



Blackburn with Darwen Local Safeguarding Children Board

Key Messages – Monday 19 March 2012

Full Announced Safeguarding and LAC Inspection

The Board discussed the publication of the recent findings of the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children's Services in Blackburn and Darwen. Safeguarding services were evaluated as 'good' with four recommendations made by inspectors for immediate and future improvements. The inspectors acknowledged the excellent partnership working arrangements in BwD, evaluating this area of work as 'outstanding'. Looked after Children services were also evaluated as 'good' and seven recommendations made for improvements.

NHS Blackburn with Darwen Care Trust Plus shared with the Board their detailed action plan to implement the health partnership recommendations from the BwD and Lancashire inspections. The action plan will be monitored by the Lancashire cluster group and its safeguarding leads.

BwD LSCB was audited by the Council's audit team to ensure the Board's compliance with its statutory responsibilities. The audit team found there was 'substantial' compliance by the Board with the processes and procedures it had in place and 'adequate' compliance in the implementation of its statutory responsibilities. Four recommendations were made by the audit team and these will be implemented by May 2012.

Blackburn with Darwen Children's Services and Education department and NHS BwD Care Trust Plus thanked all agencies and partners of the Board for their assistance and contributions during the inspection, including front line workers, for demonstrating the excellent work they undertake.

Suicide & Self Harm Audit

The Board was presented with the findings of the suicide and self harm audit completed by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust. The audit was designed to monitor practice improvements and lessons learnt following the Child A serious case review.

The auditors found substantial compliance with a range of practice changes around improving assessments, information sharing and multi-agency working for young people who attempt suicide and who self harm. Four recommendations were made to strengthen practice further and implementation of these will be monitored by the LSCB's Quality Assurance Committee.

Vulnerability of 'Imported' Looked After Children

The Board discussed the issue of looked after children from other areas who are living within the BwD area, mainly in private homes. A concern was discussed that local authorities where these children came from were not consistently notifying the Safeguarding Unit, or other local agencies, of their residence in BwD until they come to local attention as a result of going missing or involved in risky activities.

The Director of Children's Services and Education had written to all Directors of Children's Services nationally to remind them of their duties to inform local authorities when placing children in out of borough placements.

Early Help Strategy

The Board was informed that the LSCB will be working with all the partners from the Children, Young People and Families Trust to develop a borough-wide Early Help Strategy. It is anticipated that this strategy will be completed by August 2012. The LSCB and Children's Trust have been asked to provide information on their early help services and will be consulted throughout to agree on definitions and content of the strategy.

Board members agreed to co-operate in the process.

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

The Board were informed that the Public Health Department have commissioned a study to look at how abuse, neglect, household and community dysfunction are predictors of poor health outcomes. The department has commissioned Liverpool John Moore's University to undertake a survey of 2,000 people in the borough to understand the historic and root causes of poor adult health and behaviour. The survey work is expected to take around 6 to 9 months to complete and the findings will be reported to the Board.

LSCB Committee Updates

The Board received updates from the following committees:

- *Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)* - the Board were advised that reviews of child deaths and completion of 'end of case discussion meetings' had improved substantially and is now in line with statutory guidance. CDOP have agreed to use funds from the previous budget under-spends on promotion campaigns and research, including a research project to better understand factors in neonatal deaths.
- *Serious Case Review Committee* - the Board was advised that all the actions from local serious case reviews had now been implemented and the action plans signed-off by the LSCB Chair. Work remains ongoing to monitor how agencies are disseminating lessons from these reviews and the Safeguarding Unit are continuing to deliver briefing sessions along with the Blackpool and Lancashire LSCBs.
- *Policies and Procedures Committee* – the Board were informed that the committee had agreed to update the pan-Lancashire LSCB policies in

three areas: children who sexually abuse; Madresah safeguarding; and E-Safety.

- Quality Assurance Committee - the Board received updates on the progress made by the committee on a range of multi-agency reviews and case file audits. The Board discussed and agreed to the development of a quality assurance framework that is consistent with pan-Lancashire LSCBs. The Board discussed how it should undertake its section 11 audit will be presented with further options at the next meeting.

Voluntary Community Faith Sector Update

The Board was informed of a Safeguarding Workshop for the sector which is to take place on 9th May 2012. The agenda for this workshop is to be finalised and circulated within the next couple of weeks.

Documents discussed and noted by the Board include:

- Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children Services in Blackburn with Darwen
- Summary of suicide and self harm in young people audit report
- General Medical Council's "Raising and acting on concerns about patient safety" guidance