

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD FORUM

14 OCTOBER 2016

9.30 AM - 12.30 PM



Present:

Alex Walters, Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Independent Chair
Dr Catherine Caird, Named Doctor, Bracknell & Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group
David Cochrane, Broadmoor Hospital
Dr Minoo Irani, Consultant Paediatrician, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Sonia Johnson, Head of Specialist Services, Bracknell Forest Council
Ness Miller, SWAAY
Mairead Panetta, Head of Safeguarding, Bracknell Forest Council
Jon Samson, Bracknell & Wokingham College, Further Education Representative
Debbie Smith, Team Leader - Safeguarding and Inclusion, Bracknell Forest Council
Liz Terry, Chief Executive, Berkshire Women's Aid
Superintendent Rob France, Thames Valley Police
Ian Dixon, Head of Targeted Services, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning (Vice-Chairman of the Executive)
Alison Burnell, LSCB Partnership and Performance Officer, Bracknell Forest Council
Nikki Edwards, Director of Children, Young People & Learning
Sarah Roberts, Policy & Commissioning Officer
Philip Cook, Involve
Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer: Children's Social Care, Bracknell Forest Council
Debbie Hartrick, Deputy Director of Nursing (Safeguarding Lead), Berkshire East CCG
Abigail Simmons, Head of Safeguarding and Practice Development
Jonathan Picken, LSCB Business Manager, Bracknell Forest Council

Apologies for absence were received from:

Peter Floyd, Lay Member, Lay Member
Karen Frost, Head of Prevention and Early Intervention, Bracknell Forest Council
John Giannikas, Independent Schools' Representative
Keith Grainger, Secondary Head Teachers' Representative
Jo Graves, Operational Manager, Youth Offending Service
Beverley Stevens, Headteacher, Ranelagh (Academy School Representative)
Leah Thompson, Head of Training & Development, Training Sub Group

27. Agency Updates

Rob France informed the Forum that Chief Inspector Dave Gilbert was retiring and a replacement would be recruited. The Forum thanked Dave for his hard work and contribution to the work of the LSCB.

Debbie Hartrick reported that a named GP for safeguarding, Dr Asif Ali, had been recruited to cover safeguarding across the three East Berkshire CCGs.

Minoo Irani reported that Nancy Barber had retired and Jayne Reynolds had been appointed as Deputy Director of Nursing in her place. Jayne chaired the Pan-Berkshire S11 Panel, and had a nursing and safeguarding background.

28. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Forum meeting on 15 April 2016 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Minute 16

The Forum was informed that Nicola Johnstone , Team Manager and LADO had left the Council, and that Frederika Van Rooyen was the interim LADO and Team Manager for a three month period while a permanent replacement was recruited.

Minute 17

The Forum was informed that the PICADA service delivery was subject to an ongoing discussion. Involve had recommended that the Community Safety Team contact PACT (Parents and Children Together) to deliver the service. Initially, this had been too expensive, however PACT had undertaken some fundraising to assist with the cost. Although this had not solved the ongoing financial issues, it was recognised as a good example of partnership working. It was acknowledged that although this was a positive example of support, it had been offered on a one off basis and that the CYP would be giving further consideration as to future arrangements.

29. LSCB Decisions

Jonathan Picken presented a report on the LSCB decisions taken at meetings on 20 May and 15 July 2016. The LSCB had also met on the 23rd September 2016, and these decisions would be reported to the next Forum meeting. **(Action: Jonathan Picken/Alison Burnell)**

The following was noted with regard to the decisions taken at the 20 May 2016 meeting:

