

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Independent Chair's Accountability Report 2017/18

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1** This report formally discharges my responsibility to the CEO of Birmingham City Council, on behalf of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools and also Safeguarding Partners.
- 1.2** This is my second Accountability Report, and in it I will address the key priorities agreed by the Executive Board (included in the BSCB Business Improvement Plan – Appendix 1) as well as referencing the role description for the Independent Chair, outlined in Appendix 2.

2. Introduction

- 2.1** I am now reporting to my third Local Authority CEO in two years, and I hope this will prove a useful summary document.
- 2.2** The organisational and personnel changes in the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups and some Health providers, have had an inevitable impact on the pace of partnership progress in the short term. However, the priority and commitment given by the leaders of key statutory organisations to the improvement of the safeguarding and wellbeing of Children has been evident.
- 2.3** When appointed in April 2016, the brief I was given was wider than solely Chairing the BSCB. I was also asked to advise on Partnership development more broadly and to be a member of the Children's Strategic Leaders Forum (SLF). Since the decision to develop a Children's Trust, I have represented partners on the Steering Group.
- 2.4** As Independent Chair, I am supported by Simon Cross, Business Manager, and the BSCB Business Support Unit of Administrative staff and Programme Managers, hosted by the Birmingham Children's Trust. Simon's line manager is Debbie Currie, AD of Child Protection, Performance and Partnership, Birmingham Children's Trust. Simon manages the team day-to-day and is responsible for the budget which is made up of contributions from the key agencies in the Safeguarding system.
- 2.5** During the past year, I have met regularly with Stella Manzie, interim CEO of Birmingham City Council, to discuss progress in line with her accountability for Safeguarding, and we have met as members of the Strategic Leaders Forum. I have also met regularly with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools (firstly Cllr Brigid Jones and now Cllr Carl Rice) and Colin Diamond, DCS.

3. Effective Governance - Evidencing Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

- 3.1** 2017/18 has been the first year of our new Governance arrangements for the Safeguarding System.

- 3.2** The new Executive Board has met nine times, as planned, hosted by partners who have taken the opportunity to showcase their role and impact on safeguarding children and young people. The value of meeting in a College, Youth Offending Service, Family Centre, Primary School and CASS / MASH has been clear for all to see. It has allowed us to learn something of each service's contribution - how else would we have known of a primary school's 'Safeguarding Squad'? It has demonstrated our value and recognition for these innovative services. It has set the tone for our meetings - giving us a relentless focus on supporting front-line practice whilst evaluating the effectiveness of partnership intervention.
- 3.3** Each of the Sub-Groups of BSCB has examined their purpose, membership and way of working. The Co-Chairing approach we have adopted is working well; modelling the shared responsibility for impact and provides for continuity.
- 3.3.1** The Learning and Development Sub-Group has recently reviewed its approach following the appointment of a new Co-Chair, Michelle McLoughlin (Chief Nurse, Birmingham Women's & Children's NHS Foundation Trust) and a Peer Review, and there is work in progress to improve the quality and scope of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding training offer.
- 3.3.2** The Serious Case Review (SCR) Sub-Group has been busy, with a relentless focus on timely reviews and early identification of key learning. Simon Cross's personal involvement in the group has been valued by the Co-Chairs, Dr. Jane Armstrong and Debbie Currie, AD. The production of Learning Bulletins is assisting in the timely sharing of practice learning. The bulletins are shared widely locally, and beyond via social media. My site visits and meetings involving practitioners evidence a high recognition of these useful, succinct learning documents. The group regularly reports to the Executive Board.
- 3.3.3** The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) continues to function efficiently. Its Chair, Dr. Dennis Wilkes (AD, Public Health), has engaged with the national debate on the size and scope of CDOP catchment areas. Birmingham is fortunate in already providing a statistically significant number of deaths each year, allowing for a valuable analysis to be captured in its Annual Report.
- 3.3.4** I have Co-Chaired the Quality, Impact and Outcomes Sub-Group with Dawn Roberts, (AD – Early Help and Youth Justice), and we have adopted a Board Assurance Framework, supported by a programme of multi-agency audit activity to complement that of single agencies. This is still work in progress in terms of being able to give real time assurance to the whole system as to the efficacy of safeguarding activity.
- 3.4** The Safeguarding system also relies heavily on three other bodies. These are: Birmingham Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership (BEHSP), and the Safeguarding in Education Group and Strategic Health Forum.

