



	<b><u>Agenda Item:5a</u></b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Birmingham Health &amp; Well-being Board</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Jane Held. Independent Chair</b>
<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Information</b>

<b>1. Purpose:</b>
<p>1.1 To present to the Health and Wellbeing Board the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2014-15 (for discussion and consideration) as required by statute.</p> <p>1.2 The BSCB Annual Report provides a full description and robust analysis of the Board's activities in 2014-15 and the impact of that activity on improved outcomes for the children and young people of the City. The Report for the first time in a number of years presents a positive picture of progress over that year in most aspects of the Board's work.</p> <p>1.3 The purpose of its presentation to the Board is to draw to the attention of members the key findings of the report to inform the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and aid in forward planning for the Health and Wellbeing Board's Strategic Priorities for Children and Young People.</p>

2. Implications:		
BHWB Strategy Priorities	Child Health	Y
	Vulnerable People	Y
	Systems Resilience	Y

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	Y
Joint Commissioning and Service Integration	Y
Maximising transfer of Public Health functions	Y
Financial	N
Patient and Public Involvement	Y
Early Intervention	Y
Prevention	Y

### 3. Recommendation

To receive the BSCB Annual Report 2014/15 to enable the findings to inform the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

### 4. Background

- 4.1 Working Together (2015) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The guidance states that the Annual Report '*should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action*'. The Report should:
- Identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.
  - Include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.
- 4.2 There is a statutory requirement for the LSCB Annual Report to be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and the local Police and Crime Commissioner to inform the planning and commissioning of services for children and young people in Birmingham.
- 4.3 The attached report provides an executive summary, conclusions and sets out the challenges for 2015/16. The full Annual Report and detailed supplementary appendices is available to download on the BSCB website.
- 4.4 The Board's role and functions: Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. Its functions and responsibilities are set out in *LSCB Regulations 2006* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*. The statutory objectives are:



- To coordinate 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; and
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes

4.5 Independently chaired, the Board is required to report annually on the effectiveness of those two objectives. The Report must be presented to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is an independent Board, holding to account each statutory partner and their respective governance bodies for how they are working together. The Independent Chair is appointed by and accountable to the Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council together with the Board's statutory partner Chief Executives.

### **Summary**

4.6 The Report is long, largely because of the need to provide strong evidence of that progress, and to set out the range of activities, projects, programmes and service improvements that have been underway during the year. It has been drafted in line with national guidance on what a good report should contain. However the Report fundamentally addresses six key questions. It assesses the Board's work objectively against the evidence and against the guidance provided by guidance as to what a Board must do. It evaluates the quality of what we are doing against the criteria for what constitutes a "good" Board, and against the evidence we have of the impact of our work.

4.7 The conclusions are short, and framed in the context of what the work of 2014/15 tells us about what we need to be doing next, the priorities for 2015/16 and the challenges we are setting.

4.8 There is no doubt that the MASH has had a transformational impact on this and the over performance of MASH by the year end testifies to how effective it has become (and therefore highlighted the emerging challenge of much more rapidly developing and providing effective early help across every agency and collectively at universal plus level as well as at additional needs). Lord Warner's challenge to the NHS was uncomfortable but ultimately helpful and the Police have invested heavily in the MASH. Lord Warner himself saw MASH as having been a touchstone moment in changing the way the city's partner agencies work together.

4.8 The Board's work on systems and processes has underpinned this and the refresh and re-launch of RSRT has also been very important, creating a fully agreed, accepted and disseminated framework for people to use in judging how best to respond to identified need. Work on the West Midlands Protocol and Strengthening Families was also important in underpinning and providing consistency to child protection work in the MASH as well as at ICPC's and through the CP system. The material on how to make good referrals and the focus of the FDRG has assisted in improving referral practice and creating a better understanding about when to seek advice and make contact with MASH and when to make a referral. By year end there was good evidence of better localised partnership working through the Safeguarding Hubs.



