



REPORT

Board

Agenda item No: 4

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Update 2 July 2014

Felicity Schofield, Chair of Cambridgeshire's local Safeguarding Children Board

1. Purpose

To update members of the Children's Trust Board about the recent work of the Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

2. Background

It has been agreed that a brief update on the work of the LSCB should be a standing item for every Board meeting. The LSCB meets every two months. It is supported by a business committee and a number of subcommittees.

3. Recent Developments

Since the last meeting of the Children's Trust Board, the LSCB has met once in May. At the May meeting of the LSCB, this year's business plan was agreed and is attached as appendix 1. This year's priorities of domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and disabled children were confirmed.

The Board also received an update on children who are missing from health records, which this meeting was advised about in my last report. The LSCB noted the overall improvement in the situation, although partners should still not assume that every child who is registered with a GP is known to the health visiting service.

The Board considered an evaluation of the Chelsea's Choice drama production which was presented to secondary schools across the County. Over 6,000 children together with nearly 800 professionals saw the production and took part in subsequent discussions about child sexual exploitation and related topics.

The LSCB was the subject of an Ofsted inspection during June. This inspection ran alongside the council's inspection of safeguarding and looked after children, but, for the first time resulted in a separate judgement. Alongside the overall work of the LSCB, the Ofsted inspectors were especially interested in child sexual exploitation and children who go missing.

Inspectors were advised that nearly 800 people attended one of our training courses during 2013/14, with each one of the 57 courses being run by a local practitioner from our training pool.



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Similarly over 500 people have attended one of our 4 local practice groups. These brief meetings provide an opportunity to meet colleagues from other agencies and to hear about and discuss current topics such as learning from serious case reviews or what we're doing about missing children.

In the middle of the inspection we held our annual conference, the theme for this year being e-safety. 200 practitioners from across the County heard about online sexual exploitation and learnt about how to keep youngsters safe on line. This included practical advice from some young 'cyber mentors' from a local school.

Finally, the LSCB is about to launch the introduction of the [Barnardo's domestic abuse risk assessment matrix](#) via our local practice groups (see appendices 2 and 3). The intention behind this launch is to enable all practitioners working with families where there is domestic violence to use the same assessment tool and therefore, speak the 'same language'. This should help partners with their decisions about whether or not to refer to children's social care services.

4. Implications for partners

The work of the LSCB is dependent on the contribution of partner agencies outside of the meetings themselves. All agencies are struggling with reduced resources which inevitably affect their capacity to contribute to partnerships. However, it is vital that agencies continue to work together in order to learn from each other and to protect children as best they can.

When the LSCB identifies gaps in service provision across the partnership, these will be presented to the Children's Trust Board so that they may be included in the decision making about commissioning priorities.

5. Recommendations

That Board members:

- Promotes the attendance of relevant staff at Local Practice Groups
- Advise relevant staff not to assume that all children are known to the health visiting service
- Ensure that their agencies contribute to the work of the LSCB as needed

6. Source documents and where they are held

LSCB website – www.cambslscb.org.uk