- 3.4.1** This year, BEHSP has reviewed and relaunched the multi-agency guidance 'Right Help, Right Time'. We hope that this relaunch will assist in the practical ownership of early support by all services, working on the basis that prevention is better than cure.
- 3.4.2** I have met with the Safeguarding in Education Group (Schools) and was impressed by the shared commitment to working together. The maturity of the approach is reflected in the move away from the discourse being dominated by "how do we refer on". I also presented at the summer briefings for all Designated Safeguarding Leads and attended an awards ceremony for school safeguarding initiatives.
- 3.4.3** I attended the Strategic Health Forum and intend to return in the light of big changes in the Health landscape. I need to be assured that the mechanism for embedding learning from serious cases and the commitment to improvement is well in place and working.
- 3.5** As part of BSCB's streamlined governance arrangements, we introduced the Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly, a twice a year, half-day development and assurance session. 2017's meetings were positive, well attended and productive. The City of Leeds' Improvement journey was the centre piece at the April 2017 meeting and Birmingham Children's Hospital's road to 'Outstanding' took centre stage in October. The workshop sessions helped reinforce our family focus, learning culture and commitment to Early Help, recognising that this is a system improvement challenge. My feedback to partners in Birmingham has been that there needs to be more "we" and less "them" in the discourse; it is the local system that has been found to be inadequate; not a single organisation. This is being taken on board, and has been reinforced by HMIC and CQC inspections, which are being considered by the Executive Board, just as they consider Ofsted judgments.
- 3.6** The Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly gives the opportunity for CEOs of provider organisations who are not members of the main Board to be meaningfully engaged and assured. It also gives the opportunity for wider Voluntary Sector involvement, given that this huge, diverse sector currently has only one representative on the Executive Board. This year has seen a change in personnel here too, with Rob Willoughby (The Children's Society) handing over to Jane Middleton (Barnardo's). I had a very positive meeting in February with Jane and Brian Carr, (CEO, Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council) whose umbrella organisation supports the sector on much depleted resources compared to a few years ago. Opportunities to engage the sector through the Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership must be built on more broadly. I am hoping to again see Voluntary Sector practitioners at our Conference in June...and maybe more than last year.

- 3.7** This year, the Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Board asked me to meet them to discuss my last Accountability Report. I also met with the CEO of Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to review progress, as we do on a regular basis.
- 3.8** Recent Ofsted monitoring visits give cause for optimism that improvement is now embedding, and that steady progress is being made. Obviously, political and managerial leaders in the Council believe that the establishment of the dedicated Children's Trust will enable the pace and sustainability of improvement to increase, measurably. That has certainly been the ambition of those working hard on the Trust's development throughout the last year. As Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board I will continue to do all I can to lend my support to this endeavor.
- 3.9** The Strategic Leaders Forum has not met as frequently and purposefully this year as I might have liked. Consequently, less progress has been made on some of the bigger issues, such as joint responsibility for 'exploitation' across strategic partnerships, or indeed the future approach to Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for children once the revised *Working Together* guidance is published, which is anticipated in June 2018.
- 3.10** Whilst I have met with the Chairs of the Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and Health & Wellbeing Board from time to time, there is a case for a regular forum and indeed the possibility of a streamlined, 'one-stop' approach to deciding on the need for, and process to support and disseminate learning from local case reviews across all four Boards.
- 3.11** My role as the Convener of partner leaders has been well supported by the Business Support Unit and by those who have taken positions of responsibility in the Governance arrangements that I have described. My Vice-Chair, Detective Chief Superintendent Claire Bell (West Midlands Police), has been committed and consistent, and in turn has been well-supported by her senior officers who have made visible contributions especially with regards to developing our approach to sexual exploitation, exploitation more generally and indeed, to neglect.
- 3.12** In October 2017, the Executive Board held a half-day development session and as well as reviewing progress, it concluded a 360 degree review of my Chairing of the Safeguarding system. Overall, feedback was positive, reinforcing our agenda and my style of working.