- 4.9 We have also made significant progress in tackling CSE, to a degree despite rather than because of coherent multi agency leadership locally as the Strategic CSE Sub-Group struggled and the new strategy was not completed until after year end. This, like much of what has been so impressive in 2014-15 is due to highly committed individuals working together. The PVVP leadership has supported and to a large extent driven this although at times it has created tensions, confusions and complexities. Increased investment by the LA has also had a significant impact. The OCS Report provided another impulse to focus on delivery.
- 4.10 In 2015 there is also a major challenge for the strategic leaders forum, local authority and BSCB who together need to assertively and decisively strengthen the work of the CSE Strategic Sub-Group, agree a programme delivery plan behind it and deliver the new CSE Strategy, as well as continue to improve and develop services to support children and young people at risk of CSE and to disrupt and pursue the perpetrators.
- 4.11 Work with schools has been intensive, multi-faceted and important over the year despite the complexities and the majority of schools now appropriately look to the BSCB for advice. They also understand their responsibilities better, are engaging more and better understand the system.
- 4.12 Priorities for the 2015-16 work programme are to:
- Continue to focus on and improve the delivery of effective practice in relation to the voice of child, early help and safe systems (adding children in care to child protection and court processes)
  - Clarify the governance arrangements for and deliver a more coherent strategic approach to CSE ,support the development of an effective operating model and implement the strategy
  - Address the gap in relation to missing children
  - Strengthen still more our challenge and scrutiny functions and the use of our intelligence to inform partner and single agency priorities for service delivery, practice improvement
  - Intensify and extend our multi-agency audit work
  - Deliver even stronger accountability and challenge relationships with each agency and use that to inform collective strategic activity
  - Facilitate the development of a much better learning culture and reduce unnecessary processes in relation to LLR's and SCR's
  - Support and challenge the development of a new partnership landscape between partners and Children's Services and corporately
  - Address the question of what a "new" approach to scrutiny, challenge, coordination, performance and quality assurance, learning from practice and from what good practice looks like in order to agree how best to approach these requirements across the system by April 2016

**Conclusions and sufficiency statement:**

- 4.13 In terms of the five dimensions of a Board's responsibilities set out by Ofsted, we are now meeting our statutory responsibilities, with varying degrees of



effectiveness with the exception of missing children. We are able to provide substantial evidence as to how we have worked to support and co-ordinate the work of statutory partners in helping, protecting and caring for children, and we are able to demonstrate how we monitor effectiveness.

- 4.14 We are not yet however monitoring multi-agency training for its effectiveness and evaluating its' impact on practice. In fact although we have continued to provide significant amounts of training we have not yet created a learning and workforce development approach to multi-agency workforce training and learning. We do check that policies and procedures and thresholds for intervention are applied properly through our audit programme and the work of the Front Door Reference Group. Whilst partners can be quite challenging of each other in meetings they do not consistently demonstrate how they challenge practice and audit casework in their own agency and across the partnership.
- 4.15 We cannot as yet demonstrate that we meet the criteria for a good LSCB. In fact we are still quite a long way from that, and we certainly require improvement to be able to get to good.
- 4.16 However we can demonstrate progress against the criteria in terms of:
- The priority given to safeguarding by statutory LSCB Members and how that is demonstrated both through Section 11 assessments, sound financial contributions (although how sound varies) and contributions to the audit and scrutiny activity of our Section 11
  - Our policies and procedures, and the way we review these.
  - Case file audits and the use of data and audit evidence to determine priorities for the board, the challenge we put into the system and the assurances we seek.
  - Our contribution to and influence in informing senior leaders, and supporting planning and commissioning activity
  - The provision of a high level of high quality training
  - A rigorous and transparent assessment of our performance and effectiveness, as a board and across local services
- 4.17 The fact remains we will remain inadequate as a Board if we cannot demonstrate that we understand the experiences of children and young people or fail to identify where service improvements can be made. Whilst we have made significant progress in both these areas it is not yet secure, embedded or wide reaching enough.
- 4.18 It is appropriate to say that overall the Board's arrangements are increasingly sufficient to meet our basic responsibilities and to ensure children are safer in the City. The biggest challenge of all is to explore whether there are better ways to achieve the same ends within an overarching statutory framework. Children are getting a better service, but it could be much better if we allow ourselves to think more radically about how we work together and as a Board.

