

## SUMMARY OF LSCB ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

### The Board

The Board has continued to operate effectively with high attendance levels at meetings and a successfully delivered Business Plan.

Over the year the Board moved to a position where all sub groups are joint with Peterborough LSCB, part of a wider review and amalgamation of Safeguarding Board functions. As a result, the Local Authority and its partner agencies are in a good position to respond to the anticipated requirements in the new Statutory Guidance, replacing Working Together 2015, which will be published shortly for consultation.

This has been a year of major restructuring in Children Services within CCC, alongside re-organisations and reviews in partner agencies. The Board has made a positive contribution to the implementation of these changes, working to maintain the quality of safeguarding in a time of change, realising the potential offered by the new approaches and supporting high quality multi-agency working.

### How has the LSCB carried out its Functions?

- *Coordinate what is done by partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people*
  - Launched a Domestic Abuse Strategy
  - Launched a Neglect Strategy
  - Adopted the CSE Protocol
  - Drafted, consulted and approved a new Threshold Document
- *Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each partner*
  - Completed the Section 11 Action Plan
  - Monitored Ofsted, HMIP, HMIC and CQC Inspection reports and action plans
- *Demonstrate inclusion and co-operation*
  - Built on the Inclusion project with the Eastern European communities.
- *Undertake reviews of cases and practice*
  - Undertaken Multi-Agency Audits on Domestic Abuse, Neglect, referral decision Threshold's and MASH processes
  - Undertaken four Multi-Agency single case reviews where learning was identified and used to promote improvement
- *Monitor, evaluate and challenge—listen to feedback*
  - Developed a new Dashboard and Dataset of performance information across agencies
  - Consulted children and young people with SEND
  - Heard from the Participation Service
  - Used service user feedback in the development of CSE provision
  - Challenge practice where issues are identified, such as children being held in cells

and initial health assessments for looked after children.

- *Maintain Learning and Improvement framework*
  - Revamped the Learning and Improvement Framework
  - Ensured learning turns into change
  - Mapped the evidence available on Safeguarding in Cambridgeshire to give a coordinated picture of what we know and any gaps
- *Policy and procedures including thresholds, training, recruitment, supervision, allegations*
  - Launched Threshold Document
  - Undertake a major review of LSCB multi-agency procedures
- *Communicate and encourage to raise awareness*
  - Provided a well-respected Website
  - Developed use of social media and emails for communication
  - Delivered multi-media campaigns
  - Supported Local Practice Groups
  - Ran training to over 2,000 professionals
  - Undertook a training needs survey
- *Participate in planning of services*
  - Chair MASH Governance Board and delivered new MASH arrangements
  - Participated in the MASH operational group
  - Membership of Change Programme Strategic Boards
  - Led work strands supporting the Children Service change programme

### **Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Snapshot**

- 13% of Cambridgeshire children live in poverty - 16455 children. In some areas up to 38.7% live in poverty.
- By 2031 the number of children and young people is forecast to grow 17% compared to 2011.
- In the average three month period 3385 children received services from Early Help
- Between 49 and 60 children & young people were recorded as missing from care or home each month, in the main being missing for a number of hours or days before returning.
- Cambridgeshire had nearly 50% more than the national average 10 to 20 year olds admitted to hospital for self-harm.
- In 2016-17 Children Social Care received 4373 referrals, of whom 203 had a disability.
- 18% of cases referred in were re-referrals
- 5061 single assessments were completed, 84% of them within timescale
- As of March 2017 560 children were on a Child Protection Plan.
  - The number of children subject to Child protection Plans has risen significantly over the year.
  - There has been a noticeable increase in older children on plans.
  - When comparisons are made against other areas, the number of children on Plans does not look disproportionate

- 675 children & young people were looked after as of March 2017. At that point Cambridgeshire was responsible for 67 Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers
- 12% of Looked After Children cases had 3 or more placement breakdowns.

### How has the LSCB responded to the Safeguarding issues it identified?

ISSUE		RESPONSE
There is no evidence that Neglect is present in Cambridgeshire to a disproportionate extent but there is a high level of Neglect in the referrals and CSC caseload.	➡	The LSCB has built on its Neglect Conference in 2016 and launched a Neglect Strategy, supported by an Action Plan and training programme to enable staff to be more effective. An audit of practice will follow in 2017/2018.
There is evidence of higher than national average figures for hospital admissions from self-harm and regional average for misuse of substances	➡	A) There was a major, and successful, initiative to reduce waiting lists for specialist psychiatric services B) Health have embarked on the redesign of provision for young people and commissioned services for those who have emerging needs.
There remains a significant rise in CSC caseloads over the	➡	Working with the LSCB the local authority has launched a major reorganisation to ensure that the right services are available to the right child at the right time.
Domestic Abuse and Parental Mental Health are the most significant factors in CIN and CP cases.	➡	The LSCB has undertaken a major audit of Domestic Abuse cases, launched a Domestic Abuse Strategy, delivered training, and promoted good practice.

### Priorities 2017-18

#### *Ensure effective safeguarding of children against neglect*

- demonstrate the successful implementation of the neglect strategy.
- show that staff are equipped to make informed, consistent assessments of families where neglect is an issue using the graded care profile.

#### *Child sexual exploitation & missing*

- continue the focus on ensuring that children who are vulnerable to exploitation are safeguarded
- ensure the risk and vulnerability of children missing from care, home and education has been effectively managed
- safeguard children from the risk of exploitation by gangs.
- safeguard children from the risk of exploitation by extremism and radicalisation.

*The voice of the child*

- continue developments in obtaining the views of children and young people for decision making and identify the impact of those views.

*Enhancement of LSCB effectiveness in discharging its responsibilities*

- working together is being reviewed in the light of the social care act.
- the LSCB is re-structuring how it works to prepare for this change. It will continue to show it is effective, in line with statutory requirement and meets the needs of Cambridgeshire children.

*Developing and supporting effective workforce*

- to have in place
  - adequate resources and capacity to deliver or commission training.
  - policies, procedures and practice guidelines to inform and support training delivery in line with the learning and implementation framework
- undertake reviews of local training needs, taking into account research, national developments, learning from SCRs and child death reviews (not only those carried out locally), and board priorities.