

**LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
FORUM**

15 APRIL 2016

9.30 AM - 12.30 PM



Present:

Alex Walters, Independent Chair
Dr Catherine Caird, Named Doctor for Bracknell, Bracknell & Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group
David Cochrane, Broadmoor Hospital
Karen Frost, Head of Prevention and Early Intervention, Bracknell Forest Council
Jo Graves, Operational Manager, Youth Offending Service
Dr Minoos Irani, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Sonia Johnson, Head of Specialist Services, Bracknell Forest Council
Nicola Johnstone, Team Manager, Conference and Review Team
Mairead Panetta, Head of Safeguarding, Bracknell Forest Council
Debbie Smith, Team Leader - Safeguarding and Inclusion, Bracknell Forest Council
Beverley Stevens, Headteacher, Ranelagh (Academy School Representative)
Kellie Williams, Community Safety Manager, Bracknell Forest Council
Joanna Barnett, Named professional for safeguarding, Berkshire East Clinical Commissioning Group
Nancy Barber, Deputy Director of Nursing, BHFT
Peter Floyd, Lay Member
Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer: Children's Social Care
Janette Karklins, Director of Children, Young People and Learning
Emily Kenny, Garth Hill College
Michaela Clark, Berkshire Women's Aid
Ged Berry, SWAAY
Paul Young, Head of HR, CYPL

In Attendance:

Alison Burnell, Partnership and Performance Officer, Bracknell Forest Council
Jonathan Picken, LSCB Business Manager

Apologies for absence were received from:

Wendy Bayliss, Interim Operational Manager, CAHMS CBU Bracknell & Wokingham
Philip Cook, General Manager, Involve
Geoff Davis, Head of Operations South (Berkshire), Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Limited (TV-CRC)
John Ennis, Senior Probation Officer, Thames Valley Probation Service Bracknell
Chief Inspector Dave Gilbert, Bracknell Local Police Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Keith Grainger, Secondary Head Teachers' Representative
Debbie Hartrick, Deputy Director of Nursing (Safeguarding Lead), Berkshire East Clinical Commissioning Group
Jillian Hunt, DAAT Co-ordinator, Bracknell Forest Council
Christine McInnes, Chief Officer: Learning & Achievement, Bracknell Forest Council
Ness Miller, SWAAY
Karen Roberts, Head of Youth Offending Services, Bracknell Forest Council
Jon Samson, Bracknell & Wokingham College, Further Education Representative
Leah Thompson, Head of Training & Development, Training Sub Group
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning (Vice-Chairman of the Executive), Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning

12. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Forum held on 16 October 2015 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- Item 6: *The Counter Terrorism Bill 2014* be amended to read *The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2014*

Matters Arising

- The Domestic Abuse Executive had agreed to take on the work to review apparent low number of referrals into MARAC. Work around Domestic Violence was progressing, but due to budget restraints, was continuing in a different way and would be discussed as a later agenda item.
- It had been suggested that the Pan-Berkshire Policy and Procedure group adopt the LSCB's revised Bruising Protocol.
- Partner agencies were reminded that the Looked After Children's 'Do You Know?' training remained available to members of the LSCB and all were encouraged to attend.
- The Community and Communications subgroup had been convened to look into ways of improving the public perception and understanding of the part they can play in safeguarding children and the dissemination of key messages to professionals. The group had met for the first time, and the meeting had been very positive. The next meeting of the sub-group was scheduled for the 24 May 2016.
- Representatives from the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust now sat on both the Channel Panel and Prevent steering group.

The guidance supporting Section 11 returns had been amended to ensure organisations understood the extent of the definition of 'Safeguarding' and that it included areas around such as radicalisation, FGM, honour based violence, trafficking etc. The Female Genital Mutilation Task and Finish Group had met once, and were scheduled to meet again in May.

13. Agency Updates

Kellie Williams updated the Forum on behalf of Thames Valley Police, to advise that Bracknell and Wokingham Police forces had merged into one larger force. The LSCB police representative going forward would be Superintendent Rob France, and Inspector Emily Jones taking over the force's Safeguarding remit. It was reported that there should be no change in the frontline response, and that the public should notice no change to policing.

Janette Karklins, Director of Children, Young People and Learning updated the Forum that permanency was now the key priority in Childrens Services, linked with the Signs of Safety work which was ongoing.

David Cochrane, Broadmoor Hospital reported that the MAPPA guidance was out for national consultation.

