

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 13th February 2019.

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Subject:

Annual Report of the Safeguarding Children Board for 2017/18

Summary statement:

This report provides a summary of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Children Board to accompany the full report which is provided as an appendix. The report provides a summary of priorities and achievements of the Board in 2017/18, as well as the annual summary of the Child Death Overview Panel.

Gladys Rhodes White
Interim Strategic Director
Children's Services

Portfolio:

Children and Families

Report Contact: Mark Griffin
Manager of Bradford Safeguarding
Children Board
Phone: (01274) 434361
E-mail: mark.griffin@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) provides the procedural framework for all partnership work to keep children safe within Bradford and fulfils its statutory responsibility around quality assurance and training. The role of the Board:

- sets the procedural framework for all partnership work to keep children safe within Bradford
- fulfils its statutory responsibility for ensuring that staff receive multi-agency training to support them in their work
- ensures that agencies are held to account for their work and that there is a learning and improvement framework in place to ensure that serious case reviews and other challenge and learning processes are effective.
- conducts a multi-agency review of every child death in the District, carried out by the Child Death Overview Panel.
- In addition, BSCB plays a role in supporting and planning innovative partnership responses to safeguarding children challenges, such as the establishment of the multi-agency CSE Hub.

1.2 The Board is required to produce and publish an annual report. This report summarises the annual report and draws the committees attention to the highlights of the activity this year.

Appendix 1, Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2017/18
Appendix 2, CDOP Annual Report 2017/18

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The work of the of the Board

The annual report summarises the work of the main Board and the sub groups. In 2017/18 theses were:

- The Business Planning Sub Group- Chair David Niven
- The Case Review Sub Group- Chair Dr Kate Ward
- CSE Missing Group- Chair Alisa Newman
- Learning and Development Sub Group- Chair Sue Thompson Designated Nurse for Safeguarding
- Performance and Audit Sub Group – Chair Jenny Cryer
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) I group – Chair Jenny Cryer
- Safeguarding and Professional Practice Sub Group- Chair Jim Hopkinson
- Child Death Overview Panel- Chair Dr Shirley Brierley
- Education Safeguarding Group – Chair Lyndsey Brown
- Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Safeguarding Steering Group- Chair Janice Hawkes
- Safeguarding in Health Group- Chair Dr Ruth Skelton

2.2 Priorities of the BSCB

The BSCB is committed to improving the welfare and protection of all children and young people in the Bradford District and has agreed to deliver these priorities through its Business Plan. The plan reflects the complexity of safeguarding in Bradford. The plan focuses on the three key areas of responsibility that drive the 'core business' of the partnership. The plan acknowledges that while a substantial number of children are safeguarded by the core activity of partners, some children have an elevated vulnerability to harm through a range of high risk issues. The aim of the plan is to provide strong and effective safeguarding arrangements to ensure that all children receive the highest quality service at the right time and at the right level thereby promoting their welfare and reducing harm. In 2017/18 the priorities for the Board were to:

1. Ensure the care and protection of children remains the highest priority
2. Improving outcomes and reducing risk for children
3. Reducing risk for vulnerable and marginalised children

Summary of the Board Achievements

Bradford remains a unique city and the BSCB continues to recognise the emerging threats and challenges that impact upon the safety of children and the delivery of services. These challenges range from financial to demographic and to an increasingly complex world for children to live and learn. Bradford is one of the youngest cities in the country with children under 16 as a proportion of its population with over 100,000 on roll in the District.

The BSCB continues to provide the procedural framework for all partnership work to keep children safe within Bradford and fulfils its statutory responsibility around quality assurance and training. The structure of the Board suits the needs of Bradford with 8 sub-groups reporting to the Business Planning Group to coordinate activity. The Voluntary Community Sector and Safeguarding in Health groups also contribute to overall BSCB work. The BSCB is funded from a number of partners and total expenditure was £352,564, slightly under budget and enabled the functioning of Board and sub-group meetings, training and serious case/lessons learnt reviews.

The BSCB is considering the implications from the recently published Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 in its future safeguarding arrangements, child death overview panels and serious case reviews. Historically, partners across Bradford have evolved and adapted to new and emerging safeguarding challenges with optimism and enthusiasm. This will benefit future reorganisation as the BSCB's priorities and structure has taken into account current and future needs. The new arrangements provide a chance to renew focus on safeguarding across partners including an increased focus on early intervention and prevention.

More details can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

The BSCB continues to progress a number of areas work through the Business Plan and Risk Register and has made progress against

- Scrutiny and challenge process to assure effectiveness of response to children adversely affected by their carers. JTAI themed Challenge Panels have taken place. Learning is disseminated via newsletters and website.
- Neglect strategy is finalised and published
- Report mechanisms have improved through bi-monthly summaries and yearly assurance reports.
- Escalation policy has been agreed and published and the BSCB is assured that a number of challenges have taken place
- Process for dissemination of learning, linked to the Case Review sub-group has been developed. Serious Case Review/Lessons learnt events have been delivered. Regular BSCB Newsletters summarise the learning. Numerous training events held to develop professionals.
- Communication Strategy to disseminate news, learning & development, briefings are in place. The BSCB Website has been updated, social media used and the newsletter published regularly. There is now a Joint Board Communication and engagement group in place.