4. System Leadership - Influencing Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice

- 4.1** In convening senior accountable officers for Safeguarding, my role is one of support and challenge. We have agreed that there is nothing more important than effectively

improving partnership practice with the voice and experience of children at its heart: that is our common purpose.

- 4.2** Unashamedly, we have continued to focus on getting the essentials of the system of working in partnership right, e.g. Early Help, 'front door' (CASS / MASH), Strengthening Families conference system and Child Protection Planning. This is very much work in progress, and is being supported by learning from best practice, our own reviews and audits. What we know is that whilst Improvement is happening, there is further work to do, especially in terms of partner practitioners' engagement in Child Protection Conferences, Reviews and Core Groups.
- 4.3** This year, our focus on practice was reinforced by the introduction of an Annual Safeguarding Practitioners Conference. Our quarterly Practitioner Forums have continued. The inaugural annual Practitioners Conference was held in June 2017 and took as its theme the voice and experience of children and young people. Marketed at practitioners engaged in safeguarding across all organisations in the city, the Conference was oversubscribed and received very positive feedback. Its keynote speakers were both inspiring Care-leavers who now work with Councils and young people to improve services. Scott King and Luke Rogers told their powerful stories, characterised by many moves and much misery. My synthesis of their messages is the importance of relationships; having someone who recognises the real person, their pain and their potential; how vital it is to be valued and allowed a childhood, given consistency, commitment and opportunities for meaningful conversations and good collaboration between school and caregivers.
- 4.4** There were Conference workshops and master classes on key topics, and a Panel Discussion. One conclusion of the panel session was the importance of consistency in Social Workers. I applaud Birmingham Children's Trust's aim to continue the reduction in the use of agency Social Workers.
- 4.5** A range of different organisations and practice settings hosted Executive Board meetings to reinforce our focus on practice. Additionally, I have made practice visits this year to CASS and MASH and to the Birmingham Freedom Project. These involve meeting staff, observing practice, and providing feedback.
- 4.6** I am seeking to promote a learning culture. To that end, we bring all 'Outstanding' inspections from around the country to the attention of the Executive Board. Our Performance Lead analyses the reports and this is shared and used for action planning in BSCB's Quality, Impact and Outcomes (QIO) Sub-Group.
- 4.7** In addition to inspection feedback, the QIO Sub-Group implements a programme of audit work which is used to test the quality and effectiveness of partnership practice. At QIO, managers join us to explore the findings and agree necessary action. This year, the Child Protection Conference system and child sexual exploitation practice have both been under the spotlight. In August, a Learning Lessons Bulletin from

Safeguarding Audits was published, outlining key learning and practice improvement. We have also considered data on homelessness and a rise in school exclusions and discussed with managers the implications for safeguarding.

- 4.8** Learning Lessons Bulletins are now produced for every Serious Case Review or Learning Lessons Review. Four reviews have been published this year. Two of these cases involved very young children not known to safeguarding partners. These directly influenced our decision to run a public awareness campaign that gave the message: "Safeguarding is everybody's business". Regularly, these messages are repeated via social media with contact information provided.
- 4.9** Another Bulletin – "I just wanted someone to ask me" – highlighted the importance of never assuming, and reminded us that curiosity is quite proper when a child is repeatedly showing signs and symptoms of being unwell. A valuable practitioners' learning event is always held in these cases.
- 4.10** Finally, our November Bulletin – "Asthma can kill" – shared the powerful, sad story of a vulnerable teenager who died as a result of an acute asthma attack. It provided pointers to improving practice, including (again) the importance of professional curiosity.
- 4.11** Occasionally, a single agency will carry out a root cause analysis into circumstances that have led to an untoward incident, where no other agency has been involved. As Independent Chair, I see the final report and decide on the need for any wider review.
- 4.12** I am an active member of the Regional Independent Chairs Group and Simon Cross Co-Chairs the Regional LSCB Business Managers Group. This gives us access to wider learning and cooperation across the West Midlands. We both attend the national Annual Conference, again in pursuit of intelligence and examples of great practice.
- 4.13** The Board continues to be active on social media – Twitter in particular – thanks to the efforts of April Boyce, BSCB Serious Cases and Communications Programme Manager. I am also active on Twitter and encourage others to benefit from the exchange of information and insight, and to raise the profile of work we are doing to improve safeguarding.