- Jonathan informed the Forum that the peer review process of the LSCB co-ordinated by the South-East Regional Sector Led Improvement programme was being progressed. It was likely that a peer review would take place in January 2017 to coincide with a LSCB Board meeting, It would be led by East Sussex and representatives from 3 other LA and an Independent Chair from Kent LSCB. Forum members were informed that they may be contacted as part of this review and further information would be provided in due course.
- A task and finish group chaired by Debbie Smith had been established under the Children and Young People's Partnership to follow on from the e-safety discussions at the Board. The Group had been asked to recommend how the Governments arrangements on e-safety should be implemented in Bracknell.
- The proposed work of a 'Protecting Young People at Risk' task and finish group had been integrated with an ongoing piece of work co-ordinated by Angella Wells and Peter Hodges.
- Details of the lead officers in all of the Berkshire Local Authorities had been provided to the SARC (Sexual Abuse Referral Centre) Commissioning Group, and although clarification is still required as to which authorities were now represented and how they will link with those not in attendance. (Action: Lorna Hunt)

The following was noted with regard to decisions taken at the 15 July 2016 meeting:

- Phil Cook, Involve had offered to raise and address the lack of engagement from faith groups, with help from the Community Cohesion and Engagement Partnership.

The LSCB Thresholds guidance had been subsequently endorsed and agreed at the September Board meeting, but the difference between disseminating and

implementing were noted. This is a key LSCB document and all partners were encouraged to note the LSCB implementation plan and ensure their own implementation plan were in place. A focus group to support planning of implementation inter-agency workshops would be held by the LSCB on 20 October 2016 which it is hoped will identify barriers and solutions to successful implementation. Workshops will subsequently be held for managers in and a follow audit of implementation will be commissioned in Feb 2017. Colleagues would be kept updated on the progress of this work.

30. **CDOP Annual Report - CONFIDENTIAL**

Alex Walters presented the Pan-Berkshire Child Death Overview Panel 2015/16 Annual Report.

In 2015/16, there had been 45 child deaths within Berkshire- 17 were unexplained and 20% had modifiable factors. There had been an overall reduction in the number of child deaths in Berkshire, and the panel hoped to be increasingly thematic in their assessment of these cases and the resultant learning arising from them.

The Panel had raised awareness of a number of modifiable factors, including co-sleeping and parental smoking amongst other issues. There had been an increase in congenital and chromosomal causes of death.

The Forum was assured that if any child death in Bracknell was deemed to have an element of abuse or neglect, then it would be referred to the LISG to be discussed and considered as a Serious Case Review but this had been the case during 2015/16..

Arising from Forum members' questions, the following points were noted:

- A sub-group of the Panel had been established to look at neonatal deaths.
- Concerns were raised regarding children with learning disabilities and whether their deaths would be reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) or by mortality review groups within mental health trusts. Debbie Hartrick resolved to raise this with CDOP. **(Action: Debbie Hartrick)**

Although there were low numbers of suicide deaths amongst young people in Berkshire, it was noted that there remained an important cross over and that many of the modifiable factors would affect these young people.

31. **Broadmoor Hospital Annual Report**

David Cochrane presented the annual update report regarding child visits to Broadmoor High Secure Hospital.

David reported that arrangements for child visits to the 200 bed high-security hospital in Crowthorne were regulated, and came from the Department for Health. Only close relatives of inpatients were allowed to visit the hospital, and the clinical team were required to approve child visits for their patient before a visit could take place.

The number of child visits had decreased, and at the time of the meeting there were 11 patients who were authorised to receive child visits. Of these 11 authorised patients, 5 patients were on trial leave at other hospitals leaving 6 remaining at the Broadmoor site. In September 2016, there had been 2 child visits involving 4 children.

David commented that the patient population at Broadmoor had grown younger, and one past patient who had received many child visits due to a large extended family had skewed results in previous years.

David commented on the excellent support received from Children's Social Care at Bracknell Forest Council who were part of the Review Panel

The Forum were informed that a new hospital building was being built for Broadmoor, due to open in Spring 2017. A new child visits suite had been included in this building, and David invited any member of staff who wished to view the arrangements before opening. The DVD explanation for child visitors to Broadmoor would be remade to reflect the new buildings and new procedures.

The Forum were notified that Broadmoor Hospital was due to have a CQC re-inspection on week commencing 7 November 2016.

