

Children's Select Committee

Children's Social Care
Local Safeguarding Children Board
Progress Update: 2017/18

Information

Key items of note:

- The impact of the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board over 2017/18.
- The key priorities going forward into the new safeguarding structure.
- The proposed changes to the structure and next steps in implementation.



Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.



Accountability

Statutory guidance that is relevant to the period that the annual report covers states that the Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area (Department for Education, Working Together 2015).

The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles.

The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.

The final report is available on the LSCB website.



The Impact of the LSCB –key messages

The business of the LSCB has been driven through its sub groups, which in 2017/18 covered:

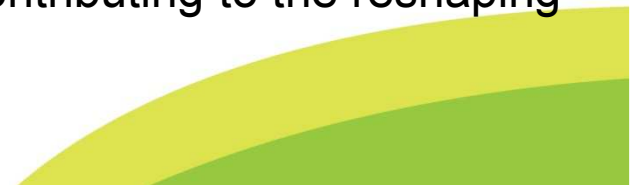
- Performance and quality assurance
- Policy and procedure
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Serious case reviews
- Exploitation

And three working groups:

- E-safety
- Learning and development
- Safer recruitment

Each group is chaired by a senior officer from a range of different partner agencies.

The LSCB also undertook additional work through task and finish groups around the priorities of domestic abuse and neglect, as well as contributing to the reshaping of early help.



Required Changes to the LSCB (Working Together 2018)

Local Safeguarding Children Boards will be replaced by new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups).

There will be a duty on child death review partners (local authorities and clinical commissioning groups) to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area; or, if they consider it appropriate, for those not normally resident in the area.

The current system for serious case reviews will be replaced by new national and local review arrangements.

The guidance states that there must be effective working links with other strategic arrangements “this will include other public boards including Health and Wellbeing Boards, Adult Safeguarding Boards, Channel Panels, Improvement Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, the Local Family Justice Board and MAPPAs”.



Next steps for the LSCB - required changes, local driver and opportunities

Future business plans of the new partnership will have to demonstrate how the proposed arrangements will align with the Local Authority's improvement plan for Children's Social Care and deliver improved outcomes for children and families. (Ofsted Single Inspection of the Local Authority in November 2017 and the improvement direction issued by the Department for Education published in July 2018).

The need for a sharper focus on shared priorities with other strategic partnerships, such as reducing the impact of domestic abuse, exploitation and neglect.

The need to strengthen a family based integrated approach to business.

The need to evidence the outcomes and impact of the new partnership arrangement, including strengthening and reviewing its scrutiny and assurance processes.

Agreement about funding contributions and the form and function of the support team to make most effective use of resources, including looking at joint functions with other strategic boards/partnerships.



Summary of key actions for 2018/19

- Communicate the planned changes to the LSCB structure.
- Implement the new partnership structure, starting in January 2019.
- Agree a schedule of engagement with key meetings/forums to ensure effective ongoing communication with all agencies and organisations who are responsible for safeguarding children.
- Publish new structure by statutory deadline of June 2019.
- Agree partner financial contributions and support structure by February 2019.
- Implement new performance scorecard to inform business planning and work of the partnership, by February 2019.
- Agree the relationship between the Children's Partnership Board, Improvement Board and Safeguarding arrangement action/business plans by March 2019.
- Agree sub group work plans by March 2019.