Karen Frost reported the LA Youth Service had undergone a significant reorganisation, and were now focussing on targeting and helping vulnerable young people rather than a universal approach. It was noted that the universal approach was maintained by a commissioned service.

Abigail Simmons reported that the Adult Safeguarding Board had developed pan Berkshire procedures including FGM, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, and Child

Sexual Exploitation. It was agreed that the procedures would be circulated to the Forum and there would be an opportunity for review in June. **(Action: Abigail Simmons)**

Jo Graves reported that the Youth Offending Service were due to be inspected by HMIP from Monday 18 to Wednesday 20 April 2016, and had been given a notice period of two weeks. An update on this inspection was invited for a future meeting.

The Chair reported that the Government had undertaken a review of LSCBs, and Alan Wood had submitted a response to the review at the end of March. It was noted that the Government were likely to consult on the recommendations in the summer. The recommendations were likely to include changes to the Child Death Overview Panel procedure, Serious Case Review procedure, and less prescription for local conduct. The report was likely to support LSCBs working in a more regional /sub regional approach, and it was noted that Berkshire had already been working in this way.

Lorna Hunt reported that Childrens Social Care had received an LGA Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic earlier in the year, and had received a pleasing response including many positives, and some areas of improvement particularly around Children in Need. It was agreed that the response would be circulated in due course and would come to the May LSCB.

14. **LSCB Decisions Taken on 13 November 2015, 29 January 2016, and 18 March 2016**

Jonathan Picken, LSCB Business Manager gave an overview of the LSCB decisions taken on 13 November 2015, 29 January and 18 March 2016.

The themes of the LSCB's work were noted to be:

- Strengthening the out of hours provision, including work with the Emergency Duty Service
- A continuous development and oversight of local CAMHS services
- A strengthening of partner agencies audit work and inspection sharing
- A change of responsibility for training from an East Berkshire approach to Bracknell Forest and local training
- Maintaining the Challenge log to develop transparency

It was agreed that a positive number of GPs had been producing reports for Child Protection Conferences, and that GPs attendance at Conferences should be targeted in respect of cases where there are specific complex medical issue, or knowledge in relation to the case. The Forum noted that GP workload and non-attendance at conferences was a national issue, and not limited to Bracknell Forest. It was also noted that different uses of technology such as video conferencing had been considered as an option for GP input without physical attendance.

The four Task and Finish Sub-groups recently commissioned had been working on agreed areas of work. It was stressed that these groups are temporary work groups to finish a specific task and should any issues arise from the groups, these would be escalated to the LSCB and presented within their routine reporting schedule.

15. **Voice of the Child**

Jonathan Picken, LSCB Business Manager updated the Forum on the ongoing work to include children's opinions and views in the work of the LSCB.

It was reported that Jonathan had met with the Bracknell Forest Youth Council on 7 March 2016, and had discussed with them the priorities identified by the Board. Feedback from the young people felt it was important that they could remain in control, and not to feel decisions were taken without their knowledge/agreement. The young people also stated that they felt that Children's Rights needed to be discussed more explicitly in school, and that issues such as abuse and neglect needed to be tackled more directly. The Youth Council also reported that they witnessed smoking and drug use, and felt young people may interpret an apparent lack of action being taken to intervene as a condoning of the behaviour and therefore minimising the associated dangers.

The work with the Youth Council was commended, and it was commented that meeting with young people would allow them to directly inform the thinking of the LSCB.

It was hoped that the Youth Council would contribute to the Board's annual report and that school councils would similarly engage in the process of formulating local priorities. The establishment of a LSCB Young People's Reference Group being developed in conjunction with Emily Renny from Garth Hill College was intended to further strengthen the voice of children and young people.

Stephanie Rae, Kooth (Integration & Participation Worker) attended the meeting to give an update the work of Kooth in Bracknell Forest.

Kooth was an online and face-to-face open access counselling agency, who had been commissioned to work with 11-18 year olds in Bracknell Forest. Young people using Kooth were not required to disclose their identity, but instead were encouraged to see the reasons why they needed to seek further help and support if mental health issues were present.

As well as using the counselling service, young people involved could also write for the Kooth blog, and could leave messages for staff. Every young person has a 'CoG', which indicated progress made, and their aims and goals. Stephanie emphasised the importance of this approach in keeping young people positively orientated on their futures.