The business plan will be reviewed in 2018.

Other achievements include

- Operation Lilac - an excellent example of multi-agency working, developed by Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BTH FT) in collaboration with West Yorkshire Police, its aim is to assist investigations to sexual abuse.
- Signs of Safety (SoS) – the model enables the child and family to understand the process. From 2017 over 1,000 staff have been trained across the local authority, VCS and other partners.
- Bradford significantly contributed to Safeguarding week with over 2000 attendees at 80 events

Bradford continues to recognise opportunities to increase collaboration between Strategic Boards and Sub-Groups. This is set against the backdrop of reducing budgets and increasing demands which bring organisational review and reshaping to deliver more with less. The BSCB is progressing work around communications, digital safeguarding and shared learning from serious case reviews. Partners and Boards are also now recognising the emergence of complex safeguarding such as criminal exploitation and organised crime.

The BSCB is acutely aware of current challenges around austerity, the numbers of vulnerable learners and the impact of the new Early Help and Prevention model. The Board and its constituent partners remain motivated and committed to protecting children in Bradford and listening to their voice.

Since the completion of the Annual report, the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services has taken place and the overall judgement was found to be inadequate even though aspects of the service were described as a strength. This has led to the creation of a Children's Social Care Improvement Board. The BSCB will be acting as support and challenge to this process, and the Board has recently reviewed its Business Plan and Delivery Plan to align with the Improvement plan. The new BSCB plan will facilitate long term scrutiny of the improvement journey and focus upon multi-agency themes.

Full details of the report are available via the link http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=138

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Included within the annual report, and as a stand alone document, the Child Death Overview Panel provides it's own annual report.

The work of CDOP:

CDOP undertakes a comprehensive multidisciplinary review of every child death from birth to 18 years of age that would normally reside in the Bradford District. The aim is to have a better understanding of how and why children across the district die and use the findings to take action to prevent other deaths and improve the health, wellbeing and safety of children within the District. CDOP identifies modifiable causes of death and seeks assurance from partner agencies that appropriate actions have been taken to reduce future deaths. In 2018 the government published Child Death Review, Statutory and Operational Guidance and this year CDOP responsibility will change from DfE to the Department of Health. At a local level responsibility will change from the Local Authority to a joint responsibility between CCGs and the Local Authority. There are no other major changes to the CDOP review process, but 2019 will also see the introduction and implementation of a new National Child Death Database which will help national learning in this area.

Between April 2017 and March 2018, 8 CDOP meetings were held at which there were 61 child death reviews and during that period a total of 58 deaths were notified.

Summary of the CDOP report.

Overall infant and child mortality rates are reducing but Bradford remains above national and regional rates. Key areas of focus for recommendations arising from the modifiable deaths remain: smoking in pregnancy, maternal obesity in pregnancy and consanguinity, which all increase the risk of child death. Additionally deaths due to SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome “cot death”) and co-sleeping, with additional risk factors such as smoking and parental alcohol consumption continue to occur. CDOP therefore continues to seek assurance from partner agencies regarding their actions around these key areas and to raise awareness.

The CDOP continues to monitor report and review child deaths closely to identify any new issues that emerge at an early stage to pre-empt targeted work. CDOP produce an annual report last years report is attached as an appendix

The CDOP Annual Report 2017-18 can be accessed at the following page: http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=104

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 makes provision for the abolition of Local

Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). Nationally, each LSCB is currently looking at the legislation, including the recently published version of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and reflecting the implications around safeguarding arrangements, changes to serious case reviews and child death overview panels.

The BSCB (Bradford Safeguarding Children's Board) and key partners are considering how the new safeguarding arrangements will be implemented against existing BSCB structures, which understand the issues that impact at a local level and promote effective partnership working. The timescales for the completion of this work are September 2019.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The BSCB staffing and operational funding is provided by a pooled budget totalling £353,040. A small income is generated by charging commercial organisations for safeguarding training and the resolution of a previous budgetary matter.. The contributors to this pooled budget are:

Income £358,342

- Bradford Council Children's Services £182,100
- Health £148,350
- Police £17,350
- National Probation £2,345
- Community Rehabilitation Company £2,345
- Cafcass £550
- Miscellaneous income £5,302

Total expenditure Total expenditure £352,564

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 No issues identified

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 No issues identified

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

No issues identified

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

No sustainability issues identified.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

No issues identified.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.41 The BSCB works closely in collaboration with the Community Safety Partnership. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is violent criminal activity and forms an objective for the CSP strategic plan. The BSCB is also working closely with the CSP around wider exploitation which links to Serious and Organised Crime.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.51 Child abuse is a violation of the rights of the child under the Human Rights Act. The arrangements made by the Council and its partners are intended to prevent the rights of the child being violated in this way.

7.6 TRADE UNION

No issues identified.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

No specific ward issues identified.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

A CSE report has been taken to all Area Committees

7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

No issues identified.

7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

7.11 There is no sensitive data included in this report that requires a Privacy Impact Assessment.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

This report is tabled for information and discussion.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted and a further report provided in 12 months

11. APPENDICES

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12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>