5. System Leadership - creating a culture of Early Help and Early Intervention

- 5.1** As indicated above, BEHSP has steered the development of services aimed at supporting families, parents and children. This partnership has overseen the review of Family Centres and introduction of the new Early Years Health and Wellbeing Service. When the Executive Board was hosted by the St Paul's Community Development Trust in September 2017, we were presented with the aspiration for the new arrangements to "secure better opportunities and quality of life for all". We

wish the development of the service well, and I note that a Stakeholders' event is to be held later in April, involving the partners running the service - Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Barnardo's, Spurgeons, the Springfield Project and St Paul's Community Development Trust. Noting that savings was one driver behind this service change, the Board will want to be assured of the impact on practice and safeguarding as time goes on.

- 5.2** BSCB has prioritised Early Help because of the overwhelming evidence for the benefits of prevention and early intervention. This has extended into recognising the importance and impact of exploitation, including radicalisation. For this reason, we have supported the aspirations of the Prevent programme and have received presentations at the Executive Board and at the Practitioners Forum. It also influenced our commission of the CSE and Missing Peer Review.
- 5.3** All agencies are signed up to early recognition and help and this was the driver behind the revision of the 'Right Help, Right Time' guidance launched in January 2018.
- 5.4** Understanding, recognising and tackling exploitation in all its forms is a theme that we will be putting more effort into in the coming year. We made a positive start in 2017/18 with a Peer Review of CSE and Missing, and we recognise that there is more to do and much to learn from other places. We have strengthened the strategic governance and accountability arrangements to tackle Child Exploitation, in 2018/19, establishing a dedicated Sub-Group to oversee and coordinate partnership intervention.
- 5.5** Protection against exploitation can be found in self-confidence and self-worth. Over 200 schools in Birmingham, supported by the Local Authority and led by Razia Butt, have signed up to the UNICEF initiative for schools on the Rights and Respect, based on the UN Convention of Human Rights. I attended a presentation by school pupils last summer and was impressed by the impact of this initiative, which was considered by the Board. As a result, BSCB is lending its support to this initiative being adopted more widely as a key component of Early Help, Support and Prevention.
- 5.6** Birmingham City Council has adopted a small number of key priorities, one of which is making Birmingham "A Great Place to Grow Up". If all partners, communities and indeed the private sector signed up to this aspiration, with some specific and practical actions, this would certainly help us in delivering our Safeguarding and Improvement agendas. Certainly one outcome from the Safeguarding Leaders Assembly in October 2017, was to forcefully endorse a City ambition that all partners could sign up to and make happen.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1** My second year as Chair has been dominated by implementing our new Governance arrangements; maximising the dissemination of learning from Serious Cases; providing some continuity during a time of leadership change; and relentlessly focusing on supporting practice improvement.
- 6.2** I have sought to personally model the values of openness, challenge, support, mutual respect, professionalism and learning.
- 6.3** I have continued to keep our focus on delivering the three priorities referred to in this report and also our shared principles:
- Partnership working
 - Family Focus
 - Committed to Early Help
 - Learning Culture
- 6.4** Developing the leadership, partnership and practice that is required to give Birmingham the services and recognition that it aspires to and deserves, is taking time. This is necessary for improvement to be sustainable.
- 6.5** In the coming year, we have the newly formed Birmingham Children's Trust and the recently merged Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group and University Hospitals Birmingham taking on huge responsibilities for driving the continued improvement of services to children, young people and their families in Birmingham. I anticipate that the BSCB will welcome these new lead organisations and be unstinting in its determination to sustain progress and achieve the next milestone – that of moving out of intervention.
- 6.6** The restructuring of the Executive Board and Sub-Group in January 2017 was undertaken in readiness for the transition to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. These changes have strengthened the shared leadership role of West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council and Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children and young people in Birmingham. I look forward to formally agreeing any further developments in form or language which will support Birmingham's continued improvements in the interests of Children, Young People and Families.



