

**London Borough of Bromley**

**PART 1 - PUBLIC**

**Briefing for Care Services  
Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL  
REPORT 2015/16**

Contact Officer: Kay Weiss, Interim Director: Children's Social Care  
E-mail: kay.weiss@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Interim Director: Children's Social Care (ECHS)

1. Summary

- 1.1. This annual report covers the period from April 2015 to March 2016 and is the ninth annual report of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB). It is a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to publish an annual report under section 14A of the Children Act 2014. In line with statutory guidance, this report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2. In line with statutory requirements, this report explores the effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements and how we promote the welfare of children in Bromley. The purpose of the report is to provide a transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It identifies areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report includes lessons from audits and reviews undertaken within the reporting period and the impact this learning has had.

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 many of the key priorities.
- 2.2 Through its scrutiny arrangements this year, BSCB was 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, agencies have been challenged and recalled to the Section 11 Panel six months later to ensure improvements take place.
- 2.3 LSCBs have a 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 undertaken a review of single agency training this year and seen the newly commissioned training programme rolled out. It provided nearly 800 sessions of multi-agency training and learning this year.
- 2.5 The Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring (QAPM) Sub Group has completed three multiagency audits this year: Domestic Abuse; Child Sexual Exploitation and MASH (front door). Learning from these audits has been shared and actions plans implemented. The QAPM group has also revised its performance reports and continues to make improvements with its dataset.
- 2.6 The new Case Review Sub Group has revisited the Child E action plan to ensure that actions have been embedded and initiated a learning review involving Health, Children's Social Care, Police and Probation. The learning from this will be published in Autumn 2016.
- 2.7 A new Policy and Procedures Sub Group has been implemented to develop and ratify multi-agency policies and to scrutinise individual agency procedures to ensure compatibility with inter-agency procedures. This year the group has published a Bromley FGM protocol and has drafted a multi-agency CSE protocol for Bromley.
- 2.8 Priority groups of children are now scrutinised by the Vulnerable Children Sub Group. In 2015/16, the group reviewed CSE and Missing Children and identified a number of recommendations to improve this area of work. This is being taken forward by a working group in 2016/17.
- 2.9 During this year the BSCB has achieved a number of its 2015/16 Business Plan priorities. BSCB has: reviewed terms of reference and sub group structure; monitored training and staffing levels; had an effective Section 11 system; enabled learning through training, SCRs and briefings; started a process for increasing awareness and implementing policies for vulnerable groups.
- 2.10 However, the BSCB recognises that there are some key priority areas still requiring more focus. These are to ensure that: there is critical enquiry and challenge undertaken by agencies; there is assured response to children who go missing; children, young people and the community are engaged in a systematic manner; the Board has good oversight of risks by establishing a performance dataset that can measure progress; schools are aware of safeguarding risks and are held to account by the board.
- 2.11 It should be noted that Bromley's services for children were inspected by Ofsted in April and May of 2016, which was immediately after the time period reported in this annual report (April 2015-March 2016). The BSCB was judged to be 'requires improvement'. Recommendations have been incorporated into the BSCB's Business Plan for 2016-17.