

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**Briefing for Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 10 March 2016**

**BROMLEY CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2014/15**

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1. Summary

1.1 This annual report covers the period from April 2014 to March 2015 and is the eighth annual report of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB). The purpose of the BSCB Annual Report is to assess the effectiveness of multi-agency services in keeping children safe. The key question is 'is the BSCB making a difference?' This report provides plenty of 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.

2 THE BRIEFING

2.1 An effective LSCB is one where all partner agencies feel able to fully participate and engage in the scrutiny and co-ordination of safeguarding arrangements. BSCB continues to achieve a high level of attendance at meetings which has enabled it to deliver against the business plan and key priorities.

2.2 Through its scrutiny arrangements this year, BSCB is confident that agencies are compliant with their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. Where concerns or challenges have been raised through the year, these have been monitored to ensure improvements take place.

2.3 LSCBs 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 number of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) completions has increased again this year and the overall trend across all early intervention and prevention services in Bromley is one of solidly increasing engagement.

2.4 The Training Sub Group has developed a training strategy for 2014-16 and has undertaken a review of training commissioning arrangements. It provided multi-agency training to over 600 people.

2.5 The Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring (QAPM) Sub Group has completed five multiagency audits this year: Domestic Abuse; Core Group Effectiveness; Children on a

Second Child Protection Plan; Safeguarding Neglected Children; Missing Children and one additional audit started on Child Sexual Exploitation. Learning from these audits has been shared and actions plans implemented. The QAPM group has also scrutinised single agency audits such as Rapid Response (Bromley Healthcare).

2.6 During this year the BSCB has achieved a number of its 2014/15 Business Plan priorities. BSCB has:

- Evaluated the effectiveness of the BSCB training programme;
- Continued to monitor the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding children missing from home and care, and children missing education;
- Developed and implemented a survey for frontline practitioners to help develop an understanding of how well safeguarding practice is working;
- Established a Domestic Abuse task and finish group and addressed findings;
- Completed the Serious Case Review commissioned in March 2014 and embedded the learning;
- Developed work around children with mental health problems and young people who self-harm, making this a focus of the 2014-15 Annual Conference.

2.7 The BSCB has also responded to national safeguarding areas to protect vulnerable groups. It has built on Bromley's existing work by conducting a Strategic Review of Child Sexual Exploitation and by putting in place a task and finish group for Female Genital Mutilation. However, the BSCB recognises that there are some key priority areas still requiring more focus. These are: to continue to develop mechanisms to listen to the views of children and young people; and to review the support, engagement and impact of Lay Members to develop links with community groups and the public. These will be included in the business plan for 2015-18.