



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

### **Key Messages – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

#### **Father's Project – Audit Results**

The Board received a presentation from The Fatherhood Institute on the results from a recent audit of social work files carried out within Blackburn with Darwen on the involvement of fathers. Blackburn with Darwen is currently involved in a national pilot aimed at developing and improving guidance and training to practitioners working with fathers and male partners.

The Fatherhood Institute shared the findings of the case file audit. It focused on the involvement of fathers and male partners at different levels within the child protection process and suggested the following areas for practice improvement:

- Development of a multi-agency strategic framework for working with fathers
- All policies and procedures should explicitly address the needs and experiences of fathers (resident and non-resident)
- Publicity about services should address both mothers and fathers
- Consultations for improving services and seeking service user experiences should systematically seek the views of fathers

#### **Domestic Violence Strategy Update**

The Board received an update in relation to the progress made in implementing the Blackburn with Darwen Domestic Abuse Strategy (2011-14). Funding was secured to deliver an ambitious programme aimed at securing a coherent and integrated approach to tackling domestic abuse. The strategy will be evaluated against five outcome measures and the Board was informed of the progress already made in the first year in relation to three of them:

- There has been a reduction in repeat victimisation of the highest risk victims
- A training programme has been developed with regards to risk assessment for all partner agencies and an e-learning programme is now available
- Drop-in centre provision has been improved to encourage victims to report and seek help early.

A real positive has been the improved partnership working between the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors.

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

The Board received a presentation from Lancashire Constabulary and Children's Services Social Care with regards to the newly formed Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. The MASH team will receive all referrals and filter these against the local Continuum of Need and Response threshold model.

The pilot MASH in Lancashire has resulted in speedier sharing of information and decision making in respect of the level of need and risk. This is based on multi-agency information and more timely identification of service pathways.

In addition to the more effective response for families, the pilot has identified improvements that can be made to a number of strategic arrangements (such as local multi-agency protocols, the commissioning of services, etc). The MASH will operate in line with emergency social care duty team in order to provide a 24/7 service.

### **Committee & Partnership Updates**

The Board received updates from the following committees and partnerships:

- *Learning & Development Committee* – The Board was advised of the completion of the Training Needs Analysis which will inform the Training Programme for 2012-13. An update was provided on the success of the recently launched e-learning safeguarding course and the committee is looking into commissioning further subject-specific e-learning courses in the future. The committee has also agreed to quality assure single agency training provision over the coming year.
- *Education and Learning Committee* – The Board was informed that the committee has started to review e-safety arrangements and a task and finish group is being established to review the local e-safety charter. The review will examine national guidance and regional protocols to assist in updating local tools. The committee has agreed operational objectives for 2012-13 that include developing a robust designated person network across the education and learning sector, improving training for designated persons, auditing school's compliance with s.175 (Education Act) compliance and improving links with private and independent sector establishments.
- *Performance Monitoring Committee* – the Board discussed the increase in demand for child protection services identified from the 2011-12 data. It was advised that a range of factors have contributed to the increase in demand. Furthermore, the committee has identified a number of performance issues where further analysis is required.
- *Communications and Participation Partnerships Committee (CAPP)* – The Board was informed that a multi-agency communications strategy has been developed and will be circulated for approval after some final editing. In 2012-13 the committee will focus on disseminating messages from Serious Case Reviews, Multi-Agency Reviews and the Child Death Overview Panel. It will also prioritise the launching of new policies like the recently agreed Madresah safeguarding policy.

- *Children, Young People and Families Trust Update* - The Board received an update on the work of the Trust against the Children's Plan 'stay safe' priority areas. Hospital admission rates, child protection referrals and road casualty numbers remain areas of concern for the Trust due to higher demand and incident rates during 2011-12. Performance in relation to 'children in care achieving permanence' has improved during 2011-12.

### **Legislative Changes for Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs)**

Lancashire Constabulary updated the Board on the strategic picture in relation to RSOs:

- Legislative changes have been proposed to the Sex Offenders Act (2003) due to case law developments and the desire to strengthen the arrangements to monitor and report where RSOs reside
- New MAPPA guidance is due in 2012
- Operation of the child sex offender disclosure scheme.

### **Documents discussed and agreed by the Board include:**

- Memorandum of Understanding between the LSCB and Children, Young People and Families Trust.