

Blackpool Council

4 October 2016

To: Councillors Benson, Critchley, Mrs Henderson MBE, Humphreys, O'Hara, Scott, Singleton, Stansfield and L Taylor

The above members are requested to attend the:

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 October 2016 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

- (1) the type of interest concerned; and
- (2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2016 (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 September 2016 as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

To consider any applications from members of the public to speak at the meeting.

4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS (Pages 7 - 14)

The Committee to consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the remit of the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee.

- 5 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 15 - 24)
- To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, October 2016 – January 2017, relating to the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary.
- 6 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN** (Pages 25 - 38)
- To consider the Workplan, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review.
- 7 YOUTH JUSTICE THEMATIC DISCUSSION** (Pages 39 - 52)
- To consider improvements in the Youth Offending Service since Full Joint Inspection in 2013, the impact of developments in the sector and the opportunities the developments present.
- 8 BLACKPOOL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 53 - 98)
- To consider the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, which provides evidence of the activity of the Board during 2015/2016.
- 9 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT Q1 2016/17** (Pages 99 - 108)
- To consider performance against the Council Plan 2015-20 for the period 1 April – 30 June 2016.
- 10 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 109 - 112)
- To consider the Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016.
- 11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- To note the date and time of the next meeting of the Committee as Thursday, 8 December 2016, commencing at 6pm.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Sharon Davis, , Tel: 01253 477213, e-mail sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2016

Present:

Councillor Benson (in the Chair)

Councillors

Critchley	O'Hara	Singleton
Humphreys	Scott	Stansfield

In Attendance:

Mrs Del Curtis, Director of People
Ms Karen Smith, Deputy Director of People (Adult Services)
Mrs Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Mrs Josie Lee, Interim Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker
Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
Councillor Amy Cross, Cabinet Member for Reducing Health Inequalities and Adult Safeguarding
Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Development and Engagement
Councillor Debbie Coleman, Cabinet Assistant (Resilient Communities)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2016

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 July 2016 were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee noted that there were no applications for public speaking on this occasion.

4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Committee noted that no Executive and Cabinet Member decisions had been taken since the previous meeting of the Committee.

5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the items contained within the Forward Plan, September 2016 – December 2016. Mrs Del Curtis, Director of People advised that the decision 'School Place

MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2016

Planning Next Steps' was no longer required following the approval by the Department for Education of the Fylde Coast Academy Trust's application for a new free school.

6 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

The Chairman presented the workplan to the Committee and highlighted the 'Implementation of Recommendations' table. It was noted that a number of actions had been completed since the last Committee meeting and Members were pleased with the quality of responses received.

The Committee agreed:

1. To approve the Scrutiny Workplan.
2. To note the 'Implementation of Recommendations' table.

7 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

Mrs Del Curtis, Director of People presented the Children's Services Report to the Committee and the Chairman invited questions.

The Chairman noted that the recent HMI Monitoring visit had determined that 'sufficient progress' had been made at South Shore Academy and queried whether sufficient progress was satisfactory. Mrs Curtis advised that it was considered that South Shore Academy was progressing at an acceptable rate. In response to further questions, she advised that the GCSE results for individual schools were not yet available as the data had not been formally validated, however, on average, the results in Blackpool had improved in comparison to 2015.

The Committee discussed the approval by the Department for Education of the free school bid made by Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) and requested additional detail regarding the size and opening times of the new school. In response, Mrs Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources advised that the school would gradually build in size to a capacity of 1,180, of the places 60 were nursery, 420 primary and 700 secondary. The first pupils were expected to commence in September 2017 and the school would be situated on the site of the Arnold School. Members expressed concern that the level of information regarding the development of the new school, provided to Ward Councillors in particular, was not adequate and it was agreed that Mrs Curtis would approach FCAT to ask for additional, regular communication to be provided to key stakeholders.

The level of detail regarding Safeguarding Children contained within the report was discussed and Members expressed concern that the detail included was not sufficient enough to allow effective scrutiny. It was agreed that Members would give consideration to the safeguarding content required in future reports and that the Chairman would send a request to Mrs Curtis following the meeting.

Members discussed the programmes currently on offer to children and young people in Blackpool including the apprenticeships being offered by the Calico Group and the Prince's

MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2016

Trust 'Get Into Retail Programme.' In response to questions Mrs Curtis advised that the Prince's Trust programme was being offered at no cost to the Council and that she would circulate additional information following the meeting.

Members went on to discuss the pledges made at the Corporate Parent Conference and noted that Blackpool Operating Company had recently employed four of 'Our Children' as apprentices and that Blackpool Entertainment Company had offered mock interviews. It was noted that the Conference would be held every two years and it was agreed that an update to the pledges document would be circulated after the meeting.

The Committee queried what action would be undertaken following the completion of the audit of placements. In response, Mrs Josie Lee, Interim Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker advised that the audit had demonstrated that the thresholds for referral were appropriate and that the key areas of action were the reunification of children with parents and identifying a resource to provide support to parents.

The Committee agreed:

1. That Mrs Curtis would approach FCAT to ask for additional, regular communication to be provided to key stakeholders regarding the new free school.
2. To consider the safeguarding content required in future reports and send a detailed request to Mrs Curtis following the meeting.
3. To receive additional information regarding the Prince's Trust 'Get Into Retail Programme' following the meeting.
4. To receive a copy of the Corporate Parent Conference Pledges.

8 SCHOOL LED SYSTEM AND BLACKPOOL CHALLENGE UPDATE

Mrs Del Curtis, Director of People highlighted the complexity of the new school led system to Members noting the different types of schools and governing bodies in Blackpool. She advised that the funding currently allocated to Local Authorities for school improvement would eventually be removed and that school leaders would be expected to drive improvement. Local Authorities would continue to lead on the allocation of school places, Elective Home Education, Educational Diversity and supporting Looked After Children at school.

Members discussed the exclusion policy of individual academies and noted the recommendation of the Pupil Referral Unit Scrutiny Panel to support the Blackpool Challenge Board in its objective to provide a consistent approach to exclusion across all schools and reduce the number of referrals to the Pupil Referral Unit through the introduction of the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership and Inclusion Board. Mrs Curtis confirmed that the recommendation had been implemented to good effect and that all schools were currently complying. As a result the number of exclusions across Blackpool schools had reduced. However, new to area referrals were still significant.

The Committee went on to consider the accountability of academies and Mrs Curtis advised that academies and academy trusts were ultimately accountable to the Regional Schools

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Commissioner. Any concerns regarding academies would be reported to the Commissioner for consideration and action if required.

Mrs Curtis drew Members' attention to the work of the Blackpool Challenge Board over the previous 12 months and commented that it had achieved a number of positive outcomes to date including improved communication amongst schools and better partnership working. She advised that the Chair, Professor Sonia Blandford had been commissioned for a further year to lead on summit meetings based upon four key themes – recruitment and retention, aspiration, employability and innovation/good practice. However, the message from the Department for Education that school improvement must be school led was clear. To that end, a new School Improvement Board had been established to run alongside the Challenge Board, which would be attended by school leaders and focus on good educational outcomes.

Members queried whether the Challenge Board had provided a tangible improvement to schools in Blackpool and Mrs Curtis advised that there had been a small improvement in overall GCSE results in 2016, however, it was difficult to attribute the improvement either directly or in part to the Challenge Board.

The Committee agreed that, subject to a final written response to be circulated by Mrs Curtis following the meeting to the Pupil Referral Unit Scrutiny Panel recommendations that they be signed off as completed.

9 CUSTOMER RELATIONS TEAM ANNUAL REPORTS ON ADULT SERVICES AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2015/2016

Mrs Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources presented the Customer Relations Team Annual Reports for 2015/2016 on Adults and Children's Services to the Committee. The production of the annual reports was a statutory requirement.

Mrs Wood responded to the request made by the Committee when considering the 2014/2015 Annual Reports that consideration be given to utilising a similar form of feedback as the NHS Friends and Family Test. She advised that following investigation it had been identified that the NHS Choices website included social care providers and that processes were being put in place, following the Committee's request, to ensure service users were aware of the opportunity to provide feedback in that way. The feedback would be used as a form of evidence during performance monitoring.

Members considered the annual reports in detail and queried the statutory response times for complaints. In response, Mrs Wood advised that the statutory response time for Stage 1 of a complaint relating to Children's Services was 10 days and that the statutory response time for a complaint relating to Adults Services was six months. However, if response times could not be met with a full reply to the complaint, then contact would be made to explain the reasons why and when a full response would be provided.

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It was noted that the percentage of complaints responded to within timescales for Adult Services had reduced from 53% in 2014/2015 to 48% in 2015/2016 and queried why that was the case. Mrs Wood reported that complaints had increased in complexity with a number of interconnected complaints often contained within one overarching complaint. She reiterated that if a response to a complaint was delayed the complainant would be kept informed. Ms Smith, Deputy Director of People (Adults Services) added that the approach to responding had been changed contributing to the extra time required to respond. Once the change in approach was embedded the speed of response would improve.

The Committee discussed the 'lessons learned' from complaints and it was considered important to try to prevent reoccurrences by disseminating the learning across services, however, it could not be guaranteed that a mistake would not happen again.

Members were pleased to note that children and young people had felt able to make a complaint without concern that it might affect the quality of their care.

In response to further questions, Mrs Wood advised that she did not have the details of the complaint that had been upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman regarding maladministration and injustice and would circulate further details following the meeting. She confirmed that any recommendations made by the Ombudsman would be implemented.

The Chairman concluded the item by highlighting the compliments and comments contained within the report and thanking staff for their hard work and contribution.

The Committee agreed to receive further detail on the upheld complaint regarding maladministration and injustice following the meeting.

10 ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Ms Karen Smith, Deputy Director of People presented the Adult Services Overview Report to the Committee and the Chairman invited questions.

Members queried whether a reason could be identified for the increase in the number of requests for new adult social care assessments. In response, Ms Smith advised that no reason had been identified, although it was indicative of a national trend. She added that the number of new assessments requested would continue to be monitored.

The Committee considered the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of the Council's Domiciliary Care Services and Residential Crisis Service based at the Phoenix Centre that had rated services 'Good' and queried the improvements required to ensure services were rated 'Outstanding'. Ms Smith highlighted that an action to demonstrate the impact of services and how the impact could be evidenced had been identified.

In order to highlight the complexity of services, two case studies had been provided to Members. The first case study demonstrated the Mental Health Rehabilitation Service and

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how the service supported adults to achieve independence. Members queried the level of service available and were informed that four rooms were available and that service users could remain for up to one year. In response to further questions, Ms Smith advised that the service was largely funded by the NHS and that there was unlikely to be an increase in funding to allow increased provision.

The second case study highlighted the relationship between the Council and a care at home provider. Ms Smith advised that the monitoring arrangements put in place were very rigorous and that if a complaint was received regarding any service it would be investigated immediately. She added that a CQC inspection was an indication of the provider at that moment rather than an ongoing reflection. It was unusual for the findings of the CQC to vary significantly from the view provided by Council performance monitoring.

Members expressed concern regarding the issues raised in the case study including staff falling asleep on duty and high levels of safeguarding activity and noted the action taken by the Council and the provider in order to ensure the required improvements had been made.

The Committee also noted that the CQC regularly announced visits, which allowed providers to prepare in advance for the inspection, and was of the opinion that all CQC inspections should be unannounced. It was considered that the Council's performance monitoring provided a more up to date view of the provider. Ms Smith advised that the Council worked closely with the CQC and shared information.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the date and time of the next meeting as Thursday, 13 October 2016 commencing at 6pm in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.47 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Tel: 01253 477213

E-mail: sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting	13 October 2016

EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the remit of the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Cabinet Secretary or the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to the decisions taken.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the opportunity is given for all Executive and Cabinet Member decisions to be scrutinised and held to account.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Attached at the appendix to this report is a summary of the decisions taken, which have been circulated to Members previously.

5.2 This report is presented to ensure Members are provided with a timely update on the decisions taken by the Executive and Cabinet Members. It provides a process where the Committee can raise questions and a response be provided.

5.3 Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and will have the opportunity to raise any issues.

5.4 Witnesses/representatives

5.4.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the decisions taken in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
- Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Engagement and Development.

