

Report of Mark Peel, Independent Chair Leeds Safeguarding Children Board

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 21st April 2016

Subject: Leeds Safeguarding Children Board – UPDATE

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004 and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)'. It is independently chaired and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in the City.

Its statutory objectives are to:

- Co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- To ensure the effectiveness of that work

1.2 On Thursday, 12th November, 2015 Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) presented its annual report to LCC Scrutiny Board (Children's Services). Following the presentation it was agreed that the LSCB would return in six months and provide Scrutiny Board an update on topics within the following report.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is recommended to:

- Consider and note the information contained within the report

3.0 Background documents¹ None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Summary

On Thursday, 12th November, 2015 Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) presented its annual report to LCC Scrutiny Board (Children's Services). Following the presentation it was agreed that the LSCB would return in six months and provide Scrutiny Board an update on the following subjects.

Providing safeguarding sessions with taxi services across Leeds

Taxi and Private Hire Licencing (TPHL) & LSCB have developed compulsory safeguarding sessions to provide taxi drivers (both Hackney carriages and private hire operators), operators and escorts an understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard young people.

- To date 1,398 licenced taxi holders have attended safeguarding sessions in Leeds with four sessions being held every month
- Training is also being offered by the other four LSCB's in West Yorkshire to ensure better coverage for taxi drivers that may work in more than one area.

There is also to be a proposed change in policy for applicants born outside of the UK; with the introduction of online annual criminal records checks and a new reporting system to enable immediate enforcement action to be taken.

A linked, additional section on Safety on Public Transport is included below, as the use of taxi and private hire services by children and young people directly is, in fact, quite limited, largely due to cost.

Safety on Public transport

A young person's survey undertaken by the Youth Parliament in Leeds highlighted that concerns around safety were not identified by young people as of particular issues on buses. Price, cleanliness and driver's attitudes were, in contrast, just some of the concerns raised.

Child and adolescent mental health transitions into adulthood

Transitions within child development continue to be a focus for the LSCB especially for those young people requiring support into adulthood. Those young people that require emotional/mental health support who are receiving services from CAMHS experience good transitions to adult mental health services. There is a clear transition protocol between Leeds CAMHS & Leeds Adult Mental Health Services.

Transition cases can take between 6 and 9 months to complete. Work with a young person while still in CAMHS takes between 3 to 6 months, there follows a period of joint work with the receiving adult service, support for the young person while on a waiting list and support during the initial stages of work to promote full engagement. This is in line with clinical governance and local and national guidelines on transition

practice.

Alcohol in Pregnancy

Leeds has a commitment to ensure that children and young people have the best start in life and this is translated into practice through the Leeds Best Start Plan.

The Plan sets out a broad preventative programme from conception to age 2 years to ensure a good start for *every* baby, focusing especially on early identification and targeted support for vulnerable families early in the life of the child

Parental alcohol use carries risks in terms of both health impacts on the unborn foetus, (including foetal alcohol syndrome disorder spectrum) as well as being a risk factor for domestic violence between partners. Foetal alcohol exposure is possibly the leading cause of intellectual disability, but frequently goes unacknowledged.

Leeds has developed a social marketing campaign approach around alcohol in pregnancy, reflecting the most up to date advice from the Chief medical Officer, advising women who wish to conceive, or who are already pregnant to refrain from alcohol as the safest option. <http://www.alcoholandpregnancy.org.uk/>

The campaign will also clearly and simply communicate the known harmful actions of alcohol in pregnancy; the evidence contextualising level of drinking and risk in order to provide meaningful advice for women; and the importance of continuing with a precautionary approach on low levels of drinking.

Private Fostering

Private Fostering is the term used to describe arrangements made by parents (or others with Parental Responsibility) for children under 16 (under 18 if disabled) to be cared for by friends and family, other than close relatives defined by Children Act (1989) for a period of more than 28 days.

Parents and those providing private foster care have a duty to inform the Local Authority of such arrangements, as is also the case for professionals from all agencies with a safeguarding responsibility.

The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure that private fostering Arrangements made in their area are checked to ensure they adequately meet the needs of children so placed, including safeguarding.

Minimum standards for private fostering are set out on behalf of the Government by the Department of Education and Skills All of which are met and exceeded in Leeds, with the LSCB holding these to account both indirectly and directly.