Penny Thompson CBE
Independent Chair, BSCB
5th April 2018

List of Appendices:

- 1. Business Improvement Plan 2017-19 (Revised March 2018)**
- 2. Job Description for the Role of Independent Chair**
- 3. Overview of Progress – Year One: Business Improvement Plan 2017-19**

www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk

Business Improvement Plan
2017-19
Refreshed March 2018



Foreword

I am pleased to share with you the refreshed Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Business Improvement Plan which focuses on key partnership activity in the second year of our plan to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham.

As Independent Chair, together with members of the Executive Board, we have reflected on the progress we have made during the past twelve months and the challenges that lie ahead in preparation for the transition to the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements, brought about by the Children's and Social Care Act 2017.

I am satisfied that there is a shared determination to make Birmingham a safe place to grow up in. The principles of partnership working; family focus; building on strengths; a commitment to Early Help and the experience and voice of children are at the heart of practice and have been agreed by everybody. Ensuring that this is then translated into a system which makes this practice an everyday reality for every child and family is a work in progress. A Birmingham safeguarding system led with accountability, learning and assurance at its heart must provide foundations for improvement.

This document reiterates our intention to remain focused on the same three specific priorities: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership; Continuous improvement of Child Protection Practice; and Embedding Early Help and Early Intervention into mainstream partnership activity. These are the essential building blocks of an effective safeguarding and child protection system.



Penny Thompson CBE
Independent Chair
Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board
March 2018



Introduction

The refreshed Business Improvement Plan 2017-19 sets out the Executive Board's strategic vision, ambition, purpose, principles and safeguarding priorities for the year ahead. We have reflected on what was achieved last year, to refocus on key partnership action required in the second year of the plan. The Business Improvement Plan complements and should be read in conjunction with the Early Help and Children's Social Care Improvement Plan.

Our Ambition

Birmingham is a family friendly city where children flourish - feel safe, listened to, learn and grow up, able to actively contribute to society.

Our Purpose

BSCB convenes safeguarding partners, the Police, Clinical Commission Group and Local Authority, alongside statutory organisations, Schools and the Voluntary Sector to work in close collaboration to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Birmingham. The BSCB supports them as system leaders, challenges and holds them to account. BSCB creates the conditions to develop a learning culture driving best collaborative practice for good outcomes. To achieve this it:

- Sets standards and procedures for multi-agency practice.
- Promotes working together in practice supported by behaviours of respect and trust.
- Assures sound quality practice with a positive impact on outcomes for children and young people.
- Ensures a programme of learning and development which supports leadership and practice learning from the best and from reviews of serious cases.
- Models a culture of evaluation, learning and development.
- Communicates effectively with the wider safeguarding system of organisations and individuals, including voluntary organisations and those who experience services.
- Drives progress through Sub-Groups and work streams which regularly account to the Executive Board

The BSCB Business Improvement Plan sets out the strategic intent of the BSCB in making this vision a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the BSCB to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

Our Principles

- Committed to effective collaborative partnership working which delivers the best possible protection of children in this young, diverse, creative city. – *Partnership working*.
- Supporting families to enable their children to flourish and learn in preparation for a long productive, happy, life. - *Family focus*.
- Recognising that those with economic, health and other disadvantages will need additional support to achieve the same outcomes as their peers. – *Committed to Early Help*.
- Operating as a learning system, open and ambitious to improve. – *Learning Culture*

Our Priorities

The BSCB Business Improvement Plan 2017-2019 is intentionally brief and remains focused on the same three strategic priorities that form the basis of the work of the Executive Board. These priorities support the statutory functions of the BSCB and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare.

In focusing on these priorities we have taken into account the improvement agenda for the Local Authority and Partner Agencies together with a commitment to address the very poor ratings that we are determined to leave behind. We intend to do this as we evidence improved partnership working, safer practice and effective early support. We expect this to engender the confidence of citizens, regulators, government and wider public opinion.

The key priorities are;

Priority 1: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership

Priority 2: Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice

Priority 3: Embedding Early Help & Early Intervention into mainstream partnership activity.

