.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:
- What have been the most challenging areas of work in the last 12 months and have these been effectively addressed?
 - What sorts of harmful behaviours are children most exposed to in Barnsley and what is being done to reduce the potential of these incidents occurring?
 - What evidence do you have that the policies and processes for keeping children safe are robust and effective?
 - What is in place to ensure continuous improvement and to hold partners to account? Are all partners engaged and actively participating?
 - What impact has the establishment of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had?

- What were the findings of the Anti-Bullying Strategy Task & Finish Group and how will these be used to drive improvements?
- How do you ensure that the voice of our children and young people is heard by BSCB and influences its work?
- What has been learnt from Serious Case Reviews nationally and how has this influenced local practice?
- What strategies are being explored as a result of the findings of the Child Death Overview Panel?
- What potential risks do you foresee that may prevent the Board from achieving its priorities and fulfilling its responsibilities for 2017-18 and how will these be mitigated?
- What actions could be taken by Members to assist in the work of BSCB?

5.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- BSCB Annual Report 2016-17 (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_Alán_Wood_review.pdf
- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Website:
<https://www.safeguardingchildrenbarnsley.com/>

6.0 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

7.0 Officer Contact

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 4th September 2017