

**Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2018-19 - 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 Since 2012, when children's social care services in Barnsley were judged as requiring improvement by Ofsted, the Board has had a significant governance role in ensuring that improvements continue to be implemented and embedded within the service.
- 1.4 A highlight of the last year was that Ofsted re-inspected children's social care services in October 2018 resulting in a judgement of 'good'.
- 1.5 The Board 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

**2.0 Current Position**

- 2.1 The BSCB Annual Report 2018-19 (Item 6b - attached) outlines the work of the Board and its 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 seven of the report, which shows the seven sub groups who ensure the work of the Board is carried forward.
- 2.3 This will be the last annual report of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board in its current form, as on 1 April 2019, adjustments were made to partnership arrangements in order to be compliant with the Government guidance document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. The new arrangements mean that the group is now known as the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership, which retains the strengths of the Safeguarding Board, but continues to look for opportunities to improve. Links to documents which outline the new arrangements and the requirements of implementing

'Working Together', as well as the performance management framework for the Partnership are shown in section 5.0 below.

2.4 In addition, to allow the group to respond to issues such as County Lines and Contextual Safeguarding, the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) sub-group widened its remit and changed its name to the Child Exploitation (CE) Strategy Group.

2.5 In the coming year (2019-20), the sub-groups plan to:-

- continue the programme of multi-agency audits to assure the Partnership that partners are fulfilling their responsibilities in terms of safeguarding
- measure the impact of training on workforce practice
- 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 with partners to help them recognise and develop strategies to tackle neglect
- work with colleagues across the partnership to ensure compliance with the 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' statutory guidance
- 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, exploitation

2.6 The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership 'Plan on a Page' (Item 6c - attached) provides an outline of the Partnership as well as the priorities for 2019-20 as well as the Strategic Plan for 2019-2022.

### **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 2018-March 2019), as well as to talk about the work currently being undertaken:

- Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSCB
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
- Stephanie Evans, Interim Head of Service – Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, BMBC
- Nigel Leeder, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children's Services (formerly People - Safeguarding)
- Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, BCCG
- Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- Detective (DCI) Chief Inspector Paul Murphy, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)

## **4.0 Possible Areas for Investigation**

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

- What are the good news stories for 2018-19 and how do they improve outcomes for children in the borough?
- What approach do partners take to understand and respond to young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families, such as their peers neighbourhoods, schools and online?
- How do you ensure that children develop the right tools, such as confidence and resilience, to reduce their chances of being exploited or becoming vulnerable?
- The Board's current Anti-Bullying Strategy expires in 2019 - what is being done by the Board to tackle bullying and support schools in Barnsley?
- How confident are you that staff have the time and skills to be curious and persistent with those children who are hard to reach?
- Can you give us an example of any issues that were highlighted as a result of the audits conducted this year and how you intend to remedy them?
- How do you plan to assess whether training is having the desired effect in the workplace – how will you measure quality?
- How do you demonstrate that the Board is value for money?
- What does the information from the child death review tell you and what changes will be made as a result of the findings?
- Moving forward, and taking the Working Together guidance into account, what work and priorities will the new partnership be taking on in 2019/20 that differs from the previous year?
- How does the board plan its work – does it have a clearly documented plan with specific actions and timescales or is the work more fluid?
- What actions could be taken by Members to assist in the work of Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership?

## **5.0 Background Papers and Useful Links**

- BSCB Annual Report 2018-19 (Item 6b - attached)
- BSCP Plan on a Page (Item 6c – attached)
- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership New Arrangements and Implementing the Requirements of Working Together 2018:-  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/10311/barnsley-safeguarding-children-partnership-implementation-document.pdf>

- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Performance Management Framework: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/10343/bscp-pm-framework-april-2019.doc>
- Barnsley Safeguarding Children 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
CE	Child Exploitation
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
LSCBs	Local Safeguarding Children Boards
OSC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
SCRs	Serious Case Reviews
SWYPFT	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
SYP	South Yorkshire Police

## 7.0 Officer Contact

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2 September 2019