A key focus within Priority 1 is how the BSCB and partner agencies commit to ensuring the lived experience of the child is the golden thread through all we do. This reflects the importance that the BSCB and partner agencies apply to all children and young people living in Birmingham being seen, heard and helped.

Annually, the BSCB will identify the specific actions required against each of these priorities with the detail being set out in the Business Improvement Implementation Plan and the specific work programmes of the BSCB's Sub-Groups and related strategic partnerships.

Strategic Priority	Outcome	Actions 2018-19
Priority 1: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustain continued improvement in partnership working to safeguard children during a period of significant change, the development of the Children's Trust and the amalgamation of Clinical Commissioning Groups. 2. Ensure a smooth transition to the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding as prescribed in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. 3. That the BSCB is influential in making the aspiration for Birmingham to be '<i>A great place to grow up in</i>' becomes a reality. 4. The BSCB leads the safeguarding agenda, challenges the work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families. 5. Lived Experience of the Child: ALL children and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BSCB and partners successfully deliver against the Business Improvement Plan and associated Work Programmes. 2. Continue to strengthen the governance interface between the BSCB, Strategic Leaders Forum and other key strategic partnerships that discharge the functions of Safeguarding Children and Adults, Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing, to clarify lines of accountability, better target finite resources to maximum effect, and lead to improved outcomes. 3. To work closely with the West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council and Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commission Group to develop the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements. 4. Seek assurance that the Strategic Health Forum and Safeguarding in Education Group are effectively utilising key

Strategic Priority	Outcome	Actions 2018-19
	<p>young people are seen, heard and helped; with the public and professionals alike being alert to risk, being able to identify it and knowing how to respond to make sure children are safeguarded.</p>	<p>learning from SCRs, LLRs, Child Deaths and Audits to improve safeguarding practice in schools and across the health network.</p> <p>5. Through the BSCB Quality Assurance Framework; scrutinise and challenge performance; identify, disseminate and embed lessons; engage with children, young people and families and evaluate the impact on outcomes.</p> <p>6. Promote and raise community awareness that 'Keeping Children Safe is everybody's business'</p> <p>7. To consistently promote the importance of effective and swift information sharing, promoting a culture that puts the protection of children before the protection of information.</p>
<p>Priority 2: Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice</p>	<p>1. The BSCB and partner agencies focus on what really matters in local areas – context is key. Children and young people at risk of specific vulnerabilities in Birmingham are seen, heard and</p>	<p>1. The Executive Board will prioritise the development and oversee the implementation of comprehensive strategies to tackle:</p>

Strategic Priority	Outcome	Actions 2018-19
	<p>helped. They are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.</p> <p>2. To utilise emerging learning from Joint Targeted Area Inspections and national good practice to inform the development of a multi-agency strategy for Birmingham.</p> <p>3. Ensure that the learning from LGA Diagnostic conducted in November 2017 informs the development of the city's strategy, practice and approach to Child Sexual Exploitation and missing children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childhood Neglect - Child Sexual Exploitation - Missing Children <p>2. Provide a comprehensive programme of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training that delivers high quality of face to face training, e-learning, master classes and an annual practitioner's conference.</p> <p>3. The Executive Board seeks assurance of partnership engagement in the 'Prevent Delivery Plan' to reduce risk to children and young people exposed to extremist views.</p> <p>4. The Executive Board will also seek reassurance of the effectiveness of partnership working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting children living in violent households - Female Genital Mutilation - The impact of substance misuse and mental illness on parenting.

Strategic Priority	Outcome	Actions 2018-19
Priority 3: Embedding Early Help & Early Intervention into mainstream partnership activity.	1. Children and young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BSCB will undertake a review of the Early Help Strategy to evaluate progress and identify next steps. 2. Agencies review their Service offer against the levels of need set out in Right Help, Right Time' threshold guidance published in January 2018 3. Review and develop Early Help Panel model to improve early intervention at a district level. 4. Evaluate partnership engagement in the Early Help Assessments and 'Our Family' Plans across the city. 5. Review and enhance support for the Lead Professional role in coordinating early intervention.