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Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 4(a): Summary of Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p>HORNBY ROAD AND COOPERS WAY COMMISSIONING REVIEW</p> <p>To approve the following recommendations based on the outcome of staff and family consultation on proposed changes to the service (s): <u>Hornby Road</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue provision as a seven day service with 24 hour provision at weekend. • To undertake a phased reduction of the staff team to be complete by 1 April 2017 in line with the new model. • To reduce bed capacity from 10 to 7 beds from September 2016 to match usage. • To adjust Waking Watch shifts in line with model by September 2016. • To introduce a closure at non-peak times from September 2016 • To introduce a change to drop off time during the summer holidays from September 2016. • That alternative outreach arrangements be put in place by 1 April 2017. • To extend the age criteria to provide overnight short breaks for service users up to the age of 25 years. This will apply to existing service users only. 	<p>The review has been able to identify a model which reflects the true needs of the service.</p> <p>The new model has been verified by the Hornby Road Service Manager and Looked After Children Service Manager as a model which will meet the needs of service users; takes account of actual occupancy levels and maintains a safe level of service.</p>	<p>PH54/2016</p>	<p>25 July 2016</p>	<p>Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)</p>

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p><u>Coopers Way</u> To offset the closure of the service on the Sunday preceding the Bank Holiday Monday by opening for 4 nights over the Christmas period with immediate effect.</p>				
<p>TENDERING FOR COMMUNITY ADVICE AND INFORMATION PROVISION To authorise a commissioned tender opportunity for providing independent advice and information. Blackpool Council will seek to award a contract for £25,000 per year for a period of three years.</p>	<p>To help support and maintain a provision for independent advice information for the voluntary sector leading to a full withdrawal of funding after a three year period, whereby bodies providing this service by that date will have had sufficient time to become more self-sustainable.</p>	PH58/2016	8 August 2016	Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Engagement and Development
<p>DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER WHITEGATE DRIVE FAMILY CENTRE 1. To agree to the disposal (via a long term lease) of the former Whitegate Family Centre at a value of £210,000. 2. To provide a grant of £210,000 to the Blackpool Multi-Academy Trust to allow them to acquire the land for the provision of additional school places for children with special educational needs.</p>	<p>The disposal of the site will enable the provision of additional school places for children with special educational needs. The disposal will also ensure a suitable use for a site already deemed surplus to the Council's requirements.</p>	PH61/2016	23 August 2016	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p>HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To extend the current contracts for an additional year from the 31 October 2016 to the 31 October 2017 subject to the amendments as outlined in decisions 2 to 5 below. 2. To decommission Emergency Direct Access Accommodation based provision for young people aged 16 – 24 years old. 3. To continue providing a Tenancy Sustainment Service but to implement an efficiency saving of 15% by reducing the contract value. 4. To implement the agreed renegotiated arrangements for The Ashley Foundation 18+ accommodation contract retaining the same number of beds for a reduced cost. 5. To authorise the Deputy Director of People (Adults) to negotiate on the same principle with Caritas Care regarding the 18+ accommodation contract to maximise the number of beds for the funding available. 6. To note that no amendments will be made to services for those experiencing domestic abuse, young people aged 16/17 years old and teenage parents. 	<p>The decisions will allow the Council to meet the 20% saving agreed as part of the General Fund Revenue 2016/2017. The timing of the implementation reflects the natural break in the contacts where there is an option to extend for a further year (2017-2018) and once again for a final year (2018-2019) before there is a requirement for a re-tender exercise.</p> <p>The extension for one year will allow commissioners to work with providers to shape the market appropriately given the high probability that further Council savings will be required for the financial year 2017-18. During this time the Council would explore all options. This would allow the Council to formulate an agreed strategic direction which gives due consideration to a National picture that is currently very uncertain.</p> <p>The decisions aim to protect, for the current financial situation, a number of beds, the benefits of which achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council would have control over referrals and could guarantee the local connection policy is adhered to. • The Council would have control and influence regarding move on plans and be able to work with providers to minimise evictions. • The Council would ensure that the support is effective and outcomes are met in line with 	PH62/2016	24 August 2016	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
	<p>Council priorities.</p> <p>The decisions reflect the Council's decision to protect the most vulnerable people. Services for those experiencing domestic abuse, young people aged 16/17 years old and teenage parents will not be affected. In addition the Tenancy Sustainment Service will remain and be refocused to offer effective, immediate support to those adults who are placed in independent rather than supported accommodation.</p> <p>The decision around emergency access accommodation has been made as the service is not well used and there is alternative provision which is more suitable.</p>			

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.
Date of Meeting	13 October 2016

FORWARD PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, October 2016 – January 2017, relating to the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary.

2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to items contained within the Forward Plan within the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary.

2.2 Members will have the opportunity to consider whether any of the items should be subjected to pre-decision scrutiny. In so doing, account should be taken of any requests or observations made by the relevant Cabinet Member.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

3.1 To enable the opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the Forward Plan items.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 The Forward Plan is prepared by the Leader of the Council to cover a period of four months and has effect from the first working day of any month. It is updated on a monthly basis and subsequent plans cover a period beginning with the first working day of the second month covered in the preceding plan.
- 5.2 The Forward Plan contains matters which the Leader has reason to believe will be subject of a key decision to be taken either by the Executive, a Committee of the Executive, individual Cabinet Members, or Officers.
- 5.3 Attached at Appendix 5 (a) is a list of items contained in the current Forward Plan. Further details appertaining to each item contained in the Forward Plan has previously been forwarded to all members separately.

5.6 Witnesses/representatives

- 5.6.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the Forward Plan items in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:
 - Councillor Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) – Summary of items contained within Forward Plan
October 2016 – January 2017.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS

(OCTOBER 2016 to JANUARY 2017)

* Denotes New Item

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
November 2016	Adult Social Care Charging Policy	12/2015	Executive	Cllr Cain
October 2016	Headstart Round Three Funding Bid Result and Future Action	7/2016	Executive	Cllr Cain
October 2016	School Place Planning Next Steps	11/2016	Executive	Cllr Cain
October 2016	Youth Justice Plan	13/2016	Executive	Cllr Cain

EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:

Matter for Decision Ref N ^o 12/2015	To consider and approve the revised charging policy for Adult Social Care services. Blackpool's Fairer Contributions Policy has been revised and updated to reflect the requirements of the Care Act 2014. The new Adult Social Care Charging Policy will cover the charging arrangements for both residential and non-residential services.
Decision making Individual or Body	Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
Date on which or period within which decision is to be made	November 2016
Who is to be consulted and how	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service users directly affected by the changes resulting from the implementation of the revised Policy.• Local third sector organisations with a specific interest in adult social care. Consultation will be conducted by post, through the website and through stakeholder events.
How representations are to be made and by what date	Representations must be made in writing (either by letter, e-mail or the on-line survey) to the responsible officer. The dates of the consultation are subject to confirmation.
Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration	Report The Adult Social Care Charging Policy The Equality Analysis A Report on the outcome of the Consultation Exercise
Name and address of responsible officer	Karen Smith Deputy Director of People (Adult Services) e-mail: karen.smith@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 476803

EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:

Matter for Decision Ref N ^o 7/2016	Headstart Round Three Funding Bid Result and Future Action
Decision making Individual or Body	Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
Date on which or period within which decision is to be made	October 2016
Who is to be consulted and how	N/A
How representations are to be made and by what date	Representations were sought in writing to the responsible officer, at the address shown below, by 1 June 2016.
Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration	Report
Name and address of responsible officer	Neil Jack, Chief Executive e-mail: neil.jack@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 47 7006

EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:

Matter for Decision Ref N° 11/2016	School Place Planning Next Steps. Following the publication of the School Organisation Pupil Place Plan 2015-2020 to agree what actions need to be taken to ensure delivery of sufficient school places over the next decade.
Decision making Individual or Body	Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
Date on which or period within which decision is to be made	October 2016
Who is to be consulted and how	Once the preferred option is selected a full consultation exercise will be undertaken.
How representations are to be made and by what date	Not applicable
Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration	Report to be submitted
Name and address of responsible officer	Delyth Curtis, Director of People e-mail: Delyth.curtis@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 47 65 58

EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:

Matter for Decision Ref N ^o 13/2016	To approve the annual Youth Justice Plan
Decision making Individual or Body	Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
Date on which or period within which decision is to be made	November 2016
Who is to be consulted and how	Members of the Youth Offending Team Partnership Management Board, through the established cycle of meetings and/or activity specifically for the purpose of producing the plan.
How representations are to be made and by what date	Not Applicable
Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration	Covering Report Plan
Name and address of responsible officer	Delyth Curtis, Director of People e-mail: Delyth.curtis@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 47 65 58

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Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.
Date of Meeting	13 October 2016

SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the Workplan, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 To approve the Committee Workplan, taking into account any suggestions for amendment or addition.
- 2.2 To monitor the implementation of the Committee's recommendations/actions.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 3.1 To ensure the Workplan is up to date and is an accurate representation of the Committee's work.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.'

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Scrutiny Workplan

5.1.1 The Scrutiny Committee Workplan is attached at Appendix 6(a). The Workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that the Committee will undertake over the course of the year.

5.1.2 Committee Members are invited, either now or in the future, to suggest topics that might be suitable for scrutiny in order that they be added to the Workplan.

5.2 Scrutiny Review Checklist

5.2.1 The Scrutiny Review Checklist is attached at Appendix 6(b). The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny.

5.3 Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

5.3.1 The table attached to Appendix 6(c) has been developed to assist the Committee to effectively ensure that the recommendations made by the Committee are acted upon. The table will be regularly updated and submitted to each Committee meeting.

5.3.2 Members are requested to consider the updates provided in the table and ask questions as appropriate.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a), Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee Workplan
Appendix 6(b), Scrutiny Review Checklist
Appendix 6(c), Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2015/2016	
9 June 2016	Children's and Adults Overview Report PRU Scrutiny update Introducing Infusion
14 July 2016	Council Plan – End of Year Performance Monitoring - Communities Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Thematic Discussion: Early Help
1 September 2016	Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Blackpool Challenge Board Report Children's and Adult's Customer Feedback Reports
13 October 2016	Council Plan – Q1 Performance Monitoring - Communities Thematic Discussion: Youth Justice System BSCB Annual Report
8 December 2016	Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Update on Volunteer Strategy/Action Thematic Discussion: Intermediate Care Council Plan – Q2 Performance Monitoring – Communities BSAB Annual Report
26 January 2017	Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Thematic Discussion: Care at Home Thematic Discussion: Looked After Children
9 March 2017	Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Thematic Discussion: Community Engagement and the Infusion Service Council Plan – Q3 Performance Monitoring - Communities
27 April 2017	Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report

Joint item with Health Scrutiny Committee

Thematic Discussion: Transforming Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Winterbourne View)

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SCRUTINY SELECTION CHECKLIST

Title of proposed Scrutiny:

The list is intended to assist the relevant scrutiny committee in deciding whether or not to approve a topic that has been suggested for scrutiny.

Whilst no minimum or maximum number of 'yes' answers are formally required, the relevant scrutiny committee is recommended to place higher priority on topics related to the performance and priorities of the Council.

Please expand on how the proposal will meet each criteria you have answered 'yes' to.

	Yes/No
The review will add value to the Council and/or its partners overall performance:	
The review is in relation to one or more of the Council's priorities:	
The Council or its partners are not performing well in this area:	
It is an area where a number of complaints (or bad press) have been received:	
The issue is strategic and significant:	
There is evidence of public interest in the topic:	
The issue has potential impact for one or more sections of the community:	
Service or policy changes are planned and scrutiny could have a positive input:	
Adequate resources (both members and officers) are available to carry out the scrutiny:	

Please give any further details on the proposed review:

Completed by:

Date:

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
02.07.15	Summary of all Ofsted inspection reports within the Children's Services Improvement Report and to receive full Ofsted inspection reports outside of the Committee meeting as and when they are published.	Ongoing	Del Curtis/Sharon Davis	A summary of Ofsted Inspection reports is included in every Children's Improvement report. Full inspection report links to be circulated via the Chairman.	Green
05.11.15	To monitor the developments made in relation to a central database for volunteers, a policy for recruitment and a potential corporate celebration event.	November 2016	Councillor Kirkland	To be received 12 months after date of meeting.	Not yet due
05.11.15	All Councillors be requested to attend dementia awareness training.	31 May 2016	Sharon Davis	Update on attendance: 27 Nov 2015 – Cllrs Maycock, Cain, Mitchell 13 Jan 2016 – Cllrs Cross, Ryan, O'Hara, G Coleman, Benson, L Taylor, Galley 28 Jan 2016 – Cllrs Adrian, D Coleman, Campbell 2 Feb 2016 – Cllrs Kirkland, Smith	Amber
10.12.15	That the overview of complaints and compliments as provided to the Corporate Parent Panel be circulated to Members of the Committee outside of meetings.	Ongoing	Sharon Davis	First paper circulated. At the previous Corporate Parent meeting, the annual customer feedback reports were presented. The reports are attached to the 1 September agenda.	Green
04.02.16	To receive any action plans developed from the Serious Case Reviews and the details of lessons learnt for detailed consideration.	December 2016	Del Curtis	To be received at a future meeting. Members to determine if the item should form the basis of a thematic discussion.	Not yet due

04.02.16	To receive an update in approximately six months regarding the review of social care placements.	October 2016	Del Curtis	Included in September 2016 Overview report.	Green
04.02.16	To receive regular updates regarding the Pilot Scheme for Respite Provision including occupancy rates and how the results of the pilot would inform future respite provision.	May 2016	Karen Smith	To receive regular updates, first one received for May 2016 and included in report.	Green
17.03.16	The Committee agreed to receive a CSE update report once the Ofsted inspection had been undertaken.	Following inspection	Philippa Holmes	Date for update to be received once inspection has been undertaken.	Not yet due
17.03.16	The Committee agreed to receive the Annual Blackpool Safeguarding Board Report at a future meeting.	October 2016	David Sanders	Included on 13 October 2016 for consideration.	Green
17.03.16	The Committee agreed to receive the analysis of contacts received from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.	31 October 2016	Amanda Hatton	Date to be confirmed once timescale for analysis is identified.	Not yet due
06.04.16	The draft domestic abuse strategy be considered at a future meeting of the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee, once it was available.	Tbc	Amanda Hatton	To be added to workplan when date for completion is known.	Not yet due
06.04.16	That the strategy and action plan for preventing and dealing with homelessness be presented to the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee, once it had been drafted.	Tbc	Andy Foot	To be added to workplan when date for completion is known.	Not yet due

06.04.16	To receive a report containing further information regarding health issues for homeless people, with a particular focus on their access to healthcare.	Tbc	Andy Foot/Arif Rajpura	Further report to be requested.	Not yet due
12.05.16	The Committee agreed to receive a detailed update in approximately six months on Intermediate Care.	November 2016	Karen Smith	To be added to workplan.	Not yet due.
12.05.16	To receive further details of the consultation event to be held regarding the review of Speech, Language and Communication across Blackpool and the strategic group established to implement the transformational plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder following the meeting.	31 October 2016	Val Raynor	Information to be circulated.	Not yet due
12.05.16	To receive a comparison of the uptake of Pupil Premium by early years settings attached to Children's Centres and settings unattached.	30 September 2016	Del Curtis	Information to be circulated.	Not yet due
12.05.16	To hold a thematic discussion on Youth Offending including Restorative Justice at a future meeting of the Committee.	October 2016	Andrew Lowe	Included on 13 October 2016 agenda.	Green
09.06.16	To receive a thematic discussion paper on Care at Home to a future meeting of the Committee.	January 2017	Karen Smith	Added to workplan.	Not yet due

