



Blackburn with Darwen Local Safeguarding Children Board

Key Messages – Monday 9th July 2012

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Health Sector Reforms

The Board received an update from the Director of Public Health (Blackburn with Darwen) and the Director of Nursing (NHS Lancashire), regarding the local NHS cluster arrangements and implementation of the reforms within the Health and Social Care Act.

The Director of Public Health informed the Board of the work progressing at a local level with Blackburn with Darwen CCG and NHS Lancashire to implement the new arrangements.

The current cluster arrangements are in place to oversee the transition period before GP's, through the CCGs, take over the commissioning of Health Services on 1st April 2013.

The Board was assured that in the interim period, safeguarding remains a priority area for the cluster and it will be focusing on the following in preparation for the CCG's taking over:

- Ongoing access to a designated professionals
- Partnership with the Safeguarding Board
- Helping CCGs to understand the safeguarding agenda and their future roles and responsibilities
- Ensuring safeguarding risks during the transition period are understood and mitigated.

CAFCASS Update and the Family Justice Review

The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) provided an update to the Board outlining the progress and changes made by the local service following Ofsted inspection and internal audit findings. The service has experienced unprecedented demand in both its 'Public Law' and 'Private Law' services and has undertaken major reforms of its service delivery to meet the increased demand and findings of inspections.

The Family Justice Review has highlighted that delay for children within the family justice system is common place and recommends to all services within the system that they tackle this. The average timescale within Lancashire to decide on cases can be approximately 64 weeks and the judiciary has now set a target timescale of 26 weeks to reduce the delays.

The Board was informed of the actions being taken by CAFCASS and partners within the family justice system to implement the recommendations from the Family Justice Review.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The Board approved the Pan-Lancashire LSCB action plan on CSE that incorporates the priority actions from the national action plan. CSE remains a priority area for all the LSCBs in Lancashire and the LSCB business managers will regularly review progress of the actions to ensure the region remains at the forefront of tackling CSE.

The Board was also updated on the findings and recommendations from two national reports published by the DfE in early July 2012. The reports and the ministerial response to them recommend a number of immediate actions for LSCBs. The Board approved to lead on the implementation of a number of the actions in order to improve the data quality and achieve a better understanding of the nature and extent of the local CSE issues.

Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance

The Board will be collating responses from all agencies on the draft guidance published by the Department of Education. The guidance has been drastically reduced following the recommendation made by Professor Munro in her report on the child protection system published in 2011.

The consultation period ends in early September 2012 and all agencies were requested to feedback any comments, concerns and suggestions for changes to the guidance by the 17th August, 2012 to enable the LSCB to collate and submit our local comments.

Independent Review of the LSCB

Following the findings of the Peer Review in November 2011 and Ofsted Inspection in January 2012, the LSCB commissioned an independent review to recommend any changes and developments the LSCB needs to undertake to meet its future statutory functions.

The independent review has recommended five areas the Board need to consider further to face the challenge of becoming a Board with a strengthened role to 'challenge' and 'scrutinise' local child protection and safeguarding services.

The Board has established a task and finish group to consider the recommendations and provide the Board with a plan of implementation. The group will report back to the Board later this year with implementation of the changes from January 2013.

Committee & Partnership Updates

The Board received updates from the following committees:

- *Quality Assurance Committee* – The Board was updated on the findings of recent multi-agency reviews and practice audits, and

progress made with the implementation of recommendations from previous reviews and practice audits. The Board approved that in 2012-13 the committee will undertake a number of practice audits, including capturing the voice of the child in service provision and service design, and the effectiveness of the arrangements to provide preventative and early help services.

- *Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)* – The Board was informed of the number of deaths reviewed by the panel and the categories the panel had assigned to the deaths. The annual report from CDOP will be published later in the year outlining the detail of the panel's findings and the action taken to understand further the modifiable factors to prevent deaths in the future.
- *Pan-Lancashire Policies and Procedures Group* – The Board noted that the Pan-Lancashire policies and procedures are currently undergoing their six-monthly review and in a number of areas ranging from 'children with mental health' to 'madrasah safeguarding' there will be changes in the next version of the Tri-x procedures.

Documents discussed and/or agreed by the Board include:

- Pan-Lancashire LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report
- Private Fostering Annual Report
- LSCB Annual Report