

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Care Services PDS Committee 22nd January 2014

BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (BSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

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1. BSCB ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

- 1.1 The 2012-13 Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) annual report describes the work carried out to ensure that children and young people are safe and their wellbeing secured. It sets out the achievements, changes and specific work that has been carried out by dedicated staff across all agencies concerned with children, young people and their families in Bromley.
- 1.2 As we moved into 2012-13, there were a number of uncertainties which impacted on the work of BSCB. These included the changes in Health; ongoing implementation of the Munro recommendations; revisions to Working Together and the academies programme. There have also been significant organisational changes since the last report which continue into 2013-14 with the development of the local policing model within the Metropolitan Police; and the changes within health including the transfer of services from the South London Healthcare Trust (SLHT) to Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The responsibility for commissioning local health services also changed from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 1 April 2013, and the CCG hold responsibility for safeguarding children.
- 1.3 During 2012-13 BSCB introduced a number of changes in anticipation of the revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children stemming from the recommendations of the Munro Review of Child Protection. This has included a review of the BSCB committee structure to ensure that its members have sufficient seniority to challenge each other and drive any necessary changes and improvements within their agencies. The quality assurance function of the Board has been strengthened in order to evaluate the performance of all partner agencies and how they coordinate their efforts. A programme of multi-agency audits of safeguarding practice is now in place. The Board is also developing a more rigorous focus on outcomes achieved for children and young people.
- 1.4 BSCB's focus in 2012/13 has been on improving the quality of all agencies' practice with children at risk of or suffering neglect, and its effectiveness will be evaluated in 2013/14. There has also been continued emphasis on protecting young people at risk of sexual exploitation. This has evidenced the strong partnership working that is well established in

Bromley, and positive outcomes have been achieved for several young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

1.5 BSCB learned from the Ofsted inspection of child protection arrangements in Bromley in July 2012 and strengthened its structures in order to provide effective challenge to its partner agencies and keep a relentless focus on improvement. It also introduced an outcome based approach to child protection conferences to improve the quality of child protection plans. The voices of young people subject to child protection plans are now being heard following the introduction of an advocacy service to support their involvement in child protection conferences.

1.6 Despite the challenges faced, BSCB remains confident that the foundations of good safeguarding practice are in place. The following is a summary of the key achievements of BSCB during 2012-13:

- Delivery of an online learning portal for safeguarding children training
- A programme of Section 11 safeguarding audits has been undertaken by partner agencies. The Section 11 audit findings have been considered by the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Committee and actions taken to ensure improvements
- BSCB away day held in November 2012 to agree and implement the changes to the committee structure to strengthen the Board and ensure there is buy-in from partner agencies at a high level, as well as a number of professional advisers to the Board
- Annual Conference held in October 2012 focusing on Breaking the cycle of neglect, attended by over 100 delegates
- Raising the profile of neglect through the publication of guidance for practitioners on Working with Neglectful Families
- Promoting and monitoring the implementation of the new model for child protection conferences, called Strengthening Families, along with a new multi agency child protection conference report template
- Keeping oversight of the operation of the Bromley Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH) and its development towards full implementation
- Development of a Strategy and Action Plan to Safeguard children and young people at risk of experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as well as awareness raising of the indicators and warning signs of CSE
- Monitoring of the safeguarding arrangements for Looked After Children
- An extensive multi-agency training programme delivered covering 17 courses attended by over 600 people

1.7 The Board continues to meet regularly to address the priorities which it has set out in the Annual Report and Business Plan for 2013-14.

2. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

BSCB Annual Report 2012-13