

Decision Maker: CARE SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 21 January 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (BSCB)
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) requires Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.
- 1.2 This report presents to the Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee details of activity from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and an assessment of the effectiveness of local services in keeping children safe. The report provides evidence of commitment and determination among professionals and volunteers resulting in real improvement for children. The report also examines where there are weaknesses in the system and how the LSCB holds partners to account to ensure improvement. The Annual Report was approved by the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board at its meeting on 18 November 2014.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- **Consider and comment upon the annual report and the effectiveness of local services in keeping children safe**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 This annual report covers the period from April 2013 to March 2014. It is the seventh annual report of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) which builds upon the previous annual reports. The report highlights a number of identified achievements and other areas where further improvement is needed.
- 3.2 An effective LSCB is one where all partner agencies feel able to fully participate and engage in the business of the BSCB. BSCB continues to achieve a high level of attendance at meetings which has enabled BSCB to deliver against the business plan and key priorities.
- 3.3 This year has seen a significant number of organisational changes since the last annual report. The responsibility for commissioning local health services changed from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) at the beginning of the year. The Metropolitan Police have implemented the Local Policing Model. The Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) has transferred from the South London Healthcare Trust (SLHT) to Kings College Hospital Trust and there are changes to the Probation Service which will take hold in 2014-15. In addition, all public bodies have faced significant resource pressures throughout the year. The challenge for BSCB has been to remain focused on achieving good outcomes for children in spite of these pressures. Through its scrutiny arrangements this year, BSCB is confident that agencies are compliant with their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and in fact striving to enhance their services and practices through improvements. Where concerns or challenges have been raised through the year, these have been closely monitored to ensure improvements take place.
- 3.4 LSCB's now have the responsibility to scrutinise the availability of early help for children and their parents. BSCB believes that early support for families in Bromley is good. The re-launch of a more simplified Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for practitioners leading to record numbers of CAF completions, record levels of attendance at Children and Family Centres and the success of the Tackling Troubled Families programme are all good examples of this. BSCB will continue to monitor early support through 2014-15.
- 3.5 During this year BSCB has commissioned one Serious Case Review (SCR). The SCR was commissioned at the end of March 2014 and so will continue into 2014-15. Addressing the findings of this review will be a major part of the work during the next year.
- 3.6 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 2013-14:
- Significant progress has been made in supporting a strategic and operational response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Bromley with the development of a local protocol, multi-agency training and the establishment of Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) and Multi Agency Planning (MAP) meetings;
 - Annual Conference held in October 2012 focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation attended by over 100 delegates;
 - An extensive multi-agency training programme delivered covering 17 courses attended by over 700 people;
 - The completion of a gap analysis against the new Working Together 2013 which provided assurances that operational practice accords with the statutory guidance;
 - Setting up a Safeguarding Network for front line staff to promote multi agency learning and engagement;
 - The development of multi-agency protocols for children missing from home and care and children missing from education;

- Completion of the two year rolling programme of Section 11 Audits where each agency has completed a safeguarding self-assessment which has been scrutinised by the Quality Assurance & Performance Monitoring Committee;
- Undertaking three multi agency audits focusing on child protection arrangements, missing children and early intervention arrangements, sharing the learning and implementing action plans;
- Development of a Learning and Improvement Framework to support improvement in the quality of safeguarding practice;
- Setting up a new Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee (ESAC) and Safeguarding Education Forums to improve the involvement of the wider education sector alongside appointing Head teacher representatives to the Board.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The production of an annual report for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory requirement as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Government 2013.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy Implications Financial Implications Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]