### **Challenges in 2015-16**

- 4.19 The challenges we are setting for 2015-16 are:

**To the Board:**

- 4.20 The Board needs to find the best ways to engage with and involve children and young people, their families and their communities in the work of the Board and in providing high support and high challenge as critical friends of what we do.
- 4.21 The BSCB should build on its experiences of the last few years by challenging itself to think radically together as partners in terms of examining what functions should be led by whom, how and where in order to be far more effective in contributing to and supporting the co-ordination of what is done collectively.
- 4.22 The Board's challenge in 2014-15 of developing stronger, clearer and more mutually robust and accountable relationships with all key partnership bodies remains a challenge in 2015-16.
- 4.23 In addition the Board needs to stop acting as a proxy for partnership working, and create meaningful relationships with the new models for partnership, in order better to inform and influence their work and hold them to account.
- 4.24 The Board needs to ensure that the Community Safety Partnership, the Adult Safeguarding Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the BSCB Board can agree a protocol governing the relationship between them, address the issue of who leads on what, agree shared priorities and shared work-streams.
- 4.25 The Board needs to improve the span of agencies driving the priorities forward, and the consistency of their focus and "ownership" of the issues, and to share the work across partner agencies more effectively, reducing "silo" working.
- 4.26 The Board needs to build on the impact the Board has made in 2014-15 and increase the degree to which the Board supports the improvements underway in the City in terms of safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

**To the Council with its' partners:**

- 4.27 Improving the safety of children's lived experiences in their communities presents a significant challenge to the Council and its partners.
- 4.28 The challenge for the lead agency, Birmingham City Council with every partner will be to design and implement a new whole council partnership framework for multi-agency co-operation, co-ordination, and commissioning of services to meet children's needs. This will need to also feed into the "Future Birmingham" process.

**To the Strategic Leaders Forum and Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership:**

- 4.29 The major challenge for partners is to retain the confidence brought into the system through the work done in 2014-15, whilst 're-balancing' resources, investment, staff capability and capacity so early help takes precedence over child protection for the majority of children and young people needing support.



- 4.30 There is a major challenge ahead for the new partnership bodies established to lead children's services across the city, in establishing new ways of working, developing real cooperation across the system, rather than cooperation on specific issues and to ensure the most effective ways of delivering services as resources reduce, capacity shrinks, and demand increases.
- 4.31 The challenge for 2015 is for the multi-agency partnership, through the Missing Operational Group, to develop an integrated approach to identifying responding to and intervening with children missing from home, care, school and from view. This should include the development of a shared data base, some simple accessible systems and processes and the ability to ensure appropriate early help or statutory interventions are put in place with each individual child.
- 4.32 In 2015 there is also a major challenge for the strategic leaders forum, local authority and BSCB who together need to assertively and decisively strengthen the work of the CSE Strategic Sub-Group, agree a programme delivery plan behind it and deliver the new CSE Strategy, as well as continue to improve and develop services to support children and young people at risk of CSE and to disrupt and pursue the perpetrators.

## **5. Compliance Issues**

### **5.1 Strategy Implications**

There is a statutory requirement for the BSCB Annual Report to be presented the Health and Wellbeing Board, Chief Executive, leader of the Council and the local police and crime commissioner to inform the planning and commissioning of services for children and young people in Birmingham.

### **5.2 Governance & Delivery**

The findings from the Annual Report should inform the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and future joint commissioning arrangements for services targeted at children, young people and families.

### **5.3 Management Responsibility**

Publication and sharing of the BSCB Annual Report is the responsibility of the Independent Chair of the BSCB. Oversight of the implementation of the findings appertaining to the Health and Well-being Board is the responsibility of the Chair of the Health and Well-being Board.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1 There needs to be clear lines of accountability between the Health and Well-being Board, Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board. A protocol setting out the relationship, leadership and agreed shared priorities and shared work-streams should be taken forward as a matter of some urgency.

- 6.2 The protocol would clarify and enhance partnership collaboration improve agencies ownership and engagement of the issues, and to share the work across partner agencies more effectively, reducing "silo" working.
- 6.3 It is considered that the Health and Well-being Board are better placed to assess the level of risk.

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk

### Appendices

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board Executive Annual Report 2014/15

### Signatures

Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board  
(Councillor Paulette Hamilton)

*P. A Hamilton*

Chair of the Birmingham  
Safeguarding Children Board  
(Jane Held)

*Jane Held*

Date:

13/1/2016

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