

**Report of Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Overview and Scrutiny to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

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**Subject:**

**Bradford Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and Business Plan**

**Summary statement:**

**Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has produced an annual report covering the period April 2015 to March 2016. The report sets out the context of partnership work to safeguard children in the Bradford District, outlines the key areas of work and the key challenges and successes. The report also contains information about the governance, resources and accountability of the Board**

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**Portfolio:**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**



## 1. SUMMARY

The publication of the Annual Report of the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory requirement and provides a report on the work of the Board in 2015/16. In 2015, the Board approved the 2015 – 2016 Business Plan. Through the planning process four key priorities were identified for further development and improvement throughout the course of year. These were performance; engagement and participation; challenge and responding to emerging issues. The annual report provides an update on progress in these areas as well as an overview of safeguarding in Bradford for the year ending March 2016. The report produced for 2015/15 was completed by an Interim Manager who was recruited to undertake this role. The departure of the BSCB Manager then diverted much of this resource to the day to day management of the Board. This does mean that the Annual report was delayed and has been published as a large document. Feedback from the Board is that while this has been agreed for 2015/16 in order to publish the report, the report for 2016/17 will take on Board feedback that this version is overly long. It has also been agreed to publish a shortened version for children and young people that can also be used as a summary for the partnership.

Currently the Board has an Interim Manager in place – Tony Griffin, while a recruitment exercise is undertaken. .

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) are established under Section 13 of the Children's 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
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

2.2 Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) came into existence in May 2006, replacing the previous non-statutory Area Child Protection Committee. A new Independent Chair, David Niven took up position this year after a period in which the position had been vacant. Nancy O'Neill, Director of Collaboration and the Bradford CCGs, was elected as Vice Chair of the Board.

2.3 BSCB has a small 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. In 2015/16 the Board did experience some staffing disruption.

2.4 There has been a national review ( the Wood Review) on the future of LSCBs published this year which sets out some suggestions around slimming down Board membership and moving some functions like high impact Serious Case Reviews to regional or national structure. This has yet to be enacted and LSCBs retain all of their current statutory functions at present. The Board is reviewing its structures in the light of Wood to ensure that they are fit for purpose moving forward.

2.5 The BSCB has a number of sub groups operating as part of the Board structure. In 2015/16 these were:

- The Child Death Overview Panel ( CDOP)
- The Serious case Review Sub group
- Performance and Audit Sub group
- Proactive and Responsive Sub group
- Universal Sub group
- The Education Sub group
- The Health Sub group
- Community Reassurance group ( this is part of neighbourhoods)

The work of these groups has been integrated into the sections looking at the four key priorities within the report , apart from the work of CDOP which, as is statutorily required, has a separate report as an appendix.

2.6 The priorities outlined within the report are:

Priority 1: Performance

- Priority Outcome: A Performance information system that gives an overview of the effectiveness of the safeguarding system.

Priority 2: Engagement and Participation

- Priority Outcomes: Engagement with the wider community, schools and participation from young people.

Priority 3: Challenge and Change

- Priority Outcomes: Effective Challenge, learning, communication, information exchange and embracing change

Priority 4: Responding to Existing and Emerging Safeguarding Issues

- Priority Outcome: Safeguarding all children who are vulnerable, including those vulnerable to newer challenging forms of abuse.



## 2.7 Highlighted achievements within the report include:

- Work with Madrassahs around safeguarding and road safety. This has included working with Madrassah to encourage safeguarding training for staff, and encouraging them to complete a safeguarding self assessment as well as distributing high visibility jackets for use with children attending Madrassah after school in winter months to improve road safety.
- A review of the CSE Hub. This was undertaken by an external organisation and identified a number of areas for development, including looking at the risk assessment tool which is used to evaluate risk for each child.
- Roll out of Signs of Safety Training across the District. This has now been rolled out to over 1400 staff from across the partnership, and work is now underway to embed this as the way in which Bradford approaches work with children.
- The development of a fast track pathway for Eastern European families. A multi agency group met together and devised a referral pathway for eastern European children and families. This was in response to the high numbers being dealt with by children's social care, and the challenge to all agencies in ensuring that services were dealing with this group appropriately.
- Setting up an education sub group. This group was set up, chaired by a Bradford Head Teacher to focus on safeguarding issues as they relate to schools and education settings. This group is still forming, but now has meetings scheduled and will focus on a number of key areas including bullying
- Regular programme of challenge panels tied in with Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). The board has run a programme of successful multi agency challenge panels which have focused on particular groups tied in with the JTAI deep dive themes. This has included CSE, neglect and domestic abuse. These panels gather chronologies for each agency together and then facilitate a discussion between agencies to draw out best practice and learning from a range of cases.
- Performances of the "Someone's Daughter" play in all secondary schools (this will be supplemented in 2017 with performances for year 6 of the new Mr Shapeshifta play)
- Work with the Youth Commissioner on Youth Voice. The Board worked with the LA Commissioner of Youth provision to identify a reference group of young people for the Board.

## 2.7 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The annual report also includes the report from CDOP, giving full details of the work of the group in reviewing all child deaths in Bradford.

During the year April 2015 – March 2016 (2015/16), 61 child deaths were reported to the Bradford child death review team. Bradford CDOP reviewed 79 child deaths during 2015/16; these reviews included 45 deaths that occurred in 2014/15 and 3 deaths that occurred in previous years. This brings the total number of deaths reviewed by Bradford CDOP to 607 since April 2008, out of 647 deaths reported (94%).

From the deaths reviewed, CDOP identifies what are called modifiable deaths, where there is learning for the future. Key themes for the whole period 2008-2016 for potentially



modifiable causes of death are:

- Co-sleeping and SIDS ( sudden infant death syndrome)
- Road traffic collisions
- Specific clinical incidents over a range of causes

The recommendations from CDOP for 2015/16 were

- Formalise and circulate guidance on gastroenteritis;
- Discuss actions with specialist drug and alcohol team to reduce the risk of death in vulnerable people in relation to substance misuse;
- Continue awareness of safe sleeping through multi-professional work and media work and feed into the maternity network – this included an updated e-learning package on safe sleeping and a repeat audit of all deaths due to Sudden Infant Death (SIDS)/Co-sleeping;
- Work across local organisations to understand the management of asthma in young people with additional complex health needs.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no other considerations

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

BSCB is funded on a partnership basis, with significant financial contributions by the Council, NHS Trusts and West Yorkshire Police. The finances of the Board are reviewed by the Board on an annual basis. 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**

There are no risk or governance issues identified

### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

There are no legal issues identified.



## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

There are no equality and diversity implications identified in the annual report.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications identified in the annual report.

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

There are no greenhouse gas emissions impacts implications identified in the annual report.

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

The work of the Board in relation to CSE in 2015/16 was high profile. During this period there was a high profile trial of a number of men who were convicted of rape in relation to CSE. Communities affected by the trial were considered by the Community Reassurance group and plans put in place to mitigate concerns in relation to community safety.

### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no human rights issues identified in the annual report.

### **7.6 TRADE UNION**

There are no trade union issues identified in the annual report.

### **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

The work of the Board in relation to CSE is being reported at area level through the area committees to enable ward implications to be understood and reassurance given.

### **7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

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

None

## **9. OPTIONS**

The annual report is presented for information and assurance and there are no options



identified for discussion

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee read and note the attached Annual Report of the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Annual Report of the Safeguarding Children Board 2015 /16

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