Stephanie explained the Kooth policy around managing risks and safeguarding. If a young person disclosed something to a counsellor which raised alarm, they would be indicated as 'red' on the traffic-light system. These cases would be assigned to a manager, and given a named counsellor who would support them and make appropriate referrals.

Kooth is available 365 days of the year to Bracknell Forest young people online, with live counselling between 12pm and 10pm from Monday to Friday, and from 6pm to 10pm at weekends. Stephanie reported that she had been into Ranelagh, Edgbarrow, Garth Hill, Easthampstead Park, Sandhurst and College Hall schools to give assemblies and PSHE lessons, and that she would be going into Brakenhale in the coming weeks.

Stephanie stressed to the Forum that young people were aware of the limits of confidentiality, and that some young people do not disclose to professionals because of their awareness and fear of this. Kooth allowed young people to speak to a professional without being named beforehand, and without having to make a physical journey to a GP surgery or CAMHS.

It was reported that Kooth had faced some difficulties when they first started serving Bracknell Forest, including a lack of engagement from schools and difficulties integrating with services in the Borough, but this is now improving.

Key messages from young people using Kooth included: a lack of places for young people to go, access to CAMHs and GPs and the amount of young people in Bracknell Forest reporting drug and alcohol use amongst their peers in certain community spaces.

The Forum thanked Stephanie for her presentation, and commended the work of Kooth. In response to Forum members' questions, the following points were noted:

- Initial tensions between the Youth Service and Kooth were being resolved, and it was reported that the Youth Service were keen to work alongside Kooth. The youth engagement model was reported to be changing, and this would in future include Kooth as a youth provision.
- The number of active users of Kooth was high, but numbers of young people online change daily. It was reported that Chris Stannard, service commissioner in Public Health would have the usage figures.
- It was requested that Stephanie communicate with multi-agency groups i.e. the Community Safety Team/Partnership regarding the community locations vulnerable to drug and alcohol use for young people.
- The LSCB and its members were committed to partnership working. The Health and Wellbeing Board were the governing partnership body overseeing the work of Kooth and were encouraged to ensure they responded to the issues raised by the service and their local integration.

16. **Safer Recruitment and Management of Allegations**

Paul Young, Children, Young People and Learning HR, gave a presentation on Safer Recruitment.

There had been confusion regarding the three levels of DBS checks, and which check was necessary for members of staff. Paul reported that this confusion seemed to have been resolved, and that employers seemed more sure of which check was appropriate.

Paul reported that the child protection policy document, Working Together gave some guidance on safer recruitment, including having a member of staff as a designated safeguarding lead, having clear procedures in place, and having a member of staff trained in safeguarding sit on every interview panel.

The following issues were reported to be areas requiring ongoing scrutiny by employers.

- Agency staff going on to apply for, and be appointed for subsequent posts without being rechecked with the appropriate DBS level
- Schools' paperwork not being carried through
- The challenges of thoroughly examining lengthy employment histories, and the need to question any gaps in employment at interview
- Vagueness in applications not being challenged for honesty and accuracy at interview

Paul updated the Forum that while DBS rechecks were not a national requirement, Bracknell Forest Council had previously been undertaking these. However, due to budget constraints, these rechecks were no longer being undertaken as they were not considered to be necessary.

Nicola Johnstone, Team Manager, Conference and Review Team and Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) gave a presentation on the Management of Allegations.

All referrals to the LADO would be picked up within one working day of receipt of the form. Nicola explained that the completed form was now necessary for written evidence of the referral.

LADO activity was reported to have dealt with 84 referrals in the year 2015-16, and had seen an 80% increase in referrals since 2011. This was likely due to a change in reporting techniques, and a greater awareness of safeguarding procedure. Education referrals were the most frequent received, but Health and Police referrals had increased. It was noted that most referrals relating to foster carers came from independent foster agencies, rather than from the local authority.

For more information regarding the LADO, Forum members were encouraged to access: <http://www.bflscb.org.uk/professionals/allegations-against-staff-carers-and-volunteers>

17. **Domestic Abuse - Current Issues and Consultation**

Kellie Williams, Community Safety Manager gave an update on Domestic Abuse provision in the borough.

The Forum heard that the Domestic Abuse Strategy was in its third year, and would be refreshed at the end of 2016/17. Priorities of the current strategy were to work with children experiencing the impact of domestic abuse, the DAP programme to ensure effective work with perpetrators of DA (where children are the subject to CP Plans) and to work with education providers to ensure they have the confidence to deliver initiatives and resources around domestic abuse.

