

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**Briefing for Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 4 December 2012**

BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The Children Act 2004 requires all areas to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in Bromley will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.
- 1.2 The statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 requires LSCB's to publish an annual report which sets out an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements set against an analysis of the local safeguarding context.
- 1.3 The BSCB Annual Report 2011-2012 is provided as an appendix to this briefing.

2. **THE BRIEFING**

- 2.1 Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has been set up under the requirements of the Children Act 2004. The aim of the BSCB is to ensure that all children within Bromley, in whatever setting, are kept safe from harm.
- 2.2 The core functions of the BSCB as set out in the 1989 and 2004 Children Acts and the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2010 are to:
 - develop local policies, procedures and thresholds for inter-agency safeguarding working;
 - monitor and evaluate how well services work together to inform planning and service development;
 - encourage effective working partnerships between professional groups, including sharing knowledge gained through national and local research;
 - undertake case reviews where a child has died or is seriously harmed and co-ordinate a response to unexpected child deaths;
 - ensure the functioning of the child death overview arrangements;

- communicate the shared responsibility for safeguarding children and young people;
- improve inter-agency work through agreeing training and development priorities;
- listen to and take children and young people's views into account when planning and delivering programmes to safeguard them and improve their welfare.

Requirement to produce an annual report.

- 2.3 Lord Laming's report (*The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report March 2009*) recommended that "Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) shouldpublish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area."
- 2.4 Working Together 2010 sets out that the report should provide an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements set against an analysis of the local safeguarding context. In addition it should recognise achievements and progress and provide a realistic assessment of the challenges that remain.
- 2.5 The Working Together guidance is currently under review and a new version will be published later this year. The draft proposals suggest that the requirement for the LSCB to monitor and evaluate effectiveness will be enhanced.

BSCB annual report 2011-2012.

- 2.6 The BSCB 2011-2012 annual report sets out the governance arrangements for the Board, the key achievements and progress throughout the year and sets out future priorities. It is a requirement that the Board is chaired by an independent person with suitable past experience and seniority. In April 2012 a new chairperson, Helen Davies, was appointed following the retirement of the previous post holder. Helen Davies has a significant track record of senior management posts in children's social care in a number of authorities in SE England.
- 2.7 Key achievements for BSCB during the year 2011 - 2012 include:
- Maintaining a focus on early intervention, in publishing and promoting the Child's Journey through Bromley, which is a partnership document helping to sign post professionals to early intervention services.
 - Promoting changes to the referral system into Children's Social Care and launching the Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) as the referral route to social care.
 - Reviewing arrangements for safeguarding young people affected by gang involvement or activity, by adopting the London procedure, developing a multi agency task group and local protocol.
 - Establishing a multi-agency task group to respond to child sexual exploitation.
 - Reviewing the BSCB parental substance misuse safeguarding policy to ensure better signposting to services to support earlier intervention and reduce harm to young people.
- 2.8 Priorities for 2012-2013 include:
- Keeping a focus on monitoring the effectiveness of early intervention in protecting children in light of the reconfiguration of local services.
 - Developing further mechanisms to assure the quality of the child protection services in Bromley ensuring they are effective in promoting positive outcomes for children.
 - In partnership with the Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum supporting voluntary and community groups to enhance their safeguarding practice through improved awareness and organisation.
 - Working with agencies to capture information on outcomes and the impact of the Board's work on safeguarding children and their families.