David commented that he and the Director of Safeguarding at Broadmoor had attended a recent pan Berkshire S11 panel, and although there had been positive verbal feedback a report had not yet been received. It was agreed that this would be followed up. **(Action: Jonathan Picken/Alison Burnell)**

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Forum commended what was evidently a child-central process.
- Lorna Hunt, Children's Social Care asked if a visit could be arranged before the opening of the new hospital. **(Action: David Cochrane/Lorna Hunt)**
- The appraisals scheme at Broadmoor was commended, and David commented that the hospital tried to keep in touch with ordinary social work practices and the appraisals were a good way of doing so.
- David commented that the hospital ran Prevent training, and Jonathan Picken suggested that the Council could help with this if required.

The Forum thanked David for the detailed and helpful Annual Report

32. **Performance Report Quarter 4 2015/16**

Alison Burnell reported on the LSCB Data Management Information for 2015-16 and highlighted key issues for the Forum to consider and discuss.

Over the past three years, there had been a 14% increase in contact, enquiries and referrals to Children's Social Care. In 2015/16, there had been 6274 contacts/enquiries, and 1208 referrals received.

There had been an increase in the number of Children in Need from 524 on 31 March 2015 to 604 on 31 March 2016. The number of children subject to Child Protection Plans had decreased by 6% from 122 to 115 on 31 March 2015 and 2016 respectively, but Alison informed the Board that the number had risen to 142 at the end of September 2016. Neglect accounted for over half of the CP Plans in 2015/16.

The number of Looked After Children had decreased by 6% from 104 on 31 March 2015 to 98 on 31 March 2016, however it was noted that the number had increased to 106 at the end of September 2016.

There had been a reduction in the number of CAFs returned (306 on 31 March 2016). There had been an increase in the number of reviews, which was up 10% to 544, largely due to the work of the CAF team leader and development worker. The number of Early Intervention Hub referrals had also decreased (288 on 31 March 2016),

however it was noted that 91 of these cases had been stepped down from Children's Social Care.

There had been a 26% increase in fixed period exclusions, three quarters of which were from secondary schools. However, there had also been a marked increase in primary school exclusions, in line with the national trend. There had been two permanent exclusions in 2015/16, and both of these had been from primary schools. The three main reasons for exclusion had been persistent disruptive behaviour, verbal abuse to adults and physical assault on pupils.

With regard to Children's Mental Health, there had been a 22% increase (258 cases in 2014/15 to 314 cases in 2015/16) in the number of referrals to CAMHS Tier 3. Referrals to Common Point of Entry (CPE) had decreased by 14% (744 cases in 2014/15 to 637 cases in 2015/16). There had been a marked increase in referrals for deliberate self harm at A&E during Quarter 4 of 2015/16 to 21 cases. This data was being monitored to consider various hypotheses of the causes.

There had been an overall decrease in the number of reported domestic abuse incidents involving children, however the Forum noted that there were still over 1000 incidents each year involving children.

Multi-agency training had decreased across all levels, but the most significant decrease was in Level 1 training by Local Authority Staff. A new Training and Professional Development subgroup had been established in March 16 and was actively monitoring engagement and assessing the impact of revised charges..

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Forum requested comparative data regarding referrals for deliberate self-harm from A&E to assess whether this issue was unique to Bracknell Forest, and whether there was any relevance to the Quarter 4 increase. **(Action: Alison Burnell)**
- An improved preventative service was needed to inform families of the services available to those who had deliberately self-harmed. A&E was not the best course of action in these cases, but the Forum recognised that parents may not be aware of this and better signposting was required. It was requested that a discrete piece of work to review previous years data and consider the use of audits to identify learning. **(Action: Jonathan Picken/Alison Burnell)**
- Forum members commented that the training data was not reflective of individual training given within agencies, and only recorded training commissioned by the Council's Learning and Development team on behalf of the LSCB. The amount of single-agency training had increased, and this needed to be reflected in ongoing data. It was suggested that the percentage difference between staff who require training identified through the current Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and those who had received training may be a more useful statistic to monitor.
- The number of exclusions recorded involved a small number of schools, and the decrease in the number of permanent exclusions needed to be recognised and celebrated.

