

EXECUTIVE & RESOURCES PDS COMMITTEE

12th March 2015

UPDATES FROM PDS CHAIRMEN

**Joint meeting of the Education and Care Services PDS Committees
Select Committee hearing into Child Safeguarding
25th February 2015**

1. Following the successful hearing on May 7th 2013 a further joint meeting of the two PDS committee was held on February 25th.

The objective of the meeting was: *“To scrutinise the arrangements, organisational structures, and procedures and processes of the Council and partner organisations with regard to child safeguarding to ensure there is clear cooperation, no unnecessary duplication and effective management and supervision of frontline staff.”*

2. Evidence was taken from the following witnesses:
 - ✓ Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB);
 - ✓ Terry Parkin, Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services;
 - ✓ Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke, Metropolitan Police;
 - ✓ Sonia Colwill, NHS Director of Quality, Governance and Patient Safety.
3. The areas examined by the joint meeting included:
 - Interaction between the BSCB and other strategic boards in Bromley;
 - BSCB work with schools;
 - attendance at BSCB meetings by other agencies;
 - cause of the increase in child protection allegations made against professionals working with children;
 - source and number of referrals made to Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub;
 - definition of ‘missing children’;
 - monitoring of elective home education by Local Authority;
 - action by LA to target truancy;
 - duty of academies and free schools to notify LA of any child they intend to remove from roll;
 - ensuring adequate number of high quality children’s social workers;

- increase in number of children subject to child protection plans;
- action to stop young people sharing explicit personal photographs via the internet;
- protection of children in homes with domestic violence;
- tackling violent extremism;
- Female Genital Mutilation;
- self harm;
- child deaths,
- gang activity;
- Tackling Troubled Families Initiative;
- child safeguarding in private fostering arrangements;

4. Cllr Stephen Carr, who had attended the meeting, as Lead Member for Children's Services, joined the witnesses for a panel question and answer session and outlined his role and that of the Children's Board which had been established to support him in undertaking his work as Lead Member.

5. The Joint Committee resolved the following:

In considering the assurance arrangements in Bromley, Members agreed that the arrangements were satisfactory but noted that some organisations on the Safeguarding Board were not represented for several meetings as a result of staff turnover and that when a representative was sent they were sometimes not of sufficient seniority, the committee believes that the Board should address this issue as soon as practicable.

**Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP
Chairman
Joint Meeting**