



## **Key Messages from the Independent Chair: December 2018**

The LSCB met on the 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Community Space, Keynsham.

As ever, the Board had a very full agenda with the usual standing items, the following issues were discussed and approved including the West of England Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Annual Report 2017-18 and the Council's Children and Young People's Plan in B&NES for 2018-21.

### **Lessons Learned Review**

The case did not meet the threshold of a Serious Case Review but the SCR sub group and LSCB Independent Chair felt that there were lessons to be learned about multi agency working and so commissioned a Lessons Learned Review.

The Board approved the Review Report and 11 recommendations which looked at the circumstances leading up to the unexpected death of a young person in October 2017 and identified issues and learn from these in order to improve practice in the future.

The SCR sub group will now develop an action plan and monitor improvements and learning by agencies involved.

### **Self-Harm Audit**

Paul Scott, Assistant Director of Public Health gave a presentation on the findings of the recent audit of practitioner's awareness of the local self-harm guidelines. This showed that 28.4% able to describe the HarmLESS or LSCB/ Multi-agency guidelines <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/harmless>

HarmLess enables practitioners to assess self-harm and plan support; it provides a series of questions you can ask the young person. How they answer these questions

will inform a plan about the type of support they might require, if at the end of this you are still unsure or worried about a young person then phone your local CAMHS team

Feedback in the audit included:

- *“Providing support and guidance”*
- *“Helped me with supervision to support a practitioner”*
- *“Gave advice to help me think about best course of action”*
- *“Helped to support someone living with self-harm”*

## **‘County Lines’ and ‘Cuckooing’**

‘County Lines’ is a term used by the police for the movement of drugs gangs and drugs trafficking from the major cities and towns to more suburban and rural areas. It is of major concern not least because it can lead to often disadvantaged and/or vulnerable children, young people and adults being drawn into a dangerous drug culture.

The Board approved a joint LSCB and LSAB briefing on County Lines and Cuckooing to help raise awareness of the issue. [LSAB and LSCB Exploitation and County Lines Briefing](#) (January 2019)

## **New Safeguarding Arrangements**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 abolished LSCBs as they currently stand and gave Boards time to consider new local safeguarding arrangements that are the equal responsibility of three safeguarding partners - the Council, the police and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The Board were updated on progress made by the three new statutory partners in considering the proposed new arrangements for B&NES. These new arrangements have to be published by 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and in place from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The current LSCB’s priority is to ensure that the existing arrangements and processes are followed in order to safeguard children and young people until the new arrangements come into effect. Currently there are a range of options being considered including working more regionally at an executive and sub group level across either/both the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area or the changing CCG area between B&NES, Wiltshire and Swindon.

The LSCB will be kept informed of progress and will publish the new arrangements in due course in time for the deadline.

I trust that this brief summary of the LSCB’s meeting is helpful.

Robert Lake  
Independent Chair B&NES LSCB  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

