

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2017-18 - 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 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 left the BSCB with a significant governance role in ensuring that the comprehensive Continuous Service Improvement Plan is implemented and changes continue to be embedded.
- 1.4 The BSCB continues 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 from when children have been harmed (e.g. Serious Case Reviews [SCRs]) to prevent it happening again in the future
 - local training is provided to help professionals to keep children safe

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The BSCB Annual Report 2017-18 (Item 5b - attached) outlines the work of the Board and it's sub-groups over the last year and indicates its priorities and plans for continued improvement.
- 2.2 The governance structure of the Board is outlined on page six of the report, which shows the seven sub groups who ensure the work of the Board is carried forward.
- 2.3 In the coming year (2018-19), the sub-groups plan to:-
- continue the programme of multi-agency audits to assure the Board that partners are fulfilling their responsibilities in terms of safeguarding
 - measure the impact of training on workforce practice

- continue to work with partners to help them recognise and develop strategies to tackle neglect
- continue to review all cases where a child or young person has died or been seriously injured to ensure that any lessons can be learned and shared in a timely way
- continue to work in partnership to ensure colleagues are aware of their particular responsibility to those with a disability or complex health need and that appropriate services are available
- continue to conduct regular audits of cases where children and young people have been exposed to, or are at risk of, child sexual exploitation (CSE)

2.4 Due to the serious problem of neglect in Barnsley, the OSC is scheduled to consider the Neglect Strategy which was launched in July 2017 and work associated with this in more detail at its meeting on 8th January 2019.

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 2017-March 2018) as well as to talk about the work currently being undertaken:

- Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSCB
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director – People, BMBC
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
- Monica Green, Head of Service – Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, BMBC
- Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, BCCG
- Emma Cox, Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- Chief Superintendent Scott Green, Barnsley District Commander, SYP
- Nigel Leeder, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – People (safeguarding)

4.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

4.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What achievement are you particularly proud of this year and what difference has it made to the community?
- What impact will the recently published statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (July 2018) have on the Board and local services?
- How do you ensure that the school self-assessment findings are an accurate reflection of practice?
- Which of the priorities for the coming year (2018-19) will have the greatest impact on improving outcomes for people?
- Which aspect of safeguarding children impacts the greatest upon resources and what processes could be improved?

- What evidence do you have that the policies and processes for keeping children safe are robust and effective?
- How do you ensure that all partners are engaged, actively participating and discharging their duties effectively?
- Can you give us an example of how the refreshed Anti-Bullying, Hate & Harassment Strategy has improved the lives of children and young people in relation to social media bullying?
- How will you know if the actions implemented as a result of learning from the Serious Case Review report are having a positive impact?
- Where are the gaps in information sharing between partners, safeguarding boards and other local authorities, and what potential impact could this have?
- What potential obstacles do you foresee that may prevent the Board from achieving its priorities and fulfilling its responsibilities for 2018-19 and how do you plan to overcome them?
- 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)
- BSCB Serious Case Review – Summary Report, February 2018:-
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/7815/child-r.pdf>
- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Website:-
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/safeguarding-families-in-barnsley/safeguarding-children-in-barnsley/>
- Department for Education Statutory Guidance – Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018:-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--22>

6.0 Glossary

BCCG	Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group
BSCB	Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
LSCBs	Local Safeguarding Children Boards
SCRs	Serious Case Reviews
SWYPFT	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
SYP	South Yorkshire Police

7.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer
3rd September 2018