

# Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

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**H****Subject:****Bradford Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013/14****Summary statement:**

Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has produced an annual report covering the period April 2013 – March 2014. This report sets out the context of partnership work to safeguard children in the Bradford District. It also addresses some of the key priorities and challenges for Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and its partners. The report also contains information about the governance, resources and accountability of BSCB.

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**Overview and Scrutiny:****Children's Services**

## **1. SUMMARY**

1.1 Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has produced an annual report covering the period April 2013 – March 2014. This report sets out the context of partnership work to safeguard children in the Bradford District. It also addresses some of the key priorities and challenges for Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and its partners. The report also contains information about the governance, resources and accountability of BSCB.

1.2. In addition to the introduction and conclusions, the report is broken down into the following key areas:

- The safeguarding children context in the Bradford District;
- Key activity areas;
- Judging the effectiveness of multi-agency work to safeguard children in Bradford;
- Priorities and challenges during 2013 – 14;
- How the BSCB sub group and other panels worked on the safeguarding agenda during 2013 – 14;
- Safeguarding in the voluntary and community sector;
- Participation and the views of children and young people; and
- Perception of lay members of BSCB.

In addition, the annual report includes six additional appended documents:

- Governance, accountability and resources;
- Children who go missing report;
- Independent Reviewing Officer annual report;
- Report of allegations management figures;
- Child injury prevention report; and
- Child Death Overview Panel annual report.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) are established under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004. The key statutory objectives of LSCBs are:

- To co-ordinate 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 and;
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.



- 2.2 The BSCB annual report for 2013 – 14 is appended to this document (appendix 1). This report has been submitted to the Department for Education and has also been presented to the Chief Executive of Bradford Council, the West Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Bradford Council Children & Young People’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee. It is produced in accordance with the requirements of “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013”, which is statutory guidance. It is a requirement of this guidance that the annual report is presented to the chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- 2.3 Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) came into existence in May 2006, replacing the previous non-statutory Area Child Protection Committee. Until February 2009 BSCB was chaired by the Director of Children’s Services. Since then until August 29<sup>th</sup> 2014, BSCB was independently chaired by Professor Nick Frost. The new Independent Chair of BSCB, Elaine McHale, took up her responsibilities on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.
- 2.4 BSCB has a small dedicated team of staff, led by the BSCB Manager. This team works alongside officers in partner agencies to ensure that employees and volunteers in agencies that work with children and families in the Bradford District have access to procedures, guidance, training, and other support to enable them to effectively safeguard children and promote their welfare. In order to do this, BSCB commissions serious case reviews when a child has died or been seriously harmed and there are lessons to be learned about partnership working. Other types of review are also undertaken in order to improve services and BSCB also undertakes multi-agency audits and “challenge panels” in order to understand the quality of partnership safeguarding work.
- 2.5 During the period being considered by this BSCB annual report, Ofsted completed an inspection of Early Help services, Child Protection, Looked After Children, Adoption and Care Leavers in Bradford. Alongside this, Ofsted undertook an evaluation of Bradford Safeguarding Children Board. This is the first time that Bradford Safeguarding Children Board has been separately evaluated by Ofsted.
- 2.6 The Ofsted inspection report rated the effectiveness of BSCB as good. Detailed information about the findings of the Ofsted inspection are contained in section 4.1 of the annual report.
- 2.7 In section 3, the annual report sets out a summary of safeguarding children performance data which demonstrates that, following several years of reducing referrals to Children’s Social Care Services, 2013 – 14 saw a rise to 5361. Historically high levels of “Section 47” (child protection) enquiries noted in 2012 – 13 were maintained, whilst the numbers of initial child protection case conferences (568) and child protection plans at the end of the year (577) had risen significantly. This data illustrates the rising demand not only on Children’s Social Care Services, but also on partners such as West Yorkshire Police, schools and Health Trusts.