Previous work to open two behavioural units to deal with excluded children from primaries had been reassessed and the LA had decided that there were better ways to keep children more integrated in their communities while excluded or at risk of exclusion. This work was ongoing and would be reported to a future LSCB meeting.

33. Training and Professional Development

Jonathan Picken presented a report prepared by Emma Williams prior to her secondment to a new post. The report updated on the establishment and priorities of the Bracknell Forest LSCB Training and Professional Development Sub-group. This also contained an exception report highlighting 2 following areas of concern: 1) the marked reduction in staff attending inter-agency training
2) Poor compliance with the new post course evaluation of impact on learning

The two priorities of the group were to now undertake a new training needs analysis (TNA) to inform the LSCB multi-agency training programme development, and to further develop a training programme monitoring and evaluation process to measure impact.

The group had acknowledged the difficulty in establishing training priorities across agencies. It had been suggested that all partners nominate a designated – Responsible Officer to represent the training needs of their organisation. There was a concern that a more sophisticated approach to the training programme monitoring and evaluation had lead to poor compliance .Work was ongoing to gather feedback after courses, in order to establish the impact training had on the attending practitioner’s practice after three months. The subgroup was keen to establish whether training provided was fully equipping practitioners to improve.

There had been a reduction in staff attendance at training, and this was recognised to be a multi-faceted issue. Learning from this would be fed back into the Learning and Improvement Subgroup.

A question was raised regarding the new compulsory CSE training for taxi driver licence holders, and whether the LSCB would want to have an element of quality assurance in this training. It was confirmed that a rota of members would conduct spot checks on training, and that taxi driver training could be included in these checks if required. It was suggested that the LA S11 should include this single-agency training.

The Chair challenged partners on the issues raised in the report and requested that post course evaluations be prioritised and that they nominate officers responsible for overseeing this work and suggested that there would be merit in the same officer supporting the TNA required.

34. Private Fostering Annual Report

Peter Hodges, Head of Service: Looked After Children reported on the Private Fostering activity undertaken by Children’s Social Care between 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

A privately fostered child was defined as one under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) who was cared for by someone other than a parent or close relative.

The Local Authority had two main responsibilities with regard to privately fostered children, which were:

- To assess the suitability of any private fostering arrangements and to provide ongoing monitoring and support to children who are privately fostered
- To raise public and professional awareness of private fostering and the requirement for parents and carers to notify the Local Authority of any such arrangements or intended arrangements

The Duty Team and Family Placement Team were co-located and undertook joint assessments on new referrals. There were currently two ongoing private fostering

arrangements within Bracknell Forest, but there had been five in July and August 2016. Between April 2015 and April 2016, there had been three new notifications of private fostering arrangements from the UK Border Agency, the court and the carer themselves. Notifications had historically also been made by the School Admissions team, the Education Welfare team and individual schools. There was continuing direct engagement with the 6 independent Boarding schools within Bracknell Forest and evidence that there was a good awareness within partner agencies.

Prompt cards had been circulated with the legislation requirements regarding private foster care to all partner agencies/GP surgeries/schools etc. There were also information packs available for parents, carers and young people explaining the Local Authority's role in private foster care, explaining why the Local Authority may be concerned about a current care arrangement, and providing contacts for support available.

An audit of private fostering arrangements was undertaken yearly in order to monitor the timeliness and quality of assessments. The Head of Service for Looked After Children was required to read all new private fostering arrangements within 42 days and prior to these being presented to the Fostering Panel.

All materials would be reviewed to ensure reference was made to Early Years, as in the past the arrangements had tended to focus on older children. The new Council website was in development, and would have a Private Fostering page promoted on it. A new recruitment and publicity officer had been recruited in the Family Placement Team who would support this work.

