



LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD FORUM
7 APRIL 2017
9.30 AM - 12.10 PM

Present:

Statutory Board Members:

Alex Walters, Independent Chair

Philip Cook, Involve

Ian Dixon, Head of Targeted Service, Bracknell Forest Council

Peter Floyd, Lay Member

Karen Frost, Head of Prevention and Early Intervention, Bracknell Forest Council

Debbie Hartrick, Deputy Director of Nursing, Berkshire East Clinical Commissioning Group

Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer: Children's Social Care, Bracknell Forest Council

Jonathan Picken, LSCB Business Manager, Bracknell Forest Council

Lucy Cooke, Clinical Director for Children's Services, NHS

Jennie Green, Named Professional, Bracknell and Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Catherine Caird, Named GP, Bracknell & Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group

David Cochrane, Broadmoor Hospital

Jo Graves, Youth Offending Service

Dr Minoos Irani, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Sonia Johnson, Head of Specialist Services, Bracknell Forest Council

Ness Miller, SWAAY

Mairead Panetta, Bracknell Forest Council

Jon Samson, Further Education Representative

Liz Terry, Berkshire Women's Aid

Alison Burnell, LSCB Partnership and Performance Officer, Bracknell Forest Council

Apologies for absence were received from:

Nikki Edwards, Director of Children, Young People and Learning, Bracknell Forest Council

Superintendent Rob France, Thames Valley Police

Karen Roberts, Head of Youth Offending Service, Bracknell Forest Council

Abigail Simmons, Bracknell Forest Council

Debbie Smith, Bracknell Forest Council

Beverley Stevens, Ranelagh (Academy School Representative)

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning

Jayne Reynolds, BHFT

Sophie Wing-King, Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator (Bracknell Forest and RBWM)

1. Agency Updates

Lucy Cooke reported that BHFT's new structure for children's services including all community health services was due to launch on 2 May. The new holistic structure involved a single point of access with a triage service from a multi-disciplinary team, and greater use of online resources for families and professionals. It was agreed that a document explaining the structure and contact details would be circulated. **(Action: Lucy Cooke)**

Lorna Hunt reported on the successful innovation bid for the Family Safeguarding model, involving Hertfordshire Council and four other local authorities including Bracknell Forest. The model would include mental health, substance misuse and domestic violence workers within the Over 11s and Under 11s teams, and a clinical psychologist available to both teams. It was hoped that the model would be in effect from September 2017.

Debbie Hartrick introduced Jennie Green as the named professional and new member of the Bracknell and Ascot CCG Safeguarding team. The CCG's STP transformation work had begun and was in the early stages, but it was not anticipated to impact on safeguarding work. Debbie commented that the STP plan was likely to result in the three East Berkshire CCGs working closer together under one governing body. This will be reported to a future LSCB for discussion

Jo Graves reported that the Youth Offending Service had successfully recruited a Speech and Language therapist for one day per week following a successful bid to CAMHS Transformation Board. This will enhance support to a need that has been identified for some time.

David Cochrane updated the Forum on the updated CQC inspection for West London Mental Health Trust in Feb 17 which had found Broadmoor Hospital to Require Improvement due to concerns over staffing issues. The report had included no particular comments on safeguarding children. A subsequent re-inspection was due, and an action plan was in place.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2017 were approved as a correct record.

Following discussion in respect of key messages identified by the CDOP Debbie Hartrick agreed to provide the LSCB with details of the current Suicide Strategy in respect of Bracknell Forest/Berkshire in order that this can be reviewed by the Board to ensure it reflects the needs of children and young people. **(Action: Debbie Hartrick)****LSCB Decisions taken on Sep 16, Nov 16 and Jan 17**

Jonathan Picken commented on the LSCB decisions taken at its meetings in November and January 2016/17, Forum members commented particularly on the following areas:

- Partners were encouraged to promote Signs of Safety as the preferred model in Bracknell Forest. It was commented that access to this training by all partners remained an issue. It was agreed that a training needs analysis would be undertaken in discussion with the Council and partners, and will seek to identify the level of need and whether multi--agency training would be preferable to single agency responses.

- Partners were encouraged to continue to promote the new Threshold guidance by sharing the animation available on the LSCB website (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZsrvFm7J94&feature=youtu.be>).
- On the 28 February 2017 Phil Cook brought together a group of Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector partners with focus on Child Sexual Abuse supported by the LSCB and Lucy Faithfull Foundation. It was an extremely well received event with requests for a second event on a Saturday.
- With regard to concerns around adequacy of accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse and the brief closure of Berkshire Women's Aid to referrals, Liz Terry updated that funding had been secured from the DCLG by Reading, Slough and Oxfordshire Authorities. The funding would allow the Reading refuge to continue with 8 beds for 15 months from October, following which the service would reduce to the previous 4 beds. It was highlighted that the Bracknell Forest service would not be affected by the changes.
- Issues around information sharing regarding Elective Home Education were raised, and Members noted the reluctance from Government to take any positive action to address this area. Alex Walters had agreed to progress this through the pan-Berkshire chairs and the development of local standards however members stressed that the issue was time dependent as schools were increasingly re-designating to academy status. Additionally, Alex was continuing to raise the issue nationally with DfE through the National Association of Independent Chairs.