09.06.16	To receive a report in approximately nine months on developments in community engagement, including an update on the work carried out by the Infusion Service.	9 March 2017	Andy Divall	Added to workplan.	Not yet due
09.06.16	To receive an update on Recommendation Four of the PRU Scrutiny Panel following the outcome of the funding bid.	Tbc	Del Curtis/Sonia Blandford	Date to be included when the outcome of the funding bid is known.	Not yet due
14.07.16	To receive a written response following the meeting regarding the length of time the West Lancashire Coroner took to process paperwork if the death occurred outside of Blackpool and the impact on time from death to cremation.	31 August 2016	Mark Towers	Response circulated 22 August 2016. Members noted the response at 1 September 2016 Committee meeting.	Green
14.07.16	To hold a thematic discussion on the number of looked after children and the response to the increasing number at a future meeting.	31 January 2016	Sharon Davis/Amanda Hatton	Added to the workplan for January 2017 meeting.	Not yet due
14.07.16	That the relevant email address for reporting concerns regarding care homes be circulated following the meeting.	30 September 2016	Sharon Davis	To be circulated.	Not yet due
14.07.16	That a written response be provided following the meeting regarding the work of Dementia Friends and how it linked to the work undertaken on dementia by the Council.	30 September 2016	Karen Smith	To be circulated.	Not yet due

14.07.16	That information regarding building and physical environment inspections of providers be circulated following the meeting.	30 September 2016	Del Curtis	To be circulated.	Not yet due
01.09.16	That Mrs Curtis would approach FCAT to ask for additional, regular communication to be provided to key stakeholders.	30 September 2016	Del Curtis	Response received 21 September 2016. Del Curtis has spoken to FCAT and requested monthly updates. The Trust has agreed to provide these and once received the updates will be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Green
01.09.16	To consider the safeguarding content required in future reports and send a detailed request to Mrs Curtis following the meeting.	31 October 2016	Sharon Davis/Chris Kelly	Meeting to be held with Amanda Hatton to discuss requirements schedule for 6 October 2016. Additional information to be included in reports from December 2016.	Not yet due
01.09.16	To receive additional information regarding the Prince's Trust 'Get Into Retail Programme' following the meeting.	30 September 2016	Del Curtis	Information to be circulated.	
01.09.16	To receive a copy of the Corporate Parent Conference Pledges.	30 September 2016	Del Curtis	A full copy of the Corporate Parent Conference Pledges was circulated to Committee Members on 22 September 2016.	Green
01.09.16	A final written response to be circulated by Mrs Curtis following the meeting, to the Pupil Referral Unit Scrutiny Panel recommendations that they be signed off as completed.	30 October 2016	Del Curtis		Not yet due
01.09.16	The Committee agreed to receive further detail on the upheld complaint regarding maladministration and injustice following the meeting.	31 October 2016	Hilary Wood	Detailed information requested from Hilary Wood to be circulated outside of Committee as soon as possible.	Not yet due

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Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Delyth Curtis, Director of People
Date of Meeting	13 October 2016

YOUTH JUSTICE THEMATIC DISCUSSION

1.0 Purpose Of The Report:

- 1.1 To consider improvements in the Youth Offending Service since Full Joint Inspection in 2013, the impact of developments in the sector and the opportunities the developments present.

2.0 Recommendation(S):

- 2.1 To consider and scrutinise the issues set out in the report and the effectiveness of the response of the Council and its partners.

3.0 Reasons For Recommendation(S):

- 3.1 To help further develop effective responses to offending by children and young people in Blackpool.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
None.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience."

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Blackpool Youth Offending Team Partnership’s vision is to prevent offending and reduce reoffending by young people. Our mission (appendix 7(a)) is to achieve this by working effectively with young people and our partners.
- 5.2 The punitive approach to youth offending outlined in the 1997 “No More Excuses” white paper gave rise to the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and set the tone across government departments for the rises seen in young people coming into the youth justice system in the middle part of the last decade.
- 5.3 The growth of “sanction detections” in the police imposed formal responses to incidents that would previously have attracted an informal response leading directly to increasingly minor forms of behaviour being drawn into the criminal justice system.
- 5.4 The local experience of this effect caused the lead HM Inspector of Probation to conclude in the Core Case Inspection in 2009 that caseloads twice the national average in Blackpool were a significant barrier to achieving quality and effectiveness in the protection of the public and of children themselves.
- 5.5 The key aim of Blackpool’s Youth Justice Strategy and the direction of the Youth Offending Team’s resources at that time were to establish a process and services to divert children with low level offending behaviour away from the youth justice system into informal and voluntary forms of support.
- 5.6 Nationally, the number of young people in the criminal justice system has fallen consistently over the last decade. This reflects changes in the way the youth justice system and wider public services respond to children and young people when they start to display problematic behaviour:
- The Youth Crime Action Plan introduced Youth Justice Triage Schemes to divert low level offending by children into restorative alternatives to prosecution;
 - The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 introduced higher thresholds for custodial remands and sentences and
 - New Ministry Of Justice and Youth Justice Board Guidelines for Out of Court Disposals (Cautions) brought more opportunities for Youth Offending Teams to deal with early/low level offending without the need for, or expectation of prosecution from the police.
- 5.7 The success of establishing a partnership approach to commissioning a Youth Justice Triage Service from a third sector provider, with the other two Youth Offending Teams, Lancashire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner, can be seen in the 80% reduction in the number and rate of ‘First Time Entrants’ to the youth justice system in Blackpool.

- 5.8 The value of this work to the public sector has recently been estimated. At cost of £3,900¹ per case in the magistrates' court, the total savings to the public purse achieved by diverting 543 children away from prosecution in Blackpool since 2012 would be £2,273,700 and for the whole of Lancashire (2380 children) would be £9,282,000, for a service that cost Blackpool £30,000 in its first year and the Police and Crime Commissioner £175,000 per year since.
- 5.9 From a young person's point of view, the value of making the successful transition into productive adulthood without the barriers that a criminal conviction in childhood creates later cannot be underestimated.
- 5.10 The success of diverting younger children with less complex needs out of the statutory youth justice system has left a smaller, more complex, vulnerable, persistent and expensive cohort for statutory services to manage. Over 50% of the Youth Offending Team cohort have mental health problems; 80% of school aged Youth Offending Team clients have an additional educational need; 50% of school leavers are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training); 56% are assessed as 'high' or 'very high' risk; 45% 'high' or 'very high' vulnerability; and 93% are receiving Youth Offending Team interventions at the 'enhanced' or 'intensive' Scaled Approach levels.
- 5.11 The prevalence of offending and anti-social behaviour by young people is closely associated with the effects of poverty and deprivation. Both are high and have been seen to have risen in Blackpool in recent years.
- 5.12 The number of offenders per 1,000 of the 10-17 population is a contextual measure of the rate of youth offending used by the inspectorate in their reports.
- 5.13 Rates in North West local authorities calculated using the Youth Justice Boards' Youth Data Summary for 2013 were as follows:

Blackpool	48
Manchester	32
Salford	30
Liverpool	24
St Helens	22
Rochdale	21
Lancashire	20
Cumbria	19
Knowsley	19
Tameside	19

¹ "What Price Justice?" The Economist, June 29th 2013, <http://www.economist.com/news/britain/21580184-better-ways-cut-states-justice-bill-what-price-j>

Wirral	19
Bolton	18
Oldham	17
Stockport	15
Wigan	13
Bury	12
Trafford	12
Cheshire East	9
Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington - data not available	

Blackpool had the second highest reoffending rate in England and Wales in 2009.

- 5.14 In January 2014 the Youth Justice Board’s Director of Operations wrote to the Chief Executive in response to their monitoring of the high rate of reoffending and made a monitoring placing the Youth Offending Team Partnership in Blackpool in ‘improvement’ status because of concerns about resourcing, high reoffending rates and engaging partner agencies in effective governance.
- 5.15 Children’s Services Commissioning reviews of the Youth Offending Service and business support were subsequently carried out and implemented during 2015.
- 5.16 The Youth Offending Team also joined the Youth Justice Board’s national Re-offending Project, providing the tools and guidance to report a more current picture of re-offending and to allow a more immediate focus to improvement than the data produced by the Ministry of Justice over a two year monitoring period.
- 5.17 Following a monitoring visit in September 2015, the Youth Justice Board Head of Operations and Head of Business Area confirmed the de-escalation of improvement support, confirming that “given Blackpool Youth Offending Team’s demonstrative and consistent progress in relation to performance outcomes and movement against post HMI Probation improvements.”
- 5.18 Live data produced using the Youth Justice Board’s Reoffending Toolkit shows that the re-offending by children and young people in Blackpool is now below the current national average.
- 5.19 The calculation that shows a high rate of re-offending two years before masks a much more positive story in Blackpool. Between 2008/9 and 2012/13 (the latest data available)
- The number of offenders in the cohort has reduced by 348 (59%)
 - The number of re-offenders has been reduced by 149 (58%)
 - The number of re-offences has been reduced by 331 (39%)

- 5.20 The Youth Justice Board continues to recognise and allow for the local challenges we face, congratulating the council and partners in their de-escalation letter of September 2015 for “the local authority wide response to the high levels of disadvantage and deprivation that you face.”
- 5.21 De-escalation of ‘improvement’ status cleared the way for a visit from Lord McNally, Chair of the Youth Justice Board in September 2015.
- 5.22 Lord McNally met two 15 year old girls who had been at the same school, one the perpetrator of an assault on the other, a vulnerable victim. After a face to face restorative justice meeting, both were able to move on, having been able to express their thoughts and feelings over the offence with positive results for each.
- 5.23 Lord McNally wrote in his letter of thanks that “It was inspiring to meet young people who participate in the Restorative Justice scheme and to hear first-hand how the programme helps them to turn their lives around. I was also deeply impressed by the teamwork being shown in addressing the very specific problems Blackpool faces. In particular I was pleased to learn of the across the board improvements made by the Blackpool Youth Offending Team and the leadership it was providing in difficult circumstances.”

6.0 Inspection And Subsequent Improvements

- 6.1 Commenting on improvement work since re-inspection in 2009, HM Inspectorate of Probation concluded in their 2013 inspection of Blackpool Youth Offending Team that, “The progress made by Blackpool since our last inspection was considerable. However, for a Youth Offending Team to be fully effective, it must be supported by a management board that provides strategic leadership and direction for its managers.”
- 6.2 HM Inspectorate of Probation made seven main recommendations, which identified improvements to the strategic membership and performance management of the management board.
- 6.3 They also required improvements to the management of the risk of harm to others and vulnerability, initial assessments, plans and reviews, quality assurance arrangements and the integration of specialist staff into these processes.
- 6.4 Their feedback was positive, recognising that the service had an accurate view of its areas for improvement and that the work to deliver them was in progress at the time of inspection.

7.0 The Statutory Youth Justice Strategic Plan

- 7.1 A review of Youth Justice provision has been commissioned by the Secretary of State. It was due to report in July 2016 but the change of minister has introduced a delay without a published timescale.
- 7.2 The report may result in changes to legislation and delivery models, which, in turn, will require a review of the planning process. However, until findings are clear and consequent changes explored for later in the year, youth offending partnerships have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan. The guidance remains predominantly unchanged:
- 7.3 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:
- how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
 - how the youth offending team (Youth Offending Team) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 7.4 Blackpool Youth Offending Team partnership created a three-year plan in 2015 in response to Youth Justice Board's increased scrutiny and support outlined above. An update has been signed off by the Youth Offending Team Partnership Management Board and submitted to the Youth Justice Board.
- 7.5 It includes a summary of achievements in 2015-16:
- De-escalation of Youth Justice Board Improvement Support in September 2015
 - Visit from the Chair of the Youth Justice Board, Lord McNally, 22nd September 2015.
 - Restorative Justice. Successful use of the Restorative Justice grant provided by the Youth Justice Board in delivering Blackpool Youth Offending Teams Restorative Justice Strategy with a significant improvement in performance as a result.
 - Performance (Youth Justice Board Youth Data Summary, for the year April 2015 - March 2016)
 - Reducing First Time Entrants. Reduced by 80% since 2009. The rate of First Time Entrants reflects a complex but positive picture of developments in several related strands of the youth justice system.
 - Reoffending rates after 12 months. Improvements outlined in the section above.
 - Use of Custody. Reduced by 80% since 2009. Rates remain low.

- AssetPlus Implementation. Our AssetPlus implementation plan was delivered on time and in full, for the go-live date of 21 March 2016.
- National Standards. The annual Youth Justice Board National Standards Audit was completed, showing good compliance. Actions from the previous year's audit were completed.

8.0 Future Policy Direction

8.1 In September 2015, then Justice Secretary Michael Gove, asked Charlie Taylor to undertake a comprehensive review of the youth justice system.

8.2 Publication of the report in June 2016 has been delayed following ministerial changes.

8.3 Taylor's interim report gave an indication of the policy and practice changes he has been considering:

- Education needs to become the cornerstone of a period in youth custody. He recommends the creation of 'secure schools' for young people in custody to attend, modelled on alternative education provision, possibly run by academy trusts.
- A change in legislation to allow greater flexibility in how areas adapt youth offending to become more integrated with family, youth and mental health services.
- Ways in which 'diversion' can be expanded and whether the youth justice system has the right balance between rehabilitating young people through formal court orders and dealing with offending outside the system.

8.4 It is not yet clear when the report will be published, if at all.

8.5 In the meantime, the Youth Offending Team in Blackpool is being integrated with services to Looked After Children (over 12 years), Connexions, Young People's Substance Misuse and Wellbeing in Sexual Health to reduce duplication and improve outcomes.

8.6 A project board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services, is overseeing the work.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 7(a): Youth Offending Service Vision, Mission Values

Appendix 7(b): Restorative Justice Case Studies

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The local authority's statutory duties to provide youth justice services under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 will need to be considered in the development of services for young people.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None specifically in this report

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 Issues affecting vulnerable children in the criminal justice system.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None specifically in this report

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None specifically in this report

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None specifically in this report

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Not applicable.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

Vision, Mission and Values

Blackpool Youth Offending Team Partnership's vision is to prevent offending and reduce reoffending by young people.

Our mission is to achieve this by working effectively with young people and our partners.