- 2.8 This rising demand can impact on service performance in a variety of ways. The demand for additional initial child protection conferences and subsequent reviews of children made subject to child protection plans placed stress on the services provided by the Children's Safeguarding and Reviewing Unit. Initial child protection case conferences should be convened within 15 working days of "Section 47" enquiries being initiated. In March 2014, 28% of initial child protection case conferences were convened within the required timescales, which represented a deteriorating performance for this indicator over the 12 month period.
- 2.9 In January 2014 a business process review was established to identify measures to improve this area of performance. Immediate action was taken to recruit additional reviewing, management and administrative capacity. Further changes have subsequently been made to streamline the work of the Children's Safeguarding and Reviewing Unit. As a consequence of these developments there has been a significant and consistent improvement in performance in this area. In October 2014 89% of initial case conferences were convened within the timescale.
- 2.10 BSCB has established a multi-agency group made up of senior officers to consider the causes and implications of this rising demand and to consider how all partners' resources can be best utilised and working practices optimised in order to effectively safeguard children in this challenging environment. This group will be making recommendations to BSCB in December 2014.
- 2.11 Since 2008, each LSCB is required to establish a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which reviews every child death that occurs within the local authority area. The report contains a summary of the findings and recommendations of the Bradford District CDOP, and the full annual report of CDOP is appended to the Annual Report.
- 2.12 Operating arrangements for CDOP are set nationally. It is a requirement to review each child death in the Bradford District, once all related legal and coronial processes are completed. Each death must be categorised, using a table of 10 categories. Since April 2010, CDOP has been required to identify "modifiable deaths". A modifiable death is defined as where there are factors which may have contributed to the death. These factors are defined as those which, by means of nationally or locally achievable interventions, could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths.
- 2.13 For 2013-14, 7 (10%) of the 66 deaths reviewed were considered to have modifiable factors which may have contributed to the death. The deaths occurred in the following categories:
- Deliberate inflicted abuse or neglect
  - Trauma and other external factors
  - Genetic, chromosomal and congenital anomalies
  - Prenatal/neonatal events



- Infection
  - Sudden unexpected, unexplained deaths.
- 2.14 A summary action plan for modifiable deaths is updated and audited regularly to ensure all actions recommended are completed in a timely manner. Recommendations identified in deaths with modifiable factors that were reviewed in 2013-14 are detailed in the CDOP annual report.
- 2.15 A key safeguarding issue addressed by BSCB and its partners is that of children being killed or seriously injured as a result of unintentional injury. Despite reductions in the numbers of children killed or seriously injured in the Bradford District, children and young people (national data is for the age range 0 – 24) from this District are more likely to be admitted to hospital with an unintentional injury than the England average. Information about the partnership work to reduce harm caused by unintentional injury is set out in an appendix to the annual report.
- 2.16 The Annual Report focuses on areas of partnership safeguarding that were key partnership priorities or there were significant developments or changes of approach during 2013 -14. The areas highlighted are:
- Children who go missing;
  - Safeguarding Looked After Children
  - Allegations against people who work with children;
  - Multi-agency responses to Child Sexual Exploitation;
  - Strengthening safeguarding children arrangements in Mosques and Madrassah
  - Learning from Serious Case Reviews..

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no other considerations.

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 BSCB is funded on a partnership basis, with significant financial contributions by the Council, NHS Trusts and West Yorkshire Police. This joint budget funds all of BSCB's work and officers' salaries. The significant financial contributions to BSCB are as follows:
- Bradford Clinical Commissioning Groups:: £148,350
  - City of Bradford Children's Services: £153,760
  - West Yorkshire Police: £17,550
  - West Yorkshire Probation trust: £4,690.



## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- 5.1 The risks that arose for BSCB during 2013 – 14 were effectively managed by the Officers of the Board and partner agencies.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 there are no other implications.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

- 8.1 There are no “not for publication” documents..

## **9. OPTIONS**

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 That the Committee consider the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013 – 14.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 The Annual Report of Bradford safeguarding Children Board 2013 – 14. this can also be accessed at: [http://www.bradford-scb.org.uk/PDF/BSCB\\_Annual\\_Report\\_final\\_version\\_20\\_08\\_14.pdf](http://www.bradford-scb.org.uk/PDF/BSCB_Annual_Report_final_version_20_08_14.pdf)

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 12.1 “Working Together to Safeguard Children”: Department for Education, March 2013.