The council budget for domestic abuse had been £100,000 per annum, with 40% of this going to support children, and 60% going to community safety initiatives. The council budget constraints had meant that the total domestic abuse fund would be cut by £10,500. The proposed savings were out to consultation until 15 May 2016, and all partner agencies and the LSCB were encouraged to take part in this consultation.

The proposed cuts included a significant cut to the PICADA programme, which was a positively evaluated therapeutic recovery programme for children affected by domestic abuse. Alternatives were being researched, but it was noted that many alternative groups or programmes were more expensive than the PICADA programme itself. The Forum heard that the PICADA programme had been successfully delivered to 17 children in the last year.

It was reported that the consultation had been widely circulated, but had received few responses. Partners were encouraged to use the consultation period to respond and there would be a response from the LSCB reflecting concern at the impact of reducing services for children.

18. **Child Protection Chairs Report**

Nicola Johnstone, Conference and Review Team Manager presented a report updating the Forum on the Child Protection Conferencing process in Bracknell Forest relating to the period March to September 15.

It was reported that the 'Signs of Safety' approach was being better integrated within CP Conferences and that the process aided transparency.

All Child Protection Chairs were undertaking specialist training sessions with Bev Edwards, who was responsible for safety planning at conferences. Sarah Roberts is working to further implement the revised signs of safety format.

The report demonstrated that Conferences had been 87% quorate. It was acknowledged that professionals struggle to attend conferences due to their limited capacity. However, agency contribution had seen no decrease.

Neglect continued to be the highest category for children subject to CPPs but this is being reviewed to ensure consistency for all conference Chairs. The Team have undertaken work to develop a more robust process to support the Chairs challenge where there has been drift and delay.

It was reported that on 1 April 2016, a new audit tool had been implemented to gather relevant information from Chairs which would aid future analysis of data and provide more meaningful information to include reference to partner's engagement in the CP conference process.

19. **Signs of Safety**

Sarah Roberts presented a report on Signs of Safety to the Forum.

It was reported that the Signs of Safety approach was being extended across the Children, Young People and Learning directorate, from Early Help through to Leaving Care. Work with partners was underway to establish long term implementation. Staff in different organisations including midwives, FSAs and Safeguarding Leads in schools would be trained in Signs of Safety.

Sarah commented that the aim was for internal trainers to be enabled to cascade training to other staff and that partners would be engaged in this process.

The Steering Group of Practice Leaders would be the governance for the Signs of Safety initiative within the Local Authority but the Forum recognised the need for this to be a multi-agency governance body.

The Forum thanked Sarah for her update and there will be future reports to the LSCB on progress.

(Action: SR to update the LSCB on progress at the next meeting of its Partnership Forum)

20. **MASH**

Mairead Panetta, Head of Safeguarding, Children's Social Care presented a report updating the Forum on the progress of the MASH which was due to go live on 16/5/16.

Significant progress had been made and the accommodation, ICT and Communication Strategy for the MASH had all been completed. MASH staff would have a training day on the 29 April 2016. A new post of MASH Manager had been recruited who was experienced, but all other LA MASH staff had been redeployed from within Childrens Social Care TVP and Health who had recruited to their posts and agreed their contribution.

The phone number for the MASH would be 01344 352005, and an email address was being established and would be circulated extensively.

A soft launch would take place in September 2016 and progress would continue to be monitored by the existing governance structure for at least the first year.

(Action: MP to update the LSCB on progress at the next meeting of its Partnership Forum)

21. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

22. **Safeguarding Disabled Children Survey**

The Forum noted the LSCB Safeguarding Disabled Children Survey had previously been disseminated and encouraged responses.

23. **Pan Berkshire Child Protection Procedures website**

The Forum noted the Pan Berkshire Child Protection Procedures website and encouraged partners to publicise this widely with their staff and to promote the system for registration for automated updates. Details were available on the front page of the website - www.bflscb.org.uk

24. **Children and Young People's Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy**

The Forum noted the Children and Young People's Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy.

25. **Children's Social Care Reform - Government Plans - CSN Policy Briefing**

The Forum noted the information regarding Children's Social Care Reform – Government Plans – CSN Policy Briefing and the significant period of change expected over the coming months.

26. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the LSCB Forum was scheduled for 14 October 2016.