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- Privately fostered children would stay with their GP if remaining in the local area. It was requested that GPs be informed of the change of circumstances, and that the process of this communication could be reviewed.(action Peter Hodges)
- All Berkshire Local Authorities discussed and compared their arrangements, and it was suggested that this could be recorded in the report as evidence of peer review.
- Peter Hodges volunteered to attend partner agencies to provide more information if required.

The Forum thanked Peter for attending and for his informative report.

35. **Children's Social Care Update**

Mairead Panetta reported on Children's Social Care work since the last Forum meeting.

MASH

The MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) had been launched on 16 May 2016, and co-located social care with the police, health visitors, education, youth services and adults services. Joint visits with a combination of staff had been successful. 13% of contacts to the MASH had been referred on to Children's Social Care.

A performance board met quarterly to assess the performance of the MASH, and a subgroup had been established to look specifically at performance standards and targets which the LSCB would consider in order to enhance its current performance data. While there was no national or local comparative data regarding other MASHs, the Bracknell Forest MASH was being measured on timeliness, feedback, turnaround and consent, as the MASH was a consent based model.

All of the Berkshire Local Authorities now had MASHs established, and representatives from all six met quarterly to discuss their procedures and progress.

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- Health colleagues had been particularly useful to the MASH process, and it was noted that a review of Health colleagues' role on the MASH was needed to establish decision making procedures. A weekly meeting with representatives from all partners was to be formed as a next step.
- An audit of Domestic Abuse was ongoing, but the work had already demonstrated good partnership working through the MASH.
- Liz Terry, Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA) notified the Forum that BWA were not accepting referrals from Reading due to increased demand and may need to do the same in Bracknell Forest if numbers increased further. The Chair confirmed that this had been reported into the DA Executive to discuss.

Signs of Safety

Mairead Panetta reported that all Social Care and Early Help staff had been trained in Signs of Safety, and that some had been on the full five day training.

Early Help had transferred their processes to Mosaic (IT system) in order to align their systems with Social Care, and all paperwork /tools had been amended to include the Signs of Safety processes.

The Over 11s team use Signs of Safety to inform group supervisions, and the Under 11s team were also increasing their use. The MASH were using Signs of Safety for assessments as were the Duty team .

The approach was being adopted in Child Protection conferences and Child Protection plans in order to make the process shorter and to focus on the risks.

Innovation Bid

Lorna Hunt reported on the bids submitted to the Department for Education's Innovation fund from Children's Social Care, which had been undertaken in partnership and included:

- A family safeguarding joint bid with Hertfordshire, Peterborough, Luton, Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire Local Authorities to involve adult services within CSC Teams.
- Signs of Safety to support further multi-agency roll out.
- Family Drug and Alcohol Courts
- Cornerstone – support for foster carers
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing

The results of these bids would be available in mid-November, and Lorna agreed to keep the Forum informed.

36. Voice of Children and Young People Workshop: Berkshire Youth

Gareth Mepham and Lisa Ford presented to the Forum on the work of Berkshire Youth commissioned by Bracknell Forest Council.

In Bracknell Forest, Berkshire Youth ran several services including:

- Fusion - a group for transition between Year 6 and 7 in partnership with the Local Authority and Bracknell Forest Homes

- The Zone - a youth club running three nights per week
- The Wayz - a 7 day youth club for 8 – 19 year olds (up to 25 year olds with Learning Disabilities)
- Activities for young people and families on issues such as Health Lifestyles
- Training for young people and organisations on issues such as road safety and safeguarding

In the year 2015/16, Berkshire Youth in Bracknell Forest had seen a total of 902 young people, with 310 of these making weekly contact with the service. 47 young people had taken part in volunteering opportunities through the service, accounting for 6513 hours of volunteering time.

One significant element of Berkshire Youth's offer was Bounce Back, a mental health course for young people to address a rise in young people's mental health issues. The 10 week programme covered issues such as anxiety, depression and healthy relationships, discussed coping mechanisms and self-help methods. The programme was a universal programme for all young people regardless of their mental health risk.