4. **Business Plan 2017-18**

Jonathan Picken presented the proposed amendments to the LSCB Business Plan 2017-18 drafted following consultation with Sub Group Chairs and the LSCB.

Of the five target priority areas in the previous 16/17 Business plan, four would be carried over to complete outstanding areas and provide full assurance that improvements are embedded. The Child Sexual Exploitation priority had been removed from the Business Plan, as the LSCB had been assured that the work undertaken through the local CSE and Missing Children Strategic Sub-group, SEMRAC and LSCB Pan Berkshire CSE Leads Group would continue to be business as usual.

Jonathan highlighted targeted areas that had been identified as requiring further improvement. These were suggested as being:

- a focus on children with disabilities
- the effectiveness of child protection arrangements (including children at risk of significant harm and factors contributing to the increase in numbers of children subject to Child Protection Plans.

Online safety (including bullying) was also highlighted as an area over which further assurance was required.

5. **Peer Review Slides and Action Plan**

Alex Walters reported on the LSCB Peer Review which had taken place on 30 and 31 January 2017.

The reviewers had been impressed by the LSCB's ambition and partners' active engagement and commitment to safeguarding, and identified many strengths and had suggested some areas for further improvement including:

- Considering other ways of working, and recognising the pressure on partners by making agendas shorter and delivering information in different ways.
- Reconsider the focus of the Learning and Improvement Sub Group which reviewers felt was ambitious in terms of its remit.
- Increase the evidence of impact in all areas.
- Recognise the wider footprint of the LSCB within Berkshire, and consider how this could be strengthened and pressure relieved from partners on multiple LSCBs.

As a result of the review, members were invited to help capture evidence of the impact of LSCB activity and an action plan had been developed to ensure progress was monitored. These would be circulated to Forum members. **(Action: Alison Burnell)**

Alex thanked all LSCB members who were involved in the peer review, and reminded partners that Bracknell Forest LA and LSCB was awaiting its Ofsted inspection which would definitely take place by November 2017.

6. **Forum Membership**

Forum Members were asked to consider whether they knew any other members or organisations who should be represented on the Forum, including an expansion of the Voluntary and Community Sector on the Forum.

It was suggested that the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny, Corporate Parenting and Newbold College could be invited. As there had been no replacement representative from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst it was agreed Jonathan would make further requests to secure a representative for the next meeting. **(Action: Jonathan Picken)**

It was also suggested that more organisations may wish to employ a deputising arrangement to avoid the same representation at the Board and Forum meetings.

7. **Multi-agency Audit Forward Plan and updates**

Jonathan Picken presented an update on the audits /Quality Assurance activity for 16/17

There was ongoing scrutiny around CSE and Missing, including consultation with children and young people who had been involved with services, their family members and frontline staff. The audit would include the updating of the earlier interagency case file audit, and narrative around the progress of these young people.

A 'one year on' progress audit to demonstrate impact following the SCR had been undertaken which showed evidence of impact by a number of partner agencies.

A Domestic Abuse audit in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership was due to look at Police data and the victim journey through multi-agency services. In addition, the LSCB were undertaking a deep dive audit with seven children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse.

An audit on Early Help and Primary school exclusions had included and focussed on early help services provided to the children, their families and to schools and would report to LISG in April 17.

The audit on Management of Allegations would be presented to the LISG in April 17..

Other areas proposed for 2017/18 were a roundtable discussion with the Community Safety Partnership regarding changes to Prevent and Channel processes; further work on learning from CSE, adolescent neglect, self harm and a focus on considering the effectiveness of services to support disabled children.

8. **Performance Report - key issues Q1-Q3 2016/17**

Alison Burnell presented the performance report and the identified issues arising from data analysis, which had been discussed at LISG and at the LSCB.

The performance data from Quarters 2 and 3 highlighted the national issue of increased repeat Child Protection Plans, and indicated a significant increase in Quarter 3 in Bracknell Forest. The Local Authority had commissioned a review to assess possible reasons for this, including re-registrations, larger families, improved identification of unborn children at risk, and families moving into the area. This will be discussed at this month's LISG and it was intended that the innovation funded Family Safeguarding model would address this area and lead to a decrease in the numbers of children subject to Child Protection plans.