Our aims are to:

- i) Reduce the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system, firstly by preventing the inappropriate use of the criminal justice system to address the needs of vulnerable children and young people, to improve their access to the services available to meet those needs and to improve those services to meet the needs of young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
 - ii) By achieving the above and removing those least likely to commit future offences or cause harm from the criminal justice system, then to allow the Youth Offending Team to focus its resources on work with young people within the criminal justice system to reduce re-offending and the risk of their causing serious harm.
 - iii) By achieving the above, to reduce the damaging use of custody for all children and young people by providing or facilitating access to the appropriate services in the community.
- b) Our objectives are therefore:
- i) Decriminalisation
 - (1) Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police and neighbouring Youth Offending Teams on a youth policing policy to further reduce the numbers of young people drawn unnecessarily into the youth justice system.
 - ii) Diversion
 - (1) Contribute resources and maintain effective links with services to prevent offending.
 - (2) Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide a Youth Justice Triage service to divert young people from the youth justice system into reparative and restorative processes.
 - (3) Manage and chair the Youth Disposal Panel to ensure that Out of Court Disposals are correctly used to address the needs of children whose behaviour puts them at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
 - iii) Decarceration

- (1) Provide a range of robust and effective services to address the assessed needs of young people at every stage within the criminal justice system.
- (2) To maintain effective, credible alternatives to custody at the point of remand and sentence.
- (3) To improve the effectiveness and outcomes achieved by our current programmes and resources to reduce re-offending, including:
 - (a) Intensive Supervision and Surveillance
 - (b) Integrated Resettlement Services
 - (c) Offending behaviour programmes
 - (d) Restorative Justice
 - (e) Work with the court
 - (f) AIM2 (Assessment and work with young people who display sexually harmful behaviour)
 - (g) Accommodation
 - (h) Education, Training and Employment
 - (i) Universal and targeted services provided by or accessed through partner agencies: Education, training and employment; health; substance misuse; mental health; housing and accommodation.

The way in which young people will experience the values that underpin the delivery of our service were developed in consultation with all our staff. Our values are shown below as a set of building blocks based on firm organisational foundations:

Respect	They will feel that we listen to their concerns	They will experience a positive belief that change for the better is possible	They will receive support to identify and achieve positive goals	They will be motivated to achieve goals	The people they work with will be effective in helping to achieve positive goals.	The people they work with will be professionally competent						
How our service users will experience the service we provide												
Respectful	Receptive	Positive	Supportive	Motivated	Competent	Professional						
How we will demonstrate our values in our practice												
Management support, supervision, guidance and feedback	Stability	Resources (tools to do the job)	Multi-agency commitment and support	Health, safety and Security	A clear strategic vision, aims objectives and goals.	Clear policy, procedures and guidelines for practice	Opportunities for innovation & development	Support in managing change	Access to external personal support	Fair pay, terms & conditions	An effective organisational structure	A working environment conducive to staff and young people
What we need from the organisation												

Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee 13 October 2016.**Youth Offending Team Restorative Justice Case Studies**Offence 1 – Assault x 2

Last New Year's Eve, B assaulted two female taxi drivers after drinking heavily with friends. Two taxi drivers were trying to help him as he struggled to get out of McDonalds where he had gone to buy food and use the toilet. Due to his intoxicated state, the manager decided that B should be removed from the restaurant. B became agitated and assaulted them both.

B was arrested that night and was given a Youth Conditional Caution as a result. One of the conditions required him to make recompense to his victim. His assessment by the Youth Offending Team established that B was very remorseful about his actions. He clearly stated that he wanted to make a face to face apology. Both taxi drivers agreed to meet him and a restorative meeting was set up by the Youth Offending Team's Restorative Justice Worker.

B told the taxi drivers how ashamed he was to have committed these assaults. He said how very sorry he was for what he had done. Both victims were impressed that he had had the courage to face up to them and to apologise.

Surprisingly, one of the victims, who became visibly emotional when during his apology, told him how much she herself had wanted to apologise to him. She stated that she had been feeling guilty since that night and spent time worrying about him in the police cells. She told B that, having a son of similar age, she had so wanted to get him home safe and that instinctively she knew he was a 'decent' lad.

Both victims felt strongly that they wanted B to learn from his mistake, make a practical plan to manage his alcohol intake and continue with his apprenticeship. To date B has not been referred back to the Youth Offending Team and it is hoped he will not be seen by the team again.

Offence 2 - Arson with Reckless Intent

This case involved a 15 year old male setting fire to a crisp packet on a seat in the top deck of the bus. He left the bus a short time afterwards and as a result, the top deck of the bus was burnt out and all passengers had to be evacuated. The bus had to be written off because the damage caused was of significant value.

The victims were consulted after the young person pleaded guilty and was sentenced at Youth Court. The Youth Offending Team Restorative Justice Worker met and consulted with both the Service Delivery Director of Blackpool Transport and the driver of the bus on the day of the fire. The impact the offence had on them was included in the Pre-Sentence Report to the magistrates with a proposal for him to make reparation for the offence.

In this case the victims were not ready to meet with the young person, but requested that he visited the depot to see at first hand exactly what he had done. The Youth Offending Team Restorative Justice Worker took the young person to the depot before sentence, which gave him time to reflect and contemplate how serious this matter was. The victims expressed their satisfaction at this being done.

The Youth Offending Team Restorative Justice Worker carried out a series of 'shuttle mediation' meetings with the victims and the young person. The victims were still saying that they did not yet feel ready to meet him. The young person prepared a letter to the magistrates expressing his remorse for what had happened, to report clearly that he wished to make amends to the victim for his crime and to attend in person at Blackpool Transport Depot to complete suitable reparation work. The Youth Offending Team Restorative Justice Worker attended court on the day of sentence to help magistrates take the victims' feelings into account in making their sentencing decisions.

He was given a community sentence with a number of conditions, one of which was to complete 30 hours of direct reparation to the victims, at their depot to their satisfaction.

To date he has completed 12 hours. He has had the opportunity to take part in a Summer Arts Programme on which he earned accreditation. He now has a part time job and is attending college.

He continues to engage well with his order and has complied with all the conditions.

His supervising Youth Offending Team Officer has enabled him to access the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service that has resulted in a diagnosis of several conditions, providing medication and further support to help him manage his behaviour in a more positive way.

Remembering that the charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind, is one close to the heart of Blackpool Transport, the young person recently identified a further opportunity to repair harm to the victims by putting himself forward for a sponsored 'Through the Lights Dog Walk' along the Promenade. The response to this proposal by Blackpool Transport has been extremely positive.

Further support from the Youth Offending Team Restorative Justice Worker is supporting the driver of the bus who is currently contemplating a meeting with the young person to express how that matter has affected him and to be able to ask the young person questions about why he did what he did.

The young person will have an opportunity to explain to the driver in person, to express his remorse and regret for his actions as part of an ongoing restorative process that offers benefits for both of them.

At the heart of restorative practice is an opportunity for the victim to have a voice, to gain answers to burning questions and to have a better understanding as to why the crime has been committed which often means that they feel 'empowered' for the first time.

In the majority of cases the apology made to the victim is accepted which, in turn, allows the young person to feel better about themselves and progress towards their goal of not re-offending. The ultimate aim is for both parties to move on in a positive way from what has happened. It is never a 'one size fits all – 'victim satisfaction' means different things to different victims.

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	David Sanders, Independent Chairman of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board
Date of Meeting	13 October 2016

BLACKPOOL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, which provides evidence of the activity of the Board during 2015/2016.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to scrutinise the content of the Annual Report and use the information provided to inform future discussions and to hold relevant parties to account, where appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 3.1 The statutory objective of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board is to ensure a co-ordinated and effective approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Blackpool. By ensuring that other relevant bodies are aware of its work this need is promoted.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
None.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience."

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board was established in 2006 and is a partnership body in which all the agencies that work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Blackpool are represented.

5.2 The Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report provides evidence of the activity of the Board during 2015/2016, details services provided to safeguard children in the locality and recommendations for the future work of the Board and its partners.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 8(a): Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

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BLACKPOOL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015–2016



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1. FOREWORD FROM THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

I am pleased to present the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report for 2015-16. The report is an opportunity to take stock of the work of the Board during what has been a busy and challenging year and to look ahead to what we hope to achieve during 2016-17.

We entered 2015-16 under an Improvement Plan as a consequence of Ofsted's judgement that both the Local Authority's Children's Services and BSCB were inadequate in 2012. It is a tribute to all who work to safeguard children in Blackpool that the Improvement Plan was lifted in July 2015. This allowed BSCB to resume its full statutory responsibilities, although we will continue to ensure that we remain cognizant of the Improvement Plan and will ensure that changes that have been made remain embedded in practice.

I continue to be impressed at the significant commitment of the managers and practitioners of our partner agencies to the work of BSCB. This is all the more significant in a time of financial pressure and increasing demand for all of our services. I have been particularly pleased to see the increasing commitment to BSCB from our schools and I am happy to report that we now have appropriate schools' representation at our Strategic Board and all our subgroups.

As you read through the pages of this report you will gain an insight into the work of the Board, how we audit, review, learn and invest in partnerships with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of our children. There is no doubt that there is much to celebrate in our work, but much more that we can do. We are committed to continuous improvement and strive to improve the lives of children who are neglected or in need of early help, those who live with the toxic trio of parental domestic abuse, substance misuse or poor mental health and those who are at risk of child sexual exploitation. We are determined to tackle these issues from every possible angle, to improve practice, to better engage with children and communities and to build stronger partnerships.

Children should be at the centre of everything we, as a Board, do. I am therefore pleased to report the emergence of a children and young people's participation group that will enable us to seek the views of the wider population of children in secondary schools. It is vital that this work is prioritised and that an understanding of the experiences of our children is the starting point for all of our activity.

The end of the period covered by this report marks the midway point in our 2015-17 Business Plan and I am aware that much remains to be done. By the conclusion of this year I expect to report on the successful launch of a new strategy for early help in Blackpool that will ensure that all children receive help at the earliest possible opportunity, thereby reducing the potential harm that they face. I likewise expect to deliver a comprehensive assessment tool to enable practitioners in Blackpool to effectively and consistently evaluate the scale of neglect that children experience. The need to an effective response to child sexual exploitation is well-rehearsed and I am pleased to note ongoing progress in this respect. The vulnerability of children who go missing from home and the known links with child sexual exploitation is a cause for significant concern and one that will be a focus of our attention in the forthcoming year.

The work of BSCB places significant demands on all of those who attend our meetings and work to deliver our business plan. I would therefore like to thank all members of the Strategic Board and Subgroups, together with our small business unit which is responsible for the continued orderly running of the Board.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all practitioners and volunteers who work to keep Blackpool children safe. Without you the successes reported here would not happen. For our part we will continue to work to provide you with the best possible system to keep our children safe.



David Sanders
Independent Chair
Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board

Executive summary

This is the statutory annual report of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board in which we are required to review our work during 2015-16 and to make an assessment as to the effectiveness of services to keep children safe in Blackpool.

The report therefore provides an overview of **Blackpool demographics** which continue to be characterised by a stable child population, primarily of white British origin. Blackpool as a whole experiences long standing high levels of deprivation as a result of which nearly a third of our children live in poverty.

Chapter 3 outlines **Who we are and what we do**, including our statutory context, our local governance arrangements, how we are funded and how we manage our business plan. During 2015-16 we were able to meet our statutory requirements in terms of membership and reached a longer term funding arrangement with our contributing partners.

What our children have been telling us should be central to the work of BSCB, but is an under-developed area of our work. We are, however able to report initial steps to remedy this, together with good evidence of our partner agencies ensuring that they listen to and act on what children and young people tell them.

Each stage of **A child's journey through services** is considered to review what our data and audit activity tells us about the overall health of the child protection system. The picture during 2015-16 mirrors that of previous years, in that significantly more children are subject to each stage of child protection processes than would be expected. There is, nevertheless, some evidence of good systems performance. Two areas of concern are noted, namely the absence of data on early help provision and a significant increase of children in need of protection during the final months of the year.

Having considered the overall system, the report continues to address how we **Safeguard vulnerable children** in specific circumstances. In terms of child sexual exploitation considerable professional awareness raising activity is noted, together with the start of work to raise awareness amongst children and specific sectors of the economy.

Operational responses to children who go missing from home or care have developed significantly during the year, however improvements in how we collect and use intelligence from return home interviews continue to be needed. We are unable to obtain assurance that effective early intervention is provided to all children who are in need of help and will continue to work to provide an effective assessment framework for all practitioners, together with responsive MASH and Front Door processes to refer children to a higher tier of services. Our responses to children who are experiencing neglect, the toxic trio, private fostering and radicalisation are also considered.

The children's workforce is central in work to safeguard children in Blackpool and a particular focus for us during 2015-16 has been how we engage with schools. This has enabled us to better understand their needs and has resulted in the production of a number of template policies to assist them to safeguard children. We continue to provide quality multi-agency safeguarding training, to 1,665 practitioners in the reporting period, delivered by a pool of trainers drawn from our partner agencies.

The **Learning and Improvement Framework** is central to the work of the Board and services to collate all our review and audit activity. During the reporting period we have published two serious case reviews and continue to deliver the action plans from four others. These have enabled changes in systems, for example to substance misuse services, which should reduce the risks of further deaths in similar circumstances. The Child Death Overview Panel has likewise continued its successful Safer Sleep campaign that has now been recognised by NICE. Our Section 11 audit scrutiny programme this year has included visits to frontline practitioners which has allowed us to triangulate information provided by senior managers and provided us with information that has informed other streams of work, for example our review of the thresholds document.

Finally, the **Work of our partners** provides evidence of innovative and effective single and multi-agency work to safeguard children in Blackpool, including successful bids for significant lottery funding, together with other services that have been recognised as being effective in serious case reviews.

2. BLACKPOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

Blackpool is a seaside town in the north west of England. Its population of 142,100 people living within an area of 34.92km² renders it one of the most densely populated areas outside London. Transience is a significant feature of the town, with 9,000 people estimated to move in and out of the town annually.

There are approximately 28,800 children and young people aged under 18 resident in Blackpool, making up 20.3% of the population. Overall, the 65+ age group is the most over-represented in Blackpool. Children and young people from minority ethnic groups form 9.1% of the school age population, compared with 28.9% nationally. Life expectancy for children born between 2012 and 2014 is estimated to be 74.7 and 79.9 for boys and girls respectively, compared with 79.5 and 83.2 nationally.

Blackpool experiences considerable levels of deprivation which have increased over recent years. The English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 record that 38.3% of smaller areas within Blackpool are in the most deprived 10% nationwide, while 20.2% are in the most deprived 1%. In contrast, none are in the most affluent 20%. Amongst the adult working age population 23% of Blackpool residents are reliant on out-of-work benefits, compared with 12.7% nationally. The impact of these levels of deprivation is such that 32.9% of children live in income deprived households.