A year group at Garth Hill and the Bracknell Forest Youth Council had completed the course. The Bounce Back team were working closely with Youthline, and aimed to work more closely with Kooth online counselling service. The service was also supported by CAMHS, the Youth Offending Team and schools and was able to evidence positive impact

Lisa and Gareth were undertaking a 'train the trainer' 6 hour course accredited by Exeter University, and offered this training to all partner agencies and parents at a cost of £40 per person.

The total annual cost of the Bounce Back scheme was £74,895. This would fund sessions for schools and youth groups, and would provide drop in sessions both in and out of schools.

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Forum encouraged Gareth and Lisa to make a formal application the CAMHS Transformation scheme, and to consider their proactive service in relation to the criteria and needs of East Berkshire.

The Forum encouraged Gareth and Lisa to attend the CAMHS Conference on 20 October at Maidenhead Town Hall which would assist with key contacts and information.

37. LSCB Consultation with Children and Young People Engagement Update

Jonathan Picken updated the Forum on the various strands of the engagement strategy with Children and Young People.

The Communication and Community Engagement Group provided the strategic oversight and had engaged with the Youth Council previously, and now were working with Headteachers at Kennel Lane, Ranelagh and Edgbarrow to arrange focus groups with their students and the development of a formal LSCB Reference Group.

Jonathan Picken had attended Kennel Lane School to hold a focus group of 14 to 17 year olds. The young people helped review the Board's key priorities and also reported concerns of:

- Bullying

- e-safety
- Assault and abduction
- Road safety

Bullying and online safety were said to be connected through the use of online gaming and the young people involved were concerned that children met through online games where bullying took place. It was thought that their fears of assault and abduction may be connected to the understanding of media portrayals of abductions. It was agreed that this would be fed back to the Community Safety Partnership for consideration.

The young people saw the following as issues relating to their safety:

- Inadequacy of counselling/support
- Insufficient lighting/CCTV
- Fear of slow response of police officers (especially relating to assault)
- Their concerns about the lack of parental supervision (around online activities)
- Road safety and reckless driving by other young people

There were two further focus group sessions planned, and all schools had been invited to take part. Issues identified would be fed into the relevant sub groups

It was discussed and agreed that a systematic response to consultation feedback should be established, and the difference between a child's concern and a system issue needed to be defined. This would be considered further by the Communication and Community Engagement sub group.

38. **Prevent**

Justin Whitlock, Community Safety Team presented the Bracknell Forest Prevent Strategy 2016-19.

Prevent had been launched by the Government as part of the Contest scheme in 2008. Prevent aimed to use all the existing systems and relationships in place to identify individuals of concern. It was noted that Prevent was not limited to faith-based extremism and ideologies, and included animal rights and environmental terrorism.

The Government's 2015 Prevent update had put Channel panels and the Prevent strategy under responsibility of the Local Authorities rather than the Police. At the time of the meeting, the responsibility to refer individuals was still with the Police but would also be changing to the Local Authority in the near future.

Bracknell Forest had a historically low number of referrals to the Channel panel, but preparation for a referral was critical and the panel met regularly to look at the experiences of cases outside of the area. 2 referrals had been received by the Channel panel in 6 years, and both of these had been regarding right-wing individuals with feelings of exclusion. As a result it is thought that Bracknell Forest's main threat came from right-wing lone actors, however it was noted that the nature of the threat was changing from large organisations such as al-Qaida to individuals acting within their own countries on behalf of a wider organisation such as Da'esh. Work was ongoing in Bracknell Forest to define risk in this area and regular updates would be shared with the Board.

Feedback on the strategy and invitations for the Community Safety Team to deliver "WRAP" training opportunities were welcomed.

The Forum thanked Justin for his report.

39. **Any Other Business**

Sonia Johnson informed the Forum of the SEMRAC evaluation, and asked that any interested partners contact her for feedback.

Alison Burnell reminded the Forum of the LSCB Twitter account (@BFLSCB) which partners should encourage other to follow and disseminate.

40. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for 7 April 2016 from 9:30 until 12:30.

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