Appendix 2: Job Description for the Role of Independent Chair










Role of BSCB Independent Chair – Leadership of Assurance, Learning, Partnering

Key Functions:

- a) Independent convener of all those charged with the wellbeing, including safeguarding, of children and young people in Birmingham;
- b) A champion for children and best practice;
- c) Supporting and challenging the Birmingham leadership in their quest to achieve a sustainably safe city for children and young people, in the context of family, community and wellbeing;
- d) Modeling openness, challenge, support, mutual respect, professionalism & learning for application by leaders in Birmingham;
- e) Ensuring political and managerial leaders are demonstrably accountable for the resourcing and strategic priority given to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people;
- f) Enabling the council's lead agency role to be understood, valued, respected & fulfilled;
- g) Demonstrating a robust approach to evaluation, practice audit & research whose dissemination will support valuable learning for multi-agency leaders, managers and practitioners in their critical roles;
- h) Through robust independent support and challenge, contribute to developing confidence of citizens and the state in the city of Birmingham.




Appendix 3:

Overview of Progress – Year One: Business Improvement Plan 2017-19

Planned Action (2017-19)	Update (2017-18)	
1. The BSCB and partners successfully deliver against the Business Improvement Plan and associated work programmes.	Third Quarter – 67% (20) improvement objective completed. The remainder is on target for completion.	
2. Continue to strengthen the governance interface between the BSCB, Strategic Leaders Forum and other key strategic forums and Chairs.	Annual Report 2016/17 highlights that this remains a priority.	
3. Addressing the legacy of SCRs/LLRs to identify cross cutting themes to convert key learning into improvement action.	Analysis of learning from SCRs and LLRs undertaken between 2013 and 2017 presented to the Executive Board in November 2017.	
4. Ensure the Communication and Engagement programme maximizes the dissemination of key learning from SCRs/LLR/CDOP.	Learning Lesson Briefing Notes published for each case, with a programme of learning events scheduled throughout the year.	
5. Review the functioning of the restructured Sub-Groups, development of co-chairing arrangements and the timeliness of work programme outputs.	Governance Review undertaken in March 2018. Findings presented to Executive Board in March 2018.	
6. Maintain the BSCB Learning & Improvement Framework; scrutinise and challenge performance; identify, disseminate and embed lessons; engage with children, young people and families and the impact on outcomes.	Learning and Improvement Framework in place overseen by Quality, Impact and Outcomes Sub-Group. New Audit and Learning Programme presented to Executive Board in March 2018.	
7. To communicate and raise awareness about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities.	Public awareness campaign, 'Keeping Children Safe is Everybody's Business,' launched in October 2017.	
8. To consistently promote the importance of swift information sharing, promoting a culture that puts the protection of children before the protection of information.	<i>Right Help, Right Time</i> published January 2018. Evaluation scheduled for September 2018.	
9. The Executive Board will prioritise the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to tackle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neglect - Child Sexual Exploitation - Missing Children This work will evaluate the impact on children and young people.	The Executive Board is currently overseeing the review of key strategies.	

Appendix 3:

Overview of Progress – Year One: Business Improvement Plan 2017-19

Planned Action (2017-19)	Update (2017-18)	
<p>10. The Executive Board will also seek reassurance of the effectiveness of partnership working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventing Radicalisation - Domestic Abuse - Female Genital Mutilation - Safeguarding in the Digital World - The impact of substance misuse and mental illness on parenting. 	<p>The Executive Board reviewed progress on the 'Prevent' strategy at February's meeting. Remaining areas will be subject to evaluation within the LSCB Annual Report 2017/18.</p>	
<p>11. The BSCB will undertake a review of the Early Help Strategy to evaluate progress and identify next steps.</p>	<p>The Early Help strategy is subject to review and due to be presented to the Executive Board in May 2018.</p>	
<p>12. Carry out a post Implementation review of Early Help Panels as part of a programme of continuous improvement in partnership arrangements.</p>	<p>A review of the impact of Early Help Panels is being undertaken. Findings are due to be presented to the BEHSP in Spring 2018.</p>	
<p>13. Evaluate the effectiveness of partnership engagement in the Early Help Assessment arrangements across Birmingham.</p>	<p>Evaluation of Early Help Assessment and Quality of 'Our Family' Plan included with Audit and Learning Progress 2018/19.</p>	