9. **Workshops:**

Flo Landor, Louise McLennan and Will Nimako from Children's Performance and Governance and Children Social Care and Darren Berry from the Youth Service attended the meeting to present on the recently published Bracknell Forest Participation Annual Report 2016/17.

An operational group for participation had been introduced in Children Young People and Learning in 2016 to capture good practice. Representatives from participation services were also encouraged to disseminate information to their teams from the group.

- SiLSiP (Say It Loud, Say It Proud) were the Children in Care Council, who met regularly to discuss thoughts on the services delivered by the Council and its partners. SiLSiP had been delivering Do You Know training for four years to help professionals understand life in care. All LSCB Members were invited if interested.
- The Big Ballot was an event enabling Looked After Children to vote on an issue for SiLSiP to focus on during the year. Previous issues had been bullying, and contact with friends and family, and the next year's issue would be decided at the impending Big Ballot event.
- National Takeover Day had been running in Bracknell Forest for four years, in which young people shadowed senior Council officers and elected members. The last Takeover Day in November 2016 had involved 20 young people, and included Looked After Children for the first time.
- Will Nimako, Care Leaver Participation Officer had been engaging care leavers through social events including a Christmas dinner, and a curry night with Housing officers to discuss concerns of care leavers. Will had established a WhatsApp and Facebook group to keep in contact with the care leavers.
- Will represented Bracknell Forest at the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum, and had taken some Bracknell Care Leavers to their National Care Leavers week. Through this Forum, Will had secured a Council Tax exemption for Care Leavers in Bracknell Forest.
- Will Nimako represented Bracknell Forest at the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum, and had taken some young people to National Care

Leavers week. The recent Council Tax exemption for Care Leavers in Bracknell Forest had been achieved through practice sharing in the Forum.

- The Make Your Mark ballot from the British Youth Council had received 5,102 votes from Bracknell Forest young people in 2016. The ballot chose a subject for the Youth Parliament to focus on, and the current issue was transport costs for young people in sixth form/college.
- The Bracknell Youth Council currently had 21 members aged between 11 and 19, and met fortnightly. The Youth Council had recently developed a young people's mental health charter for schools to sign and present publically.
- Boom (Because Our Opinion Matters) Fun Club had begun in May 2016 and was run by the specialist support team for children who had a social worker, and a disability. It was hoped that once the group was more established, it could be used as a forum to discuss and understand children's perception of social workers. It was hoped that as the group grew more secure, volunteers could be used to help run the group on a Saturday alongside the specialist support team.

Forum members thanked Will, Louise, Flo and Darren for attending and for their presentation and good work demonstrated. Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- It had been acknowledged that the participation responses from SiLSiP and BOOM regarding social work were similar, and it was hoped that the two groups could come together at some points.
- It was proposed that BOOM offered an opportunity to broaden its remit to include educational and health professionals, and to gather the views of disabled children on their practices.
- Officers were encouraged to use the LSCB as a conduit to contacting partner agencies to address specific issues, if any that would require consultation.

The update on managing allegations workshop was deferred as interim LADO, Francesca Hamilton had been unable to attend the meeting. Francesca had been reviewing the LADO procedures and tools, and had been meeting with partner agencies.

10. **Communication and Community Engagement Sub Group**

Peter Floyd updated on the work of the Communication and Community Engagement Sub-group which had been running for a year.

The sub-group consisted of 6 members who aimed to oversee engagement of children, families and practitioners as well as Voluntary, Community and Faith sector groups. The sub-group have undertaken consultation with young people through individual schools and plan to evolve this approach by collaborating with organisations holding similar consultations. It was hoped that planned work to understand what makes children feel safe both in and out of school would link with existing engagement work being facilitated by Berkshire Youth and the Bracknell Youth Council,

Jonathan and Peter had engaged a number of parish and town councils in briefings and consultations, which had been positively received. This work will be followed up in the autumn following dissemination of the Board's annual report to a combined meeting of the chairs.

The sub-group had recognised good work from Bracknell Forest Public Health around safeguarding and mental health.

A joint HWBB, CYPL and LSCB young people's event was planned for the 10 July , which would seek to consult a diverse range of children from across the borough.

The Forum thanked Peter and the Communications and Community Engagement Sub-group for their work, and supported the proposal for a young people's safeguarding event.

11. **Any Other Business**

Thames Valley Police had reported impending national changes to bail conditions, resulting in the police no longer being able to set requirements. The impact of this would clearly need to be monitored by the LSCB.

Community Safety Partnership had reported impending changes to Prevent and Channel, including a centralised point of contact for concerns. The LSCB would be working with the CSP to update partners as necessary.

Katie Caird commented that GPs in Bracknell were now sought for 108 (half day) sessions, which put significant pressure on GP surgeries. It was recognised that with a significant number of new properties being established, this impact would need to be addressed.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

13 October 2017

CHAIRMAN

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