

Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Children Board  
**Business Plan 2008/09 - 2009/10**



[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

## 1 Purpose

The purpose of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Business Plan is to set out the key tasks for the LSCB in co-ordinating the work of the Board's Partners both individually and collectively to ensure that the welfare of children in Bracknell Forest is properly promoted and safeguarded.

The Business Plan will provide LSCB members and other interested parties with an overview of the aims and priorities of the work of the LSCB. The Plan will set out a programme of priorities for two years, from 2008/09 to 2009/10, and it will be reviewed annually.

The details of the LSCB Workplan for 2008-10 are contained in Appendix One.

This LSCB Business Plan replaces the previous LSCB Business Plan for 2006-9. The LSCB revised the 2006-09 early, to take account of changes in national guidance and the learning from Bracknell Forest's inspections i.e. the Joint Area Review (JAR), Annual Performance Assessment (APA).

## 2 Definition of Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people includes:

- Protecting children from maltreatment,
- Preventing the impairment of children's health or development,
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care,
- Enabling those children to have optimum life chances.

## 3 Achievements 2007-08

### 3.1 Joint Area Review

In October 2007 a Joint Area Review of services for children and young people was carried out in Bracknell Forest. The report from the Review was published in February 2008. The framework for rating the quality of services is that they are judged against a scale of 1 to 4 on descriptors of 'outstanding' (4), 'good' (3), adequate (2) and 'inadequate' (1). All service areas in Bracknell Forest were judged to be 'good', including safeguarding activity, which is inspected and rated as a discreet service area.

The report<sup>1</sup> notes that the LSCB is effective, has made a good impact and has facilitated improved accountability and ownership of safeguarding issues across agencies. In particular the report states that safeguarding in recruitment is a priority issue for the LSCB and there is work in progress to ensure a safe approach across all sectors, with examples of practice improvements made as a result.

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<sup>1</sup>A copy of the report can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/pdf/?inspectionNumber=3575&providerCategoryID=0&fileName=\\JAR\\jar\\_2008\\_fr.pdf](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/pdf/?inspectionNumber=3575&providerCategoryID=0&fileName=\\JAR\\jar_2008_fr.pdf)

The report notes that there were some inconsistencies in the oversight of safeguarding practice and in the application of thresholds by different agencies. These issues are fully addressed in the Council's Joint Area Review Action Plan<sup>2</sup> and are mirrored in the LSCB's Business Plan.

### **3.2 The Bracknell Forest Children's Trust**

The Children's Trust was established at the end of 2007-08, building on the successful work of the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. There is an ongoing dialogue between the LSCB, Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Bracknell Forest Children's Trust. The LSCB makes a key contribution to the delivery of the 'Stay Safe' objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **3.3 Achievements of the 2006-09 LSCB Business Plan**

- Implemented the 2006 Berkshire Child Protection Procedures
- Implemented policies on Missing Children and on Substance Misuse
- Formalised the Anti-Bullying Group as a sub-group of the LSCB
- Designated the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and named senior officers for allegations and safe recruitment in partner agencies
- Held two training events for named senior officers on developing a safer workforce and designed Safer Workforce training for the Children's Workforce.
- Supported the establishment of a Child Death Review Panel in Berkshire
- Contributed to the establishment of an East Berkshire Training Sub-Group for the 3 East Berkshire LSCBs and continued to deliver safeguarding training to practitioners
- Extended the work of the Quality Standards and Case Review Group and developed a comprehensive Safeguarding Dataset to measure progress in improving outcomes for children
- Recruited an LSCB Business Manager to support the work of the LSCB
- Established a Raising Awareness Sub Group and produced Safeguarding Cuecards, which have been disseminated to all staff and volunteers in the Children's Workforce

## **4 Business Planning Priorities 2006/09**

### **4.1 Overall Objectives**

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<sup>2</sup>See <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/jar-action-plan-2008.pdf> for a copy of the action plan.

The LSCB's primary role is to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of the work of its member organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the Bracknell Forest area. The LSCB contributes to the planning, commissioning and delivery of relevant services.

In accordance with its duties under the Children Act 2004, Section 11, the LSCB will promote high standards of work, and will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by all Partner Agencies, sharing good practice and providing advice on ways to improve.

The LSCB will carry out its duty to safeguard the welfare of children so as to assist all children in achieving the five outcomes below<sup>3</sup>. The LSCB will maintain a particular focus on ensuring that children 'stay safe', whilst having due regard to the other four outcomes.

- Stay Safe
- Be healthy
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

## **4.2 Business Planning Priorities 2008 -10**

The priorities for this Two Year Business Plan were developed in full consultation with LSCB members and wider Partners over a series of meetings during the autumn of 2007 and spring 2008. The action plan (see Appendix 1) was approved by the LSCB in April 2008. The priorities include:

- Leading scrutiny and challenge of Safeguarding practice in Bracknell Forest,
- Working more closely with the Children's Trust and CDRP, with particular focus on common priorities
- Reducing bullying,
- Introducing new processes for responding to child deaths,
- Raising Safeguarding Awareness, including developing a Communications Strategy and developing a 'Safeguarding Toolkit' to help all Partner agencies meet their Safeguarding responsibilities,
- Ensuring that all settings and agencies have a Safeguarding Policy for all their core business,
- Completing a Section 11 Audit with all Partner Agencies working with children, to establish to what extent we are meeting our Safeguarding responsibilities,
- Contributing to the continuing update of the 2006 Child Protection Procedures and updating additional local Procedures,

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<sup>3</sup> See 'Every Child Matters' <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/aims/>

- Developing a multi-agency process for collecting and analysing data, to assess the collective safeguarding performance of the LSCB Partner Agencies and the Board's progress in improving outcomes for children and young people ,
- Evidencing a clear prioritisation, of Child Protection and Safeguarding processes in all services in contact with children and young people (the 'Golden Thread of Safeguarding'),
- Supporting the establishment of seamless thresholds and consistent application of these by all services,
- Involving service users in the design and development of services,
- Reviewing and maintaining progress in safer workforce practice,
- Updating Safeguarding training (including introducing Safer Workforce training) and reviewing the take up of training provision,
- Promoting E-Safety.

## **5 LSCB Business Plan Review**

Each of these priorities has been assigned to a particular LSCB or Children's Trust sub-group to lead; each group reports regularly to the LSCB Board.

Progress against Performance Indicators and improving outcomes for children and young people will be assessed by means of analysis of the LSCB Comprehensive Dataset and quarterly reports to the LSCB.

A review of progress against the LSCB Business Plan will be conducted annually.