

Bournemouth and Poole  
Local Safeguarding Children Board



Annual Report 2010 – 2011

Business Plan 2011 - 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction from the Independent Chair

The **Annual Report** for 2010-11 reports on the progress and achievements in safeguarding children work across all agencies in Bournemouth and Poole, and via a detailed multi agency Safeguarding Audit which was undertaken in the late summer of 2010, has been able to give a coherent analysis of current safeguarding practice.

The Safeguarding Audit overall reflected a positive picture of the multi agency practice that is undertaken with children and their families and carers, and was able to give evidence of areas of innovative practice. In particular child protection processes and systems were found to be efficient and well managed, with all agencies generally confident about when and how to make child protection referrals. Work in respect of early intervention and prevention initiatives was identified as well developed despite the challenges of limited resources.

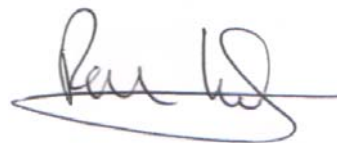
The audit also identified the developing role of Adult Services in their important contribution to safeguarding children, and in addition the LSCB Chair has established formal links with the Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Boards of Bournemouth and Poole and of Dorset.

Further areas of multi agency practice that require development are listed within the body of the main report and have helped to formulate the key objectives for the next year. There is reference to these in the second part of this document - the **Business Plan 2011-12** - which identifies the priorities for the coming year.

Governance arrangements have been strengthened by the development of a protocol between the LSCB and the two Children's Trust Boards of Bournemouth and of Poole. At the planning and development day held in December 2010, improvements in terms of the LSCB's decision-making processes was identified as being required for the Executive Board,

There continues to be a high level of commitment and contribution from all partner agencies, and of dedicated work from a number of key individuals within agencies, who provide such important contributions to the work of the Board and to the sub groups. These sub groups are the foundation for all the work that the LSCB undertakes and some of the innovative work that has been undertaken in these forums, has helped to enhance local safeguarding practice.

No LSCB can meet its commitments without its own key staff to guide the work and to resource the many activities that are necessary. The LSCB has been fortunate during 2010 to secure the services of a new Safeguarding Business Manager and the return of its former Administrator. Their collective experience and commitment to the work of the LSCB has been instrumental in ensuring that the considerable amount of work that has been undertaken, has been done so efficiently and effectively.



Ron Lock

## Annual Report – Summary

### **Key Areas of Progress 2009 – 2011**

During the period under report, the LSCB has appointed a new Administrative and Information Officer – Lynn Hall, and a new Safeguarding Business Manager – Geoff Nash, ending a considerable period of disruption to the staffing of the LSCB.

In September 2011, a wide ranging Safeguarding Audit was conducted with all partners in the LSCB which has been crucial to the planning of the LSCB and of each of the Children’s Trusts.

The LSCB’s Sub-Groups have undertaken much of the detailed work, the main achievements being: -

- The **Policy and Procedures Group** completed a major review and update of Chapter 2 – “Guidance on Managing Individual Cases” – in the context of the publication of “Working Together to Safeguard Children” in March 2010. Further procedures were also reviewed during the period and the Policy and Procedures Group continues to work on its two year review cycle.
- A **Pan Dorset Strategic Training Group** has been developed, alongside a **Training Network Forum** in order to streamline the LSCB’s important role in overseeing safeguarding training provision. An audit of the status of multi-agency training was conducted which will inform their work.
- Appointments of a Development Manager and Administrator have been made to the **Child Death Overview Panel** has helped to ensure regular reporting,

compliance with national requirements and a more efficient process for the review of cases.

- The **Serious Case Review Group** has overseen five cases in the period
  - Child E, SCR, Poole, Ofsted grade - good
  - Child A, case audit, Poole
  - Baby F, SCR, Poole, Ofsted grade - good
  - Case W, case audit, Poole
  - Child G, SCR, Poole continuing with April deadlineThere has been significant learning for multi agency practice in safeguarding children and young people.
- The **Performance and Effective Practice Group** has
  - Conducted a review of progress against the Haringey Audit that was undertaken in Bournemouth and Poole in 2009.
  - Conducted an audit on the effectiveness of actions taken in response to the Child E SCR.
  - Commenced an audit with a diversity and equality focus, investigating patterns in police arrests of children and young people.
- The **Safeguarding Through Prevention Group** has been established and has agreed terms of reference.
- In the area of **Communication and Engagement**, achievements include: -
  - Hosting a multi-agency Annual Conference on the mental and emotional health of children and young people.
  - Web site development and publication and re-launch of the newsletter

