

Leeds Health & Wellbeing Board

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Report of: Leeds Safeguarding Children Board

Report to: Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 22nd October 2014

Subject: Leeds Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. The LSCB partnership has an agreed and clear set of priorities and objectives – it is well led. There is evidence of good progress in implementing actions to address those objectives.
2. There is assurance that 'risk' is being managed safely and appropriately through the gradual way in which the safeguarding system is being rebalanced. This is done through quality assurance processes built into key parts of the safeguarding system and through audit and review findings.
3. Evidence that the improvement journey is being maintained and progressed through the reduction of child deaths from all causes, the gradual reduction in the number whose problems require statutory intervention and more children and young people receiving help earlier.

Recommendations from the LSCB Annual Report.

1 To the Health & Well Being Board, the Safer Leeds Partnership and Adult Safeguarding Board.

Two of the challenges to the Children and Families Trust Board, where co-operation and co-ordination between adult and children's services is essential, require the engagement of these three strategic bodies:

- To implement the 'Think Family – Work Family' protocol (which promotes more 'joined up working' in responding to vulnerable children, young people *and adults*).
- To improve the availability and accessibility of bereavement services.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides a brief summary of the key issues and challenges from the LSCB Annual Report Executive Summary.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body as set out in the Children Act 2004. It has a clear scrutiny function to hold the Local Authority and strategic bodies to account for its safeguarding activities.
- 2.2 The key objectives of the LSCB are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 are:
- To co-ordinate work to safeguard & promote welfare of C&YP
 - To ensure effectiveness of that work.
- 2.3 The LSCB has a responsibility to publish an Annual Report Evaluating the Effectiveness of Safeguarding work undertaken in Leeds to support C&YP. To further ensure cooperation and coherence the LSCB will present its annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The LSCB annual report considers a wide range of sources and information in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the safeguarding system but in summary these are:

3.2 How well are we engaging C&YP?

- Partners clearly understand the need to improve engagement and can evidence good progress in doing so however; despite this progress the LSCB has prioritised 'increasing the voice of the child' as a key challenge for 2014/15.

3.3 What can we learn from monitoring and reviewing services for C&YP?

- Serious Case Reviews and Local Learning Lessons Reviews have identified areas for improvement and action is being taken as a result eg:
 - Responding to C&YP living in the context of domestic violence, adult mental health problems, substance misuse and learning disability
 - Adolescent self-harm and suicide behaviours
 - Services for C&YP leaving care

- 3.4 Reviews presented to the LSCB have identified progress being made *and more to do* for particularly vulnerable C&YP eg those:

- Who are at risk of sexual exploitation
- Who go missing from home, care, or the view of universal services

- Who are in the Secure Estate

- 3.5 External, independent reviews are used to re shape safeguarding arrangements and practice Eg: the development of a multi-agency CS Front Door to better co-ordinate responses to contacts and referrals where there are concerns about C&YP.
- 3.6 **What insights can we gain from Performance and Quality Assurance monitoring?**
- 3.7 There is a good level of compliance across the partnership with statutory safeguarding requirements under Section 11 of the Children Act.
- 3.8 Early Help activity which provides children, young people and their families the 'right service at the right time' is steadily increasing (and is being audited in 2014/15)
- 3.9 Progress is being made in improving the effectiveness of CP Plans:
- Overall numbers and the duration of Plans are steadily decreasing
 - LSCB Audits have identified multi-agency CP Core Groups as needing to become more effective and there has been an extensive programme of briefings for staff across the partnership
- 3.10 Progress is also being made to address one of the 'obsessions' from the CYPP – to safely reduce the number of C&YP who need to be looked after:
- The overall number of CLA continues to steadily fall
 - There have been improvements in the stability of placements (less moves)
 - C&YP are increasingly involved in the statutory reviews of their care plans
 - LSCB audit activity found all cases sampled were 'good' or 'outstanding'.
- 3.11 We have a much more comprehensive understanding of the nature and scale of sexual exploitation in the city and are developing better co-ordinated multi-agency services to address this eg:
- Contributing to a 'West Yorkshire' approach and awareness raising campaigns
 - Closer working between Police, CSWS and local Third Sector agencies
 - Updated check lists for practitioners and referral and assessment processes
- 3.12 We need to develop better responses to related issues such as C&YP who:
- Go missing
 - Are trafficked
 - Are subject to forced marriage.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The LSCB annual report paints a cautiously optimistic picture about the development and effectiveness of safeguarding services for C&YP in Leeds. But it also identifies that 'more needs to be done' to ensure that momentum is maintained and the pace of improvement accelerated. A number of challenges have been made to Strategic Bodies in Leeds, with the main focus being the CTB. These include:

To strengthen the voice of the child / young person in:

- Services being delivered for and with them
- The planning and evaluation of services

To embed key partnership initiatives eg:

- Early Help Approach
- Think Family Protocol
- Support for Care Leavers
- More effective child protection plans
- Responding to the needs of particularly vulnerable C&YP (eg those at risk of sexual exploitation, who go missing, are trafficked etc)

To better understand and develop effective partnership approaches to adolescent:

- Mental Health problems
- Self-harming
- Suicide behaviours.
- To promote accessible bereavement services for families who have suffered the death of a child and particularly where that death has been unexpected.

5 Recommendations from the LSCB Annual Report

To the Health & Well Being Board, the Safer Leeds Partnership and Adult Safeguarding Board.

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- To improve the availability and accessibility of bereavement services.