Outcomes for children reflect those associated with high levels of deprivation. For example attainment at Key Stage 4 is lower than average, while levels of teenage pregnancy and hospital admissions for substance and alcohol misuse and self-harm are amongst the highest in the country. 6.5% of 16-18 year olds are not in education, employment or training.

Within Blackpool there were 1,916 children in need as of 31st March 2016 (2015: 1,826) equating to 665.0 per 10,000 of the population (2015: 629.0). This is considerably in excess of both the national average of 337.3 and that of our statistical neighbours of 512.7 (2015 figures).



3. WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

3.1 Statutory context

Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is the partnership body statutorily responsible for co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of services that safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Blackpool.

BSCB was established in 2006 in compliance with the Children Act (2004) and the Local Safeguarding Board Regulations (2006). During 2015/16 the work of BSCB was governed by the statutory guidance of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), which sets out how organisations should work together to safeguard children.

We aim to fulfil our remit in two ways:

We co-ordinate local work by

- Developing robust policies and procedures that are shared by all our members
- Participating in the planning and commissioning of services in Blackpool
- Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and explaining how this can be done

We ensure the effectiveness of local work by

- Monitoring and challenging the performance of partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Undertaking serious case reviews, multi-agency learning reviews and audits and sharing learning opportunities
- Collecting and analysing information about the deaths of children and young people to identify how the risks of deaths in similar circumstances can be reduced.

Working Together (2015) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the area. The report should “provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action”.

3.2 Key roles

Independent Chair

David Sanders was appointed to the role of Independent Chair of BSCB in November 2014. The role of the Independent Chair is to provide an external perspective by which impartial challenge can be brought to any of our member agencies.

The Independent Chair is appointed by and accountable to the Chief Executive of Blackpool Council for the effective working of BSCB. David promotes the work of BSCB through regular attendance at other strategic boards and through meetings with senior managers in partner agencies, schools and other bodies that have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The work of the Chair and BSCB is supported by a full time business manager and a training co-ordinator.

Blackpool Council

Whilst the Chair and Board are independent, the Local Authority is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of BSCB. The Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, and drawing on the expertise of Board members, holds the Independent Chair to account for the effective working of BSCB.

The statutory Director of Children’s Services, Delyth Curtis, has the legal responsibility for the provision of all services to children by the council, including safeguarding, and sits on BSCB. She is held to account by the Lead Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Graham Cain and the Lead Member for Children’s Safeguarding Councillor Debbie Coleman who sit on BSCB as participating observers, and therefore inform, but are not part of, the decision making process.

Partner Agencies

BSCB comprises of a range of partner agencies (full membership is detailed in appendix 1), all of whom have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and committed to the effective operation of BSCB.

A number of our partners have a statutory responsibility to sit on BSCB, while others have been invited to join due to the significance of their work in Blackpool. BSCB was compliant with statutory requirements in respect of partner agency membership throughout the reporting period.

Strategic Board members all hold a strategic role within their agency and are able to speak for their agency with authority, commit their agency on policy and practice matters and hold their organisation to account.

Designated Professionals

Health commissioners should have a designated doctor and nurse to take a strategic, professional lead on all aspects of the health service contribution to safeguard children in the locality. Designated professionals are a vital source of professional advice on safeguarding matters to partner agencies and BSCB. Both are Strategic Board members and, in Blackpool, chair the Case Review and Training subgroups respectively.

Lay Members

It is a statutory requirement that LSCB should take reasonable steps to appoint two lay members to make links with community groups, support stronger public engagement and improve local understanding of safeguarding children. The lay member acts as an independent voice within the Board to question decision making and to hold agencies to account. BSCB has had one lay member in post throughout the reporting period but, despite advertising the role in local media and on the BSCB website, has been unable to recruit to the second post. This will remain a priority in the forthcoming business year.

3.3 Key relationships

Children's Improvement Board

The combined inspection of Blackpool Council's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and review of the effectiveness of BSCB by Ofsted in 2012 judged both to be inadequate.

An Improvement Plan, under the governance of the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) was put in place and BSCB became accountable to the CIB. As improvements became embedded, more functions were returned to BSCB and, in June 2015, the Department for Education signed off the Improvement Plan as complete and dissolved the CIB, thereby returning all statutory functions to BSCB.

The Director of Children's Services has subsequently established the **Continuous Improvement Board** that seeks to continue the broader development of services for children in Blackpool to a point at which they might be considered good by Ofsted. The BSCB Independent Chair is a member of this Board.

Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board

Local Safeguarding Adults Boards were made statutory bodies by the enactment of the Care Act (2014) in April 2015, although Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) had already been established for a number of years at this point. In recognition of the continuum of safeguarding need that extends through childhood into adulthood, a number of measures have been taken to more closely align the work of the two Boards during the reporting period.

David Sanders is also the Independent Chair of BSAB and a number of joint subgroups have been established to better co-ordinate and streamline the work of the Boards. A joint development session was held for Strategic Board members and a joint plan of action in respect of the Toxic Trio (parental domestic abuse, poor mental health and substance and alcohol misuse) is now in development. Finally, a commissioning review of the two Boards' business units proposed that they became a joint unit to promote greater collaboration and resilience. This has been accepted by both Strategic Boards and will be put in place in forthcoming months.

Other Strategic Boards

The Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are multi agency strategic boards with responsibility to meet overall health needs and to reduce crime respectively. There is understandably a degree of overlap between the work of these Boards and that of BSCB. For example, the CSP has a responsibility to tackle domestic abuse while BSCB seeks to ensure that children are safeguarded in homes where there are incidents of domestic abuse. The chairs of both of these Boards are therefore members of BSCB and aspects of the work of both Boards are scrutinised to ensure that adequate provision is made for the safeguarding of children. BSCB is also required to submit its annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A piece of work is currently being overseen by the Continuous Improvement Board to formalise relationships between strategic boards and other groups in Blackpool and to ensure that work is not duplicated.

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is elected by residents of Lancashire and is charged with securing effective and efficient policing within the area. BSCB is required to present its annual report to the PCC and will use its influence to outline key safeguarding challenges and policing action necessary in response. The PCC has identified protecting vulnerable people (including children) as part of his four point plan and has funded new services for victims of child sexual exploitation in the reporting period.

Other LSCB

The Independent Chair regularly meets with his colleagues from Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken to issues that extend beyond Blackpool. This assists our partner agencies, the majority of whom operate on a wider geographical footprint. Formal arrangements are in place for the development of joint multi-agency policies and procedures, while a Pan-Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel has been in place since 2011.

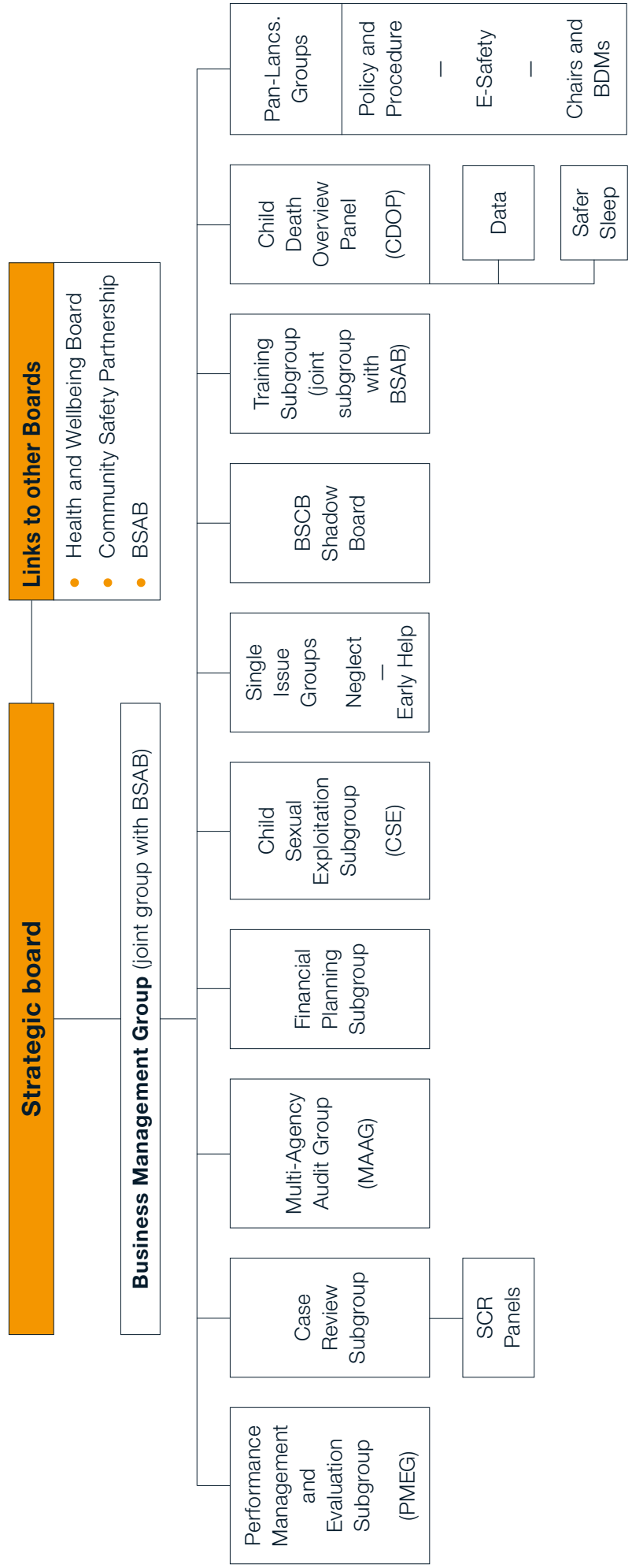


3.4 How we work

The work of the BSCB is driven by the Strategic Board which meets on a bi-monthly basis. The final hour of Strategic Board meetings is set aside for a more in depth discussion of a safeguarding theme, which will typically be a Board priority area. Two development sessions were also held during the reporting period, in the first of which an external review of Board functioning was provided by Howard Cooper, Independent Chair of Liverpool LSCB.

The delivery of specific elements of the BSCB business plan and other statutory functions are delegated to a number of subgroups, some of which are held on a joint basis with BSAB or with Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen LSCB. Subgroups are chaired by Strategic Board members with the necessary expertise to tackle the area in question, while members are drawn from the agencies considered necessary for the subgroup to meet its objectives. In June 2015 a Business Management Group (BMG) was established. This group co-ordinates the work of the subgroups and monitors business plan delivery, with a membership consisting of subgroup chairs and others co-opted to ensure that all sectors are represented. In November 2015 it became a joint group of BSCB and BSAB.

Strategic Board and subgroup members are expected to attend 80% of meetings in person and, when they are unable to do so, to send an appropriately briefed named deputy. Attendance is monitored by BMG and during the reporting period the majority of Strategic Board members did not meet the required threshold for attendance. In the event of protracted concerns in respect of the attendance of an individual or agency the Independent Chair will challenge the organisation concerned. This has been effective in securing better attendance from a number of agencies during the reporting period, although it is acknowledged that further improvement is required in this respect.



3.5 Budget

Funding for the operation of BSCB continues to be provided by a core group of partner agencies. Having remained unchanged for five years, increases in contribution were negotiated with a number of these and are gratefully acknowledged in a time of financial constraint. The contribution of other resources 'in kind' by the wider partnership is likewise acknowledged and has consisted of the time taken by staff to attend meetings, membership of the training pool and the use of buildings.

Income and Expenditure Summary

Income		Expenditure	
Blackpool Council	100,137	Staff costs	103,570
Blackpool CCG	51,867	Independent Chair	26,820
Lancashire Constabulary	22,782	Training	6,933
Cumbria and Lancashire CRC	3,304	Board support costs	14,155
National Probation Service	3,304	Council support	10,000
Blackpool Coastal Housing	2,933	Serious case reviews	2,669
CAFCASS	550		
	184,877		164,147

Board staffing costs remain the largest area of expenditure, although in year administrative vacancies and a delay in recruiting to the newly agreed analyst post were the primary contributors to the underspend. Training costs have been reduced by the development of the pool of local trainers from partner agencies and the charging of agencies for non-attendance. Serious case review costs have substantially decreased due to the majority of costs for reviews that were completed during the year having been attributed to the 2014/15 budget. It has been agreed to carry forward the underspend of £20,730, together with that brought forward of £54,042 into 2016/17. Agreement has been reached, in principle, for a three year budget to 2018/19 that will support the ongoing activity of the Board, together with the new joint business support unit with BSAB.



3.6 Business plan

This report covers the first year of a two year business plan that was agreed by the Strategic Board in March 2015 and is available on our website

The plan is split into six priority areas which include the four safeguarding themes of child sexual exploitation, early help, neglect and the toxic trio. Work toward and an assessment of BSCB performance in respect of the four safeguarding priority themes is included in Chapter 6 below.

The remaining two priority areas are:

Completion of outstanding elements of the BSCB Improvement Plan

We have:

- Improved our schools representation through the Strategic Board and subgroups and established half termly schools' twilight meetings
- Implemented a new dataset that strengthens our range of multi-agency data
- Improved our understanding of frontline practice through the establishment of the shadow board, multi-professional discussion forums and visits to the frontline

What we will do next

- Improve our use of data through the expansion of the suite of data indicators which will be facilitated by the recruitment of a board analyst
- Evaluate the impact of serious case review learning on frontline professionals

BSCB Organisational development

We have:

- Re-launched the BSCB website to develop professional and public awareness of the Board and our work
- Reviewed and expanded the training programme
- Re-modelled the BSCB governance structure
- Held two young people's participation meetings to help us understand how to develop this area of work

What we will do next

- Establish a permanent programme of children and young people's participation in the work of BSCB
- Raise public awareness of necessary actions to safeguard children through marketing campaigns
- Publish a regular newsletter for professionals

The BSCB business plan is reviewed on a bi-monthly basis by the Business Management Group which holds subgroups or partner agencies to account for the completion of their areas of responsibility. It is intended to be a fluid document and other areas of work that assume a greater national or local priority may be formally incorporated into the plan or have discreet pieces of work undertaken on them. During this reporting period BSCB has also considered radicalisation, female genital mutilation and familial child sexual abuse.



4. WHAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TELLING US

In the development of its 2015-17 Business Plan, BSCB acknowledged that it had undertaken insufficient work to directly seek the views of children and to utilise these to inform its ongoing work. During the reporting period BSCB consequently held two consultation events with children drawn from Blackpool secondary schools and further education providers. Based on the feedback provided by children and young people at these events, we will establish a standing group of children and young people who will meet on a half termly basis to inform our ongoing work and provide a perspective of the lived experience of children in Blackpool. We intend to have two members from each secondary school who will link back to their school council and/or use surveys of their wider school community to both promote the work of BSCB and to seek the views of a wider cohort of children and young people. The 2016-17 annual report will therefore be able to reflect the views of children and young people on the success or otherwise of the work of the safeguarding partnership.



BSCB will also work to ensure that we seek the views of children and families when we evaluate practice. Multi-agency audits will therefore seek to measure the impact of interventions on children and families, while the evaluation of our training programme will seek to evaluate the impact that training has had on practice and outcomes for children.

In the course of its audit and review activities BSCB also seeks to ensure that multi-agency work to safeguard children is child focussed. Examples of partner agencies consulting with children and young people include all schools having a form of school council and using wider surveys to seek the views of pupils, while Blackpool Teaching Hospitals seeks the views of children and their parents on discharge and maintains the Victoria's Voice group that is open to any child who accesses its paediatric ward. Blackpool Council engages with the children in its care and care leavers through the Just Uz group. As a result of the feedback from its children a website has been developed to improve communications and a dedicated building, The Core, has been opened where children and young people in its care and care leavers can access a range of services in one place or simply spend time together. Representatives of the Just Uz group attend the Corporate Parenting Panel to provide feedback to elected members and senior managers, as a result of which changes have been made in how the Local Authority communicates with children and Passport to Leisure provision has been extended to care leavers up to the age of 21. The views of children as they progress through safeguarding services are routinely sought through conference packs that children are asked to complete prior to child protection conferences, while children in care are able to set the agenda for their reviews.

BSCB were concerned to note the findings of a recent Healthwatch report regarding the emotional health and wellbeing of Blackpool. This suggested that a significant proportion of children in Blackpool experience poor emotional health, to the extent that one in four of those surveyed have self-harmed. During the forthcoming year we will seek to fully understand this issue through our own consultations with children and we will be undertaking an audit to develop our understanding of the experiences of children who do self-harm and what preventative approaches should be developed.

5. A CHILD'S JOURNEY THROUGH SERVICES

Universal and Early Help

Professionals within Blackpool work to the BSCB "Thresholds for Intervention" document, which was published in 2013. This outlines the expected intervention that should be provided for a child, based on their assessed needs.

For the vast majority of children, there are no safeguarding concerns and they will receive a Level 1 universal service offer that will provide for their health and educational needs. When a professional is concerned that there are indications that a child is at risk of harm (or if it is suspected that a child's health and development would be impaired without statutory intervention, or the child has complex needs) they are expected to complete the continuous assessment tool provided by the Getting it Right (GIR) framework. A Level 2 approach would be likely to involve one agency providing targeted support to address a specific issue, while a Level 3 approach would necessitate multiple agencies working together to address more broadly based issues. In these circumstances one agency is expected to take the lead professional role and to assess, co-ordinate and provide early help to the child and their family.

Ensuring that effective and consistent early help is provided to children in Blackpool is a priority for BSCB and progress in this respect is assessed in Chapter 6 below. At this point BSCB is unable to fully assess the effectiveness and scale of early help provision. This is due to not knowing the number of children who receive early help at Levels 2 and 3 as a consequence of there being no central record of open continuous assessment tools. Blackpool is alone in the north-west in not collating this data and BSCB has identified the urgent need to remedy this issue.

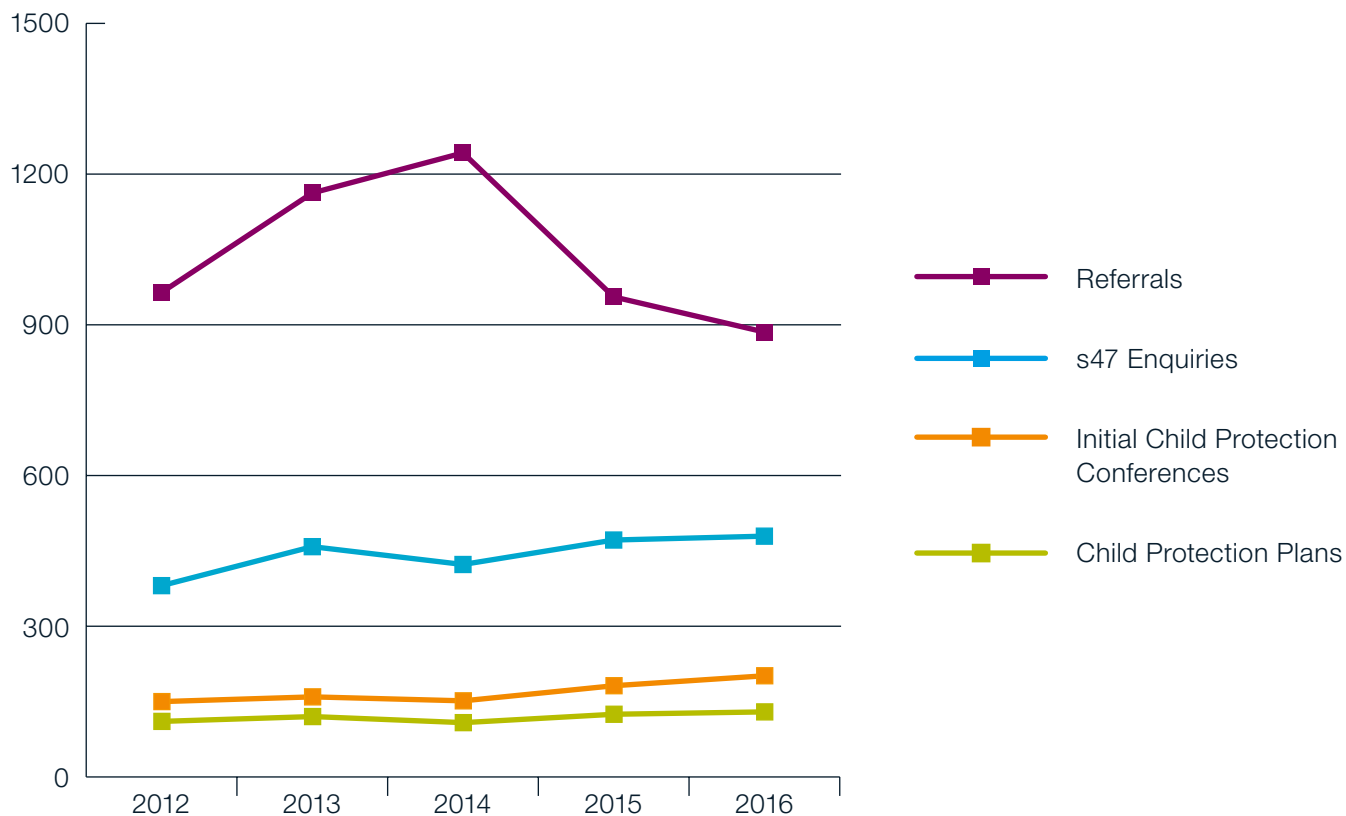
To assist BSCB's understanding of early help provision a Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG) audit conducted in October 2015 reviewed 15 cases that had been referred to children's services at Level 4, but had been assessed not to meet this threshold. Each case was audited to identify whether early help provision was evident prior to and after the referral. 60% of the cases were receiving early help prior to the referral and stepped back down to this level, while the remaining 40% returned to universal service provision, which was viewed as being appropriate. The audit consequently concluded that there is evidence of effective early help being provided, despite the Local Authority's lack of quantifiable data in this respect.

Child Protection

The Children's Services Front Door acts as the single point of access for all contacts to Children's Social Care. In 2015/16 the Front Door received 10,115 (2015: 10,829) contacts. A contact, in this context, can include anything from an urgent request for safeguarding action to pieces of information that require sharing, but no further action. The combination of all contacts in this category renders analysis of the conversion rate into referrals difficult, as some are clearly not intended to prompt further action and means that conclusions cannot be drawn from breakdowns of contacts by agency. Children's Services intend to address this issue by the introduction of an 'information only' category of contact that should allow more accurate data reporting.

Of the 10,115 contacts 2,937 or 29.0% (2015:28.6%) progressed to a referral to children's social care of which 24.4% were repeat referrals. The latter figure represents a reduction from 31.0% since 2015 and brings Blackpool back into line with the 24.0% figure recorded nationally (note that this, and all subsequent national and statistical neighbour comparator data, is the most recently published March 2015 figure).

Blackpool's rate of children per 10,000 of the child population at each stage of the safeguarding journey over the last five years is documented below:



It is notable that within this period the relative rate of section 47 enquiries, initial child protection conferences and children subject to child protection plans has remained stable, while the rate of referrals peaked in 2014 and has subsequently declined. This would suggest that fewer inappropriate referrals are now being made which suggests a better understanding of thresholds for intervention than has previously been evident.



National Comparisons

The rate of children at each stage of the safeguarding process in Blackpool remains well in excess of those recorded nationally and amongst our statistical neighbours (a comparator group of Local Authorities with similar demographics), as is indicated by the table below:

Rate per 10,000 child population of	Blackpool	England	Statistical Neighbours
Referrals	885.6	548.3	615.3
Section 47 enquiries	479.3	138.2	173.4
Initial child protection conferences	198.9	61.6	86.1
Children subject to child protection plans	127.0	42.9	60.9

With the exception of referrals, which remain relatively lower, there are around three times the rate of children at each stage of the child protection system in Blackpool, than nationally. This places significant strain on all agencies and is something that BSCB has yet to definitively understand, despite considerable activity in this respect. Increased child protection activity is associated with higher levels of deprivation so figures in excess of the national average are to be expected, however Blackpool continues to experience rates well in excess of its statistical neighbours. It would be fair to say that single and multi-agency audits have not suggested that there is a significant issue with children being inappropriately placed on child protection plans. Similarly, some data indicators that could account for Blackpool's high rates, for example the conversion rate from section 47 enquiry to initial child protection conference, are in line with national rates.

However, Blackpool does have a higher than national average number of child protection plans that were in place continuously for two years or more or for three months or less, which could suggest that some children are on a plan for longer than is necessary, while other plans may not have been required. This warrants further investigation, but would not account for the overall high rates. Similarly, robust early help data is required to allow meaningful judgements as to the impact of early help provision on the numbers of children in receipt of higher tier services. Without this data it might be argued that the high numbers of children in the system reflect ineffective early help services or, alternatively, that agencies effectively identify children in need of higher tier services at an early stage. BSCB audit activity would suggest that there is some effective early help provision, however the need to ensure that effective early help is provided throughout Blackpool will remain a priority area for BSCB during 2016/17.

Child Protection Plans

If professionals at an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) are concerned that a child is at risk of significant harm or has suffered abuse and there is a continued risk due to neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse then the child is made subject to a child protection plan. The plan sets out what family members and professionals must do to promote the safety and wellbeing of the child and to manage risk. The plan is managed through regular core group meetings and reviewed at child protection conferences.

On the 31st March 2016 there were 366 children subject to child protection plans in Blackpool (2015: 355). Of the 517 children who became subject to a child protection plan during 2015/16 99 (19.1%) were being made subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time, compared to a national average of 16.6%. While the two episodes may be entirely unrelated, this potentially indicates that some plans are being ended too early, before changes made to protect the child are sufficiently embedded.

The age profile of children subject to a child protection plan in Blackpool differs from that evident nationally, most notably in terms of the number of unborn children subject to a plan who represented 9.6% of the total number of plans in place on the 31st March 2016 and 13.0% of plans that were in place throughout the entire year. In contrast 2.1% of plans nationally are for unborn children. Children from birth to the age of four are under-represented, while children over four are broadly consistent with national trends. This may indicate a tendency in Blackpool to intervene prior to birth, thereby reducing the need for intervention in early years, however it is an area of practice that BSCB should seek to better understand in the forthcoming year. Unfortunately, a failure to consistently record ethnicity precludes an analysis as to whether the ethnic origin of children subject to a child protection plan corresponds with Blackpool's overall demographic. Recording practice in this respect must be improved.

The most common reason for a child protection plan being put in place was emotional abuse (73.2%), followed by neglect (38.1%), physical abuse (21.1%) and sexual abuse (21.1%). This represents a continuation of the recent increase of plans made in respect of emotional abuse (2014: 57.7%; 2015: 67.1%), while the number of plans made in response to neglect has declined significantly in year (2014: 51.5%; 2015: 54.5%). National comparisons are not entirely reliable due to Blackpool's practice of allowing registration in more than one category, which is not followed in all local authorities. However, the disparity between the national figures of 33.5% and 44.7% of plans being made due to emotional abuse and neglect, respectively, is worthy of note.

The BSCB 2014/15 Annual Report also noted a significant increase in child protection plans being made in respect of emotional abuse. In order to better understand this increase a MAAG audit was undertaken of 256 children subject to child protection plans for emotional abuse. 99.6% were assessed to be correctly categorised as emotional abuse and in 82% domestic abuse was noted to be a contributory factor, with parental mental health being noted in 55% of cases and parental alcohol and/ or substance use in 47%. Given the high levels of domestic abuse that are known to exist in Blackpool this audit finding was not unexpected, although it does not explain the increase in the number of plans that are made in respect of emotional abuse. This finding will, however be used to challenge commissioners to ensure that the safeguarding needs of children in families where domestic abuse is present are met.