- Publication of leaflets and creation of DVDs on Child Protection Conferences for the families attending conference and separately for use by professionals
- Established procedures for the appointment of Lay Members to the LSCB Executive.
- Progression of levels of engagement with the voluntary sector
- Preparation of an induction pack for new members of the LSCB

1.a.2) In respect of **Safeguarding in Education.**

- Learning from Serious Case Reviews and case audits have been disseminated.
- A range of policies and procedures have been reviewed.
- Safeguarding audit tools have been distributed to schools and Governors made aware of their responsibilities with respect to safeguarding.

- The **Safer Recruitment and Allegations Management Group** has secured multi-agency representation on the group and has arranged and delivered a substantial programme of training for all agencies.

- **The E-safety Group** have

- Prepared The E-safety Strategy
- Secured the identification of nominated E-safety Champions
- Delivered E-safety training and hosted an E-safety conference

- The **Safeguarding Children and Young People in Health Group** have: -

- Coordinated responses to three Serious Case Reviews
- Improved arrangements for supervision of health staff in relation to safeguarding children
- Established Safeguarding Children Forums in each health organisation
- Significantly developed the engagement of GPs in safeguarding issues

## **Business Plan - Key Objectives 2011 – 2012**

There are a number of **Core Objectives** for the LSCB – This work will take up much of the time and commitment of the LSCB and its sub groups for the coming year. In summary form, these core objectives relate to the need : -

- To regularly review existing policy and procedure and to develop new policies and practice guidance in relation to new initiatives and learning throughout the year
- To ensure that policies and procedures are agreed only after proper consideration has been given to equality and diversity issues
- To collate, review and analyse information about child deaths
- To ensure that single-agency and multi-agency training on safeguarding is provided in order to meet local needs.
- To receive and evaluate requests for Serious Case Reviews and to manage the processes and outcomes of Serious Case Reviews when they are conducted
- To monitor the effectiveness of actions taken to safeguard children, as well as the impact of learning from Serious Case Reviews
- To ensure good communication between the LSCB, other organisations and the public

A number of **Developmental Objectives** have also been created to respond to particular needs and issues that have arisen as part of the multi agency practice in safeguarding children and young people locally. In summary these are: -

- Promotion of action to reduce harm to children and young people caused by parental/adult behaviours and difficulties.
- Promotion of effective coordinated action to address the emotional well-being of children and young people - The priority areas for 2011-12 for these two objectives will include: -
  - Domestic abuse
  - Substance misuse
  - Teenage pregnancy
  - Young people as parents
  - Self harming behaviours in young people
- Promotion of effective safeguarding arrangements and practice in early preventative work
- To develop and improve communications within the LSCB and to a wider audience - to include the establishment of Lay membership of the LSCB
- Take action to further develop the effectiveness of the LSCB and its decision making processes

### **Remaining Challenges :-**

The Annual Report identified a number of remaining challenges and areas for development from the multi-agency audit and from the business planning day held in December 2010.

These included: -

- Concern about the safeguarding of children and young people living in households with domestic abuse/violence.
- Drug and alcohol abuse amongst children and young people and amongst the parents/carers of children and young people continues to be an issue.
- The need for clarity and consistency regarding the use of the Common Assessment Framework across the two Local Authorities.
- Developing a Think Family approach to service delivery.
- Resource and workforce development issues continue to present a challenge, particularly in the context of cuts in investment in public services.
- There was considerable support for the development of a multi-agency safeguarding hub.
- There is a need for an agreed set of management information in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the LSCB and partner agencies and in identifying areas for development

- Better communication between the LSCB members and between the LSCB and the wider public are required.
- The need to continue to improve links with adult services and that forums which consider the risks imposed by adults are able to identify potential impact on children and young people
- The need to improve the consistency and professional commitment to Core Groups in child protection cases.

These additional areas for development will be incorporated into relevant work plans and actions by the LSCB for the coming year.

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**Ron Lock** – Independent Chair

**Geoff Nash** – Safeguarding Business Manager

**Lynn Hall** - Administration & Information Manager

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