



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR 7th JUNE 2016

PRESENTATION - PREVENT: We received a presentation from Detective Inspector Dickon Turner from Avon and Somerset Police about “Prevent”. Prevent is a major limb of the Government Contest Strategy to reduce the risks of people becoming radicalised and ultimately to reduce acts of terrorism. In the context of safeguarding, DI Turner cited a number of examples of young people from the UK becoming radicalised and as a result inflicting harm on others as well as themselves. The presentation also highlighted the challenges of managing risks presented by UK based far right and far left organisations, which remains as a concern across the South West region

Prevent is currently managed by the police but the Government intends that it will be taken over by Local Authorities in the near future.

THEMED REVIEW - DOMESTIC ABUSE AND CHILDREN: The thematic part of our meeting was on the subject of domestic abuse and children. The Board received several papers including: the particular risks to children; local statistics and information and current service provision for example in 2014-15, 66% of children subject to child protection plans noted domestic abuse was an issue. In particular it was noted that the Responsible Authorities Group has overall responsibility for domestic abuse however the LSCB needs to be aware of the risk and impact on children. Board members contributed a number of ideas for challenges and monitoring that will be developed as a proposal for our next meeting.

SELF HARM GUIDANCE AUDIT REVIEW: Following the development and publication of guidance for professionals when children who self-harm are presented, the LSCB received a report from Paul Scott, the Deputy Director of Public Health in which the take up of the guidance was assessed. It is clear that those who have used the guidance were more confident in their approach and that the likelihood of a positive outcome for the child is high. Regrettably of those 178 surveys returned, only around 30% were aware of it. The LSCB and members have undertaken to do more to ensure effective dissemination or at least awareness of the guidance and where to find it (it’s on the LSCB website and on the GPs own system). This will be reviewed again at a future meeting. The guidance can be found on the LSCB website:

http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/banes_self_harm_including_suicide_guidelines.pdf

SCHOOLS AUDIT: The LSCB/ LSAB Business Support Manager, Dami Howard presented the findings from a substantial (self assessed) audit of safeguarding in schools undertaken earlier this year. Every school in B&NES responded and overall it is clear that all take safeguarding very seriously. The next stage is for members of the Board to visit a random selection of schools to verify the quality of response by way of an assurance of the process. This was a huge and well executed piece of work on the part of Dami Howard, who was congratulated by the Chair and Board. The audit will continue annually and will replace a number of other audit tools currently in use by schools.

THE WORK OF THE LADO: The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for managing allegations against people who work with children is Jackie Deas. It is important that all organisations have arrangements in place for the LADO to be contacted whenever an allegation is received about a member of staff that may mean they are unsuitable to work with children. This ensures transparency and that unsuitable people are properly managed and where appropriate, referred to the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS). This means that organisations should ensure that their functions for internal discipline are connected with those for safeguarding and the LADO. The number of referrals to the LADO has been increasing and this may indicate greater awareness on the part of organisations.

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS (IRO): IROs are responsible for oversight of arrangements for the care of looked after children. Their role is therefore extremely important in assuring the life chances of this highly vulnerable group of children and young people. The LSCB received their annual report. It is clear that high standards are maintained and that as a group, the IROs continue to strive for improvement. A number of concerns were raised in relation to the need for assessments to be up to date and for consistent quality to be applied to all Care Plans – these are being addressed and the issues are being pursued through the LSCB Challenge Process. The Annual Report 2015-16 is now available on the LSCB website: [IRO Annual Report](#)

TEAM AROUND THE CHILD AND LEAD PROFESSIONAL: The Common Assessment Framework, the concept of the Lead Professional and the utility of Team Around the Child (TAC) have been in use across B&NES for many years. Despite this there appears still to have been a reduction in the level of engagement with completing CAF's from agencies over the past year, where previously this had been at a satisfactory level. The Board discussed some of the potential reasons for this, and this may be partly due to increased resource pressures on agencies as well a need to re-promote awareness and training on CAF's. B&NES have been running free training sessions for some time. The next course is all day (9-4) on 17th October and free to all participant. The course is aimed at anyone who might act as a lead professional or be part of a team around the child/family - ideally practitioners, but there remain an issue of managers needing to understand what their staff might be taking on. In short, all are welcome! To book, please contact Caroline Dowson at B&NES. Caroline.Dowson@bathnes.gov.uk

EARLY HELP: An Early Help App is being developed to ensure that practitioners have quick and easy access to information about the range of support services available for families in B&NES. It will provide information about local services, which can support families with a range of issues including benefits, housing, health and wellbeing, family support and parenting. The App will help direct practitioners, who are not sure what provision is available to the most relevant support and will include links to other local and national Apps and web-based resources. The App will be launched in September.

LSCB ANNUAL REPORT: The Board reviewed the draft LSCB Annual Report which is now complete with the exception of the Executive Summary. This will be published very soon.

Reg Pengelly
Independent Chair, B&NES LSCB