Core groups

The effective functioning of core groups has been an ongoing concern of BSCB since Ofsted identified this as a significant area of concern during its 2012 inspection. While the 2014 inspection did find improved practice in this respect, BSCB has continued to undertake six monthly audits of core groups to ensure that improvements are embedded in practice. The audits have provided BSCB with an accurate longitudinal view as to the effectiveness of core group processes. The picture has been of overall steady improvement, but with some examples of poor practice in individual cases that have been reported back to line managers. Evidence has therefore been obtained of improvements in respect of timeliness, recording and planning being maintained, while other issues, for example contingency planning, have been addressed through the production of 'Lessons Learned' newsletters for professionals. Ongoing issues with attendance have resulted in a determination to conduct a more fundamental review of how core groups are managed, that will be undertaken by BSCB during 2016.

Children in Care

When it is no longer possible or it is not in the best interests of the child to remain within their own family, they are placed in the care of the local authority, either with the agreement of their parents or under the terms of a court order. Most children who are looked after are vulnerable and the local authority, as their corporate parent, is responsible for ensuring that they remain safe, healthy and are able to realise their potential. All children in care are subject to regular, independent reviews of their care, while the overall work of the local authority and their partners to provide for children in care is scrutinised by the Corporate Parenting Panel. Children who are remanded in custody also become looked after and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) maintains oversight of their care and management, while also working to reduce the rate of re-offending by all children in care.

There were 470 children in care on the 31st March 2016 (2015: 454), which represents 163.1 per 10,000 of the child population (2015: 156.4). While this is well in excess of the national rate of 60.0 it may be expected, given the high numbers of children previously noted at each stage of the child protection process.

Over recent years, the nature of where children in care are placed has changed, with a significant increase in the use of Special Guardianship Orders, typically to place a child with a member of their extended family, that is mirrored nationally, and an increasing use of external fostering placements as a consequence of the limited capacity of internal fostering placements, especially those who are able to manage older children with challenging behaviour. As corporate parents, the local authority seeks to reduce the disruption that each child in its care experiences. The level of children placed more than twenty miles outside Blackpool has remained stable in recent years (currently 9.5%), although the number of children with three or more placements within twelve months has increased to 12.3% (2015: 9.9%) which is in excess of the national average of 10.0%. The local authority were challenged to increase the completion rate of personal education plans for looked after children by the Children's Improvement Board and have subsequently achieved an increase from 67.1% being completed in the Autumn term of 2014 to 96.7% in 2015, although further work to improve their quality has now been identified.

When it is in the best interests of a child for permanence to be achieved through adoption, it is expected that this is attained as quickly as is possible. In the reporting year 46 children were adopted, although the number of days between their entering care and being placed with their adoptive family stood at 690 (2015: 752), compared with a national average of 593. Data in this respect is subject to a significant time lag and it is expected that this will improve in forthcoming years.

Good system performance

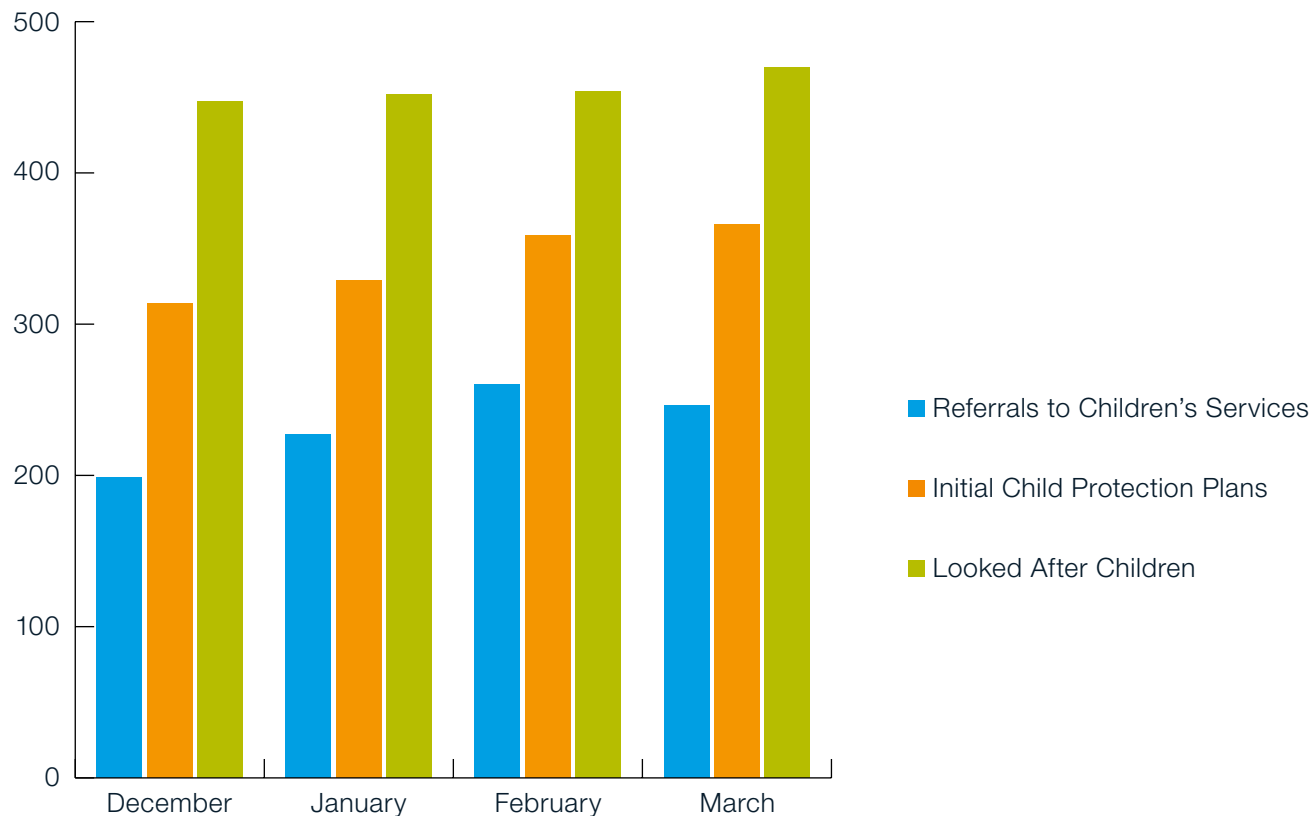
The high number of children that require protective action within Blackpool undoubtedly places a strain on the multi-agency system, however there remains continued evidence of good practice both in terms of individual case studies, that are included in this report, and in systems performance data that includes:

- Maintained performance in respect of the completion of child and family assessments within 45 days and in which the child was seen, despite almost 400 more being completed in the year
- 93.2% of ICPC being held within 15 days of the start of a section 47 enquiry, compared to a national average of 74.7%
- Every child protection plan review during the reporting year was within timescale, compared to a national rate of 94.0%
- 98.2% of LAC reviews were completed within timescale
- A higher percentage of children who cease to be looked after are adopted or become subject to Special Guardianship Orders than nationally
- A higher percentage of looked after children have health development checks (for under fives), up to date immunisations and annual health assessments than nationally



The challenges ahead

During the final quarter of the year a significant increase in the number of children at each stage of the child protection system was evident, as is demonstrated by the following graph:



Early indications are that this trend has continued after the year end and while some increases can be attributed to individual factors, for example a large family coming into care, no overall explanation for this increase has been identified. BSCB will therefore continue to closely monitor the number of children that require child protection action and will ensure that its audit programme and other learning activity enable it to understand trends in performance data. When changing trends in data are identified we will seek to hold partners to account to ensure that adequate arrangements are made to meet changing needs.



6. SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

6.1 Child sexual exploitation and missing from home

The need for a robust partnership response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) was recognised locally a number of years ago and has subsequently been driven by high profile national cases, including those in Rotherham, Rochdale and Oxfordshire, and a number of reports published in recent years. While Blackpool was consequently at the forefront of developing multi-agency responses to CSE, BSCB is keen to ensure that it continues to effectively respond to CSE.

What we know about CSE in Blackpool

Our understanding of CSE in Blackpool does not conform to some national stereotypes. In Blackpool perpetrators are typically white males operating alone and offending after a process of building a relationship either online, at hotspots or parties. There is no current evidence of gang or taxi related offending. While the majority of victims are girls, a higher than average number of male victims have been identified. The predominant age of victims is between 13 and 15, although this has reduced in recent years. At least 40% of perpetrators are under five years older than their victim. Key vulnerabilities identified in CSE victims are substance misuse and missing from home, with a third of victims having been reported as missing from home in the previous year. Over half of victims have had a disrupted education, including multiple school moves, being on the out of school register, known to the pupil welfare service and with a record of persistent absences. 4% of looked after children were considered to be at risk of CSE in their most recent review.

In 2015/16 290 Police Vulnerable Person (PVP) referrals with a CSE element were made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), of which 185 were assessed as being high risk (the risk assessment is based on the perception of the officer making the referral, so is not based on a formal risk assessment). In the reporting year 174 crimes with a CSE element were recorded in Blackpool and 24 investigations were completed with either a charge or caution. (Both these data indicators are naturally subject to a degree of time lag in that crimes may only be reported some time after they were committed and investigations will take a number of months to complete).

What have we done about CSE?

BSCB has agreed an ongoing operational action plan to tackle CSE and is able to report progress against each of the seven areas:

Leadership is provided by the BSCB strategic board which reviewed progress in respect of CSE in four of its six meetings during the reporting period. The delivery of the action plan is managed by the BSCB CSE subgroup, which provides progress reports to every Business Management Group meeting. A co-ordinated pan-Lancashire approach is maintained through the pan-Lancashire Strategic CSE group. To ensure that this promotes a genuine multi-agency approach to CSE, it has been agreed that this group will be chaired by the three pan-Lancashire LSCB Independent Chairs on a rotating basis. Political leadership is provided by elected members, all of whom have received CSE briefings.

Action is taken to **Prevent** CSE through building public confidence and awareness. During the reporting period a pan-Lancashire CSE awareness week included a public media campaign using Lancashire Constabulary's successful "The more you see, the more you know" branding. Ofsted commented in their 2014 inspection of Blackpool that awareness raising with taxi drivers and the licensed trade was not as developed as would be expected. In response Blackpool Council has made it a mandatory requirement for newly registered taxi drivers to receive safeguarding (including CSE) training and BSCB has trained directors from all the taxi companies, together with approximately 700 taxi drivers by the end of the reporting period (representing over half the total). Promotional material for hoteliers and other leisure industry providers were in development at the year end, ahead of a projected day of briefings. Secondary school children in all Blackpool schools received PHSE lessons in Year 9 that include a CSE awareness element, while the Chelsea's Choice theatre production was delivered in five of Blackpool's eight secondary schools and two special schools.

Work to **Protect** children at risk of CSE is led by the Awaken team, which has now been in place for over ten years. This provides for a multi-agency response to the child's needs and will provide for one key-worker drawn from the agency most able to effectively work with the child. During the reporting period a new pan-Lancashire protocol was agreed, which will ensure that children receive a more consistent response, while a CSE risk assessment tool has been successfully piloted by children's services and will now be rolled out on a multi-agency basis. This will enable more consistent and accurate assessment of children at risk of CSE. A spotting the signs tool was also piloted in A&E and is now routinely used to ensure that children presenting in specific circumstances are asked questions to identify if they have been the victim of CSE.

BSCB seeks to ensure that the experiences of children inform the development of services. Practitioners in Awaken are now routinely seeking the views of children at the conclusion of a criminal investigation and when their case is closed to Awaken. The need to provide effective intervention for child victims of CSE was emphasised by a Children's Services study into ten children who had displayed harmful sexual behaviour (including indications of becoming a perpetrator of CSE). This identified that all had previously been victims of a form of sexual abuse. A successful bid for funding was subsequently made to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for a pilot that will aim to more effectively identify young people who have been victims of sexual abuse and thereafter provide therapeutic support to address their experiences as a victim and any emerging patterns of sexually aggressive or harmful behaviour.

A multi-agency approach to share information and co-ordinate intervention underpins work to **Pursue** offenders. This is co-ordinated through fortnightly Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) that discuss children considered to be at risk of CSE and thereby identify and collate information about perpetrators, how they operate and 'hotspots' for CSE. The meetings draw intelligence from a range of sources, including the views of the children who are open to Awaken. Lancashire Constabulary has adopted a pro-active approach to tackling potential perpetrators and will seek to disrupt their activity through a range of means including Section 2 abduction notices which may be sought against perpetrators to prevent further contact with the child. A range of approaches may be adopted when a 'hotspot' for CSE activity is identified, action may be taken in respect of its licence, covert monitoring can be used or the premises visited to provide the proprietor or resident with advice. BSCB and the Awaken team have additionally provided awareness raising sessions for a number of private organisations that were considered particularly relevant.

The complex nature of CSE demands an effective **Partnership** response, which is well embedded in Blackpool. The co-located Awaken team includes staff from Health, Police, Children's Social Care and Education, while MACSE meetings are typically attended by around 20 representatives of the wider partnership.

BSCB uses **Intelligence and Performance monitoring** to ensure that its response to CSE is effective. Throughout the reporting period it has received reports on Awaken activity, a local CSE self-assessment of the views of the wider partnership on CSE provision, a pan-Lancashire Partnership Intelligence Assessment and routinely captures CSE data within its wider dataset. It is however, acknowledged that a more systematic and multi-agency suite of data indicators is necessary. To this end an expanded dataset has been agreed and will start to be populated during the forthcoming year.

The provision of **Learning and Development** activity for professionals has formed a priority for BSCB during 2015/16. During this period 283 practitioners attended briefings and 96 half or full-day training courses. In the course of one day, three productions of Chelsea's Choice were delivered, together with a CSE briefing, which were attended by 237 practitioners and 44 further education students. A CSE e-learning package has also been developed and has been completed by 1,407 practitioners. During the reporting year BSCB has sought information from all its partner agencies as to the numbers of staff that have completed CSE training and have challenged those who are unable to provide this information. The majority of agencies have now made CSE training mandatory for all staff. While causation is difficult to prove, it may well be that the increase in Police PVP CSE referrals that was evident during the second half of 2015/16 is attributable to CSE awareness week and the ongoing single and multi-agency training programme.



