



## **Blackburn with Darwen Local Safeguarding Children Board**

### **Key Messages – 17th June 2014**

#### **Child Protection – Information Sharing in Health Care Settings**

The board received an update from NHS England and East Lancashire Hospitals Trust on the national programme to connect IT systems between local authorities and unscheduled health care settings (A&E, ambulance, maternity, minor injuries, paediatric wards, walk-in centres and out of hours GP services). This is in relation to children that are subject to child protection plans or children 'looked after' by the local authority.

A further update on the local implementation of the programme will be provided to the board in December, 2014.

#### **Pan-Lancashire Policy on Bruising/Injury to Non-Mobile Children**

The board discussed the comments received following a consultation on the bruising/injury to non-mobile children policy. The board agreed that the policy should be changed so that all non-mobile children observed in any setting should be referred for a paediatric assessment and assessment under section 47 of the Children Act (1989).

The BwD LSCB decision will be communicated to the Lancashire and Blackpool LSCBs for their agreement. Until the consultation process is complete, the current policy (paragraphs 24 to 26 in section 1.3 of the Pan-Lancashire policy) should be followed by all agencies.

#### **Children's Partnership Board**

The Chair of the Children's Partnership Board (CPB) provided an update on its membership, its relationship with the LSCB and the actions taken to meet its priorities. For 2014-15 the CPB's priorities will be on the following issues:

- Emotional Health & Wellbeing;
- Early Help;
- Parenting Skills; and
- REaCH – Routine Enquiry about Childhood Adversity (this will be across the three other priority areas).

#### **Child Health Profile, 2014**

The board was presented the 2014 report for BwD by Public Health England on child health outcomes in the borough. The report highlights that on a number of indicators such as infant mortality and hospital admission (including injuries) the borough has improved its performance, but for others the borough's performance remains less good than the average rates in England.

BwD Public Health team will further update the board on the actions being taken to improve child health outcomes in the borough.

### **Safeguarding Theme: Annual Reports**

The board was presented with a number of annual reports from multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – the report outlines the work of the MASH in 2013-14 to meet its functions (victim/harm identification, early intervention, harm reduction and co-ordination of partner agencies) and outlines the priorities for the 2014-15 year.
- Engage – the report provides some key performance indicators against its three strategic aims: to prevent sexual exploitation; protect victims and potential victims; and pursue perpetrators. The Engage team will now be conducting return to home interviews for children who run away or are missing from home/care, ensuring that any signs of potential exploitation are identified early and addressed. Strategic and operational priorities for the team are also included in the report.
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) – the report outlines the developments in the service during the 2013-14 year. It also describes the outcomes and impact being sought from the 2014-15 priorities.
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) – the report provides a summary of the volume of referrals, the characteristics of the referrals and outcomes achieved to protect children in the borough. It outlines the priority action areas for 2014-15.
- LSCB Annual Report (draft) – the board reviewed the first draft of its annual report and the Independent Chair requested all agencies to provide any outstanding information to assist in finalising the report ready for publication. The final report will be presented to the council's chief executive, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Police & Crime Commissioner in September 2014 before publication on the LSCB website.

The board agreed the following business plan priorities for 2014-15:

- Effectiveness of responses to neglect;
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Missing From Home (MFH);
- Voice of the child in board priority setting and service effectiveness, including the voice of the diverse communities within the borough;
- Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) & Health and Wellbeing Board focus on suicide and self-harm.

### **Documents agreed and noted by the board include:**

- NHS England outline of the Child Protection- Information Sharing (CP-IS) Service
- Pan-Lancashire Policy on bruising/injury to non-mobile children
- Notes for the LSCB Annual Development Day, 2014
- Update report from the Children's Partnership Board

- Child Health Profile, 2014
- LSCB Review findings from the first 17 published Ofsted Inspection reports
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Annual Report, 2013-14
- Engage Annual Review, 2013-14
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) Annual Report, 2013-14
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report, 2013-14
- Draft Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, 2013-14