What we will do next

- In conjunction with pan-Lancashire colleagues incorporate missing from home and trafficking into our action plans to ensure a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding children at risk from each issue
- Ensure that agencies assist us to develop a multi-agency CSE dataset
- Use intelligence to inform our decisions about which organisations and groups we target for awareness raising activity
- Ensure that refugees who settle in Blackpool are safeguarded from CSE
- Ensure that public awareness raising activity is available and relevant to minority groups
- Develop a CSE awareness programme for use with older primary and all secondary schools pupils and further education students
- Develop a professional directory of services available to CSE victims to ensure children are able to access appropriate interventions
- Continue to develop our training programme to address emerging needs and to ensure that the whole partnership is trained
- Continue to review the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to CSE through thematic audits

Children who are missing from home or care

Children who are missing from home (MFH) are vulnerable at that time, quite simply because those who are responsible for their care are unable to ensure that they are safe. Research into longer term risks would also suggest an increased likelihood of becoming a victim of abuse, committing or becoming a victim of crime and involvement in substance use. The correlation between CSE and children missing from home has already been noted above. As corporate parents the Local Authority are particularly concerned to address the over-representation of the already vulnerable group of children in its care amongst those who go missing (although this over-representation may, to some extent, reflect a greater willingness of care homes, over parents, to report children as missing).

During the reporting period BSCB acknowledged that governance arrangements for MFH were insufficiently robust, as a result of which the issue will be incorporated within the revised CSE governance model, noted above. This will ensure that the Board has strategic and operational oversight of the partnership's response to MFH and is able to hold it to account. In the interim period BSCB has received a number of ad hoc reports in responses to MFH.

The multi-agency response to MFH in Blackpool is provided in accordance with a pan-Lancashire protocol that was agreed in 2014. The priority in responding to any child who goes missing is ensuring their immediate safety. Once they have returned home they should receive an immediate Police safe and well check, followed by a return home interview within 72 hours. It is the responsibility of the local authority to ensure that the return home interview is provided, in which it will seek to try to understand why the child went missing and what can be done to reduce the risk of them individually and children more general going missing again. A standard question about CSE is included within the return home interview pro-forma. For children who are known to the local authority, return home interviews are undertaken by the professional who is most likely to effectively engage the child in the process, while those not known are seen by the missing from home co-ordinator. It would be expected that a looked after child who was considered at risk of going missing would have a specific element in their care plan to address this, which was approved by their Independent Reviewing Officer.

The 2014/15 BSCB annual report concluded that the response to children who go missing from home was under-developed in Blackpool. A more coherent multi-agency response is now in place, although its longer term effectiveness has yet to be tested. The Police and Local Authority both now have missing from home co-ordinators in place who are responsible for co-ordinating their agency's operational responses to children who are reported as missing. The local authority co-ordinator is responsible for logging and collating information obtained from return home interviews. Monthly missing from home panel meetings are attended by Local Authority and Police Early Action, Awaken, Health, Education and YOT representatives, together with the missing from home and anti-social behaviour co-ordinators. These meetings review and develop action plans for high risk children, including both Blackpool and out of area Looked After Children. Links have been developed with missing from education processes, including those electing to be home educated.

Missing from home data is included within the BSCB dataset and during 2015/16 there were an average of 89.5 non-Looked After Children reported missing one or more times each quarter and 12.75 three or more times. Amongst the Looked After Child population the figures were 32.75 and 13.0, respectively. Finally, an average of 6.5 children are reported missing on nine or more occasions each quarter from the overall child population. Unfortunately a national change in Police recording practices to include a category of 'absent' has removed the possibility of longer term comparisons, although figures have remained broadly stable in the six quarters since this change. 7.7% of Looked After Children are considered to be at risk of going missing from care and it is reported that in 92% of these cases the Independent Reviewing Officer is satisfied with the plan to address this issue. Of greatest concern in terms of action to tackle missing is the data in respect of return home interview completion within 72 hours, which stands at 26.8%. We are advised that there are reporting issues that produce an artificially low rate, however this rate of completion is clearly far from satisfactory. More positively, we are advised that a review of return home interviews indicates an improvement in the quality of practice during recent months.

What we will do next

- Continue to receive regular reports in respect of return home interview completion and hold the Local Authority to account for improving this rate
- Consider trends evident in return home interview responses to develop our understanding of why children go missing and how instances can be reduced
- Review the return home interview form to ensure compliance with recognised best practice
- Pilot the submission of all MFH reports to the MASH to enable the sharing of information and the development of a better understanding of the child's overall circumstances

6.2 Early Help

The provision of early help to children and families is a key means by which longer term harm to children can be forestalled and the demand for higher tier services can be reduced. The need for effective early help provision within Blackpool is emphasised by the high numbers of children who require protection, while a lack of partnership understanding of their responsibility for early help provision was identified by Ofsted in their 2014 inspection of Blackpool. Early help was consequently identified as a priority area within the 2015-17 business plan.

In order to better understand the current position, Blackpool Council commissioned an independent review of overall early help provision and the influence that this has on referrals received by Children's Services. This was reported to BSCB in the summer of 2015 and drew the following conclusions:

- Partnership responsibilities for the provision of early help are in need of clarifying at both strategic and operational levels
- The provision of early help is not sufficiently co-ordinated to enable an understanding of the scale of provision or its effectiveness
- Partner agencies do not consistently monitor the numbers of children receiving early help
- The continuous assessment tool is used solely to make referrals, rather than to provide ongoing assessment
- The duty and assessment team are unable to consistently provide feedback on referrals which contributes to an overall lack of clarity about thresholds

The review recommended that a clearer partnership ownership for the provision of early help was developed, as a result of which the existing Getting It Right (GIR) and MASH steering groups were merged into the Early Help steering group and brought into the BSCB governance structure.



In view of the absence of any data in respect of the completion of continuous assessment tools and the provision of Level 2 and 3 support, the Early Help steering group has attempted to map the early help that partner agencies provide. While reporting in this respect tended to be descriptive, there was evidence of a range of early help provision by schools, health providers and the voluntary sector. This was supported by the findings of the MAAG Early Help audit noted in Chapter 5 above, which likewise noted that the continuous assessment tool was not routinely being used to assess and plan interventions at Levels 2 and 3, but as a referral form for Level 4 services. A consistent theme of this service mapping and findings from serious case reviews has also been that early help provision is not co-ordinated by one practitioner taking the lead professional role.

Both the 2014 Ofsted inspection and the Front Door Review noted that thresholds were not consistently understood across the partnership, although the Front Door Review did note that they were consistently applied by the Duty and Assessment team in 95% of cases that were reviewed. A MAAG thresholds audit of 60 referrals to the front door undertaken in July 2015 provided more positive findings in this respect though, in that it found that 82% of referrals were appropriate. (Interestingly the Multi-Agency Audit Group's own perception of thresholds was higher than those applied by the Duty and Assessment Team, which does suggest that there is a perception of there being higher thresholds than is actually the case.) Limitations in the threshold document, in terms of the amount of information provided in respect of neglect and parental substance misuse, were also identified by a multi-professional discussion forum and serious case review respectively.

The Early Help steering group is additionally responsible for the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This was established in April 2013 by Lancashire Constabulary, the three pan-Lancashire local authorities, health and other agencies to handle Police vulnerable child referrals. Throughout the reporting period the MASH has continued to only handle Police referrals (although in practice some referrals may be made by other agencies and placed on the system by the Police). Information about the referrals is then shared with partner agencies to build a multi-agency chronology that ensures that the child or involved adults are referred on to the most appropriate service to meet their needs. As of March 2016 the following agencies are either physically co-located within the MASH, or are included within information sharing processes: Police, Health, Pupil Welfare, Children's Social Care, Early Help, Children's Centres, schools, YOT, Fire and Rescue, Probation, Adult Social Care and substance misuse services. It had been hoped to develop MASH

to allow all agencies to make referrals, at which point it would effectively become the one front door to children's services. However, the volume of work that it currently handles is such that it does not have the capacity to make this change. BSCB, in conjunction with its pan-Lancashire counterparts, has therefore challenged Lancashire Constabulary to fully review the working of the MASH to ensure that it becomes a genuine multi-agency referral and triage process.

What we will do next

- Produce a comprehensive Early Help strategy, building on successful practice in other areas, to ensure the consistent and quantifiable provision of early help by all agencies who work with children and families in Blackpool
- Provide a means by which agencies are able to evidence the assessment of the needs of children and families at Levels 2 and 3
- Ensure that data is available in respect of the number of children receiving services at Level 2 and 3
- Revise the thresholds document to ensure that it is more fully understood and that emerging safeguarding issues are included
- Re-launch the Early Help strategy and thresholds document, as the successor to GIR, making clear that it is owned by the BSCB partnership
- Provide training for practitioners in respect of the above changes, replacing the GIR training that was previously provided by the Local Authority
- Facilitate the development of the MASH to ensure that it effectively delivers its current remit, with the aspiration that it will subsequently become the one front door to children's services



6.3 Neglect

Neglect has been a long standing priority of BSCB identified in audits, reviews and a higher than expected number of child protection plans being made in this respect (although this has declined during the reporting period).

This area of the BSCB business plan is delegated to the Neglect subgroup, the primary objective of which is to implement a shared neglect assessment tool across the partnership. Late in the last reporting year a bespoke suite of assessment tools was identified, in conjunction with the NSPCC. This provides a number of tools that can be used across the thresholds of need, ranging from a basic neglect screening tool to the in-depth Graded Care Profile 2 tool, together with a number of tools designed to assess specific areas of need e.g. parental anxiety and alcohol use. Work has subsequently been undertaken to map these tools against the Blackpool threshold documents and services that individual agencies provide. The BSCB Strategic Board agreed to pilot the use of the tools in Blackpool in November 2015. Unfortunately, the subsequent start of the pilot was delayed by a change in subgroup chair, however a first cohort of practitioners were trained in the use of the tools in the final weeks of the reporting year and have begun to pilot their use. Initial feedback suggests that the tool does provide an effective means of scaling and evidencing neglect and has resulted in one practitioner not making a referral to Children's Social Care that they would otherwise have made.

In order to better understand the needs of frontline practitioners to assess and respond to neglect, BSCB also held a Multi-Professional Discussion Forum in November 2015. Attendees highlighted the difficulties that they encountered in identifying neglect, the complex needs of families and long standing nature of neglect and the difficulties they encountered securing long term changes. They suggested that more comprehensive guidance within the thresholds document would assist and support the proposed introduction of a neglect evaluation tool.

BSCB has additionally commissioned an external trainer to deliver more general training in neglect, which will now be delivered on a quarterly basis. Since its introduction in January 2016 53 practitioners have attended this course.

What we will do next

- Produce a comprehensive neglect strategy to set out how we will enable the partnership to better identify and respond to neglect
- Prioritise the implementation of practitioner training in the suite of neglect assessment tools
- Evaluate the impact of the tool through qualitative reviews with practitioners, multi-agency audits and through the review of data
- Use the practitioner feedback from the Multi-Professional Discussion Forum to inform the review of the thresholds document
- Shortly before the year end a serious case review was commissioned in respect of a child who was subject to a child protection plan due to neglect. The findings of this review will further inform our work to address neglect



6.4 Toxic Trio

The toxic trio of parental domestic abuse, substance/ alcohol misuse and poor mental health was identified as a priority safeguarding theme for BSCB during 2015-17 on the basis of the findings of a number of serious cases reviews and multi-agency audits that were conducted during the foregoing year. The need for this objective has subsequently been supported by the publication of the Child BT and Child BV serious case review reports during the reporting period, which involved parental substance misuse and alcohol use, respectively.

What we know about the toxic trio

Securing reliable data in respect of children who live in households in which one or more of the toxic trio is present is difficult due to variable definitions of each issue, however the Blackpool Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) estimates that 4,500 – 5,500 children live in a household where an adult experiences mental ill-health and that 1,500 – 2,500 children experience parental opiate use. Public Health data likewise indicates that approximately 1,200 children live with an adult who is in receipt of alcohol or substance misuse intervention. The JSNA additionally notes that Blackpool has the highest rate of crimes committed with a qualifying factor of domestic violence in Lancashire, while the rate of cases discussed at Multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) is three times that recorded nationally. In the year to March 2015 the Police submitted 2,530 Protecting Vulnerable People domestic abuse referrals involving children, of which 320 were assessed as being high risk.

What have we done?

- During the reporting period BSCB has received presentations on domestic abuse, alcohol and substance service commissioning and has used these to hold commissioners to account to ensure that children are adequately safeguarded in services that are inevitably facing budget reductions

- The PMEG subgroup has undertaken deep dive audits into adult and children's substance misuse services. As a result of these the provider of adult services has revised its safeguarding practices and their Public Health commissioner has introduced a process of auditing their providers' compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- Responding to the need for a DA perpetrator programme that was identified in a BSCB multi-agency audit in early 2015, the Police and Crime Commissioner has funded a pilot of the Inner Strength programme that has been successfully delivered to two cohorts of participants with ten individual completions. The programme is based on academic research and works with male perpetrators who remain in a relationship with their victim. Further programmes will be delivered during the forthcoming year and an evaluation will be undertaken to determine whether it is effective and should be continued
- BSCB training programmes are available in respect of each individual element of the Toxic Trio, together with a combined 'Hidden Harm' course
- A toxic trio combined development morning was held with Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board in February 2016. Given the overlap between the two Boards' work in this respect, it was agreed that the Boards would work together to address the issue, although the need to involve the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership was highlighted due to their responsibility for the broader management of each area of the toxic trio

What we will do next?

- The BSCB chair will meet with colleagues from the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that mechanisms are in place to jointly address each element of the toxic trio and that they are held to account to ensure that children are safeguarded
- Develop a joint business plan to address the toxic trio, in conjunction with our BSAB colleagues

6.5 Private fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one in which a child under 16 (or 18 if disabled) is looked after, or planned to be looked after, for over 28 days by someone other than a close relative. Any such arrangement should be notified to the local authority, in order for them to be satisfied that the child is safeguarded and their welfare promoted.

From a starting position of 7 private fostering arrangements that were in place in April 2015, 9 commenced and 10 ended during the year, leaving a total of 6 in place at the end of March 2016. This figure has remained broadly stable during the last five years, reflecting the national picture.

BSCB delivered a public and professional awareness raising campaign in September 2015 to promote reporting of private fostering arrangements. This did not result in an increase in reporting of private fostering arrangements suggest that the campaign itself was ineffective or that private fostering arrangements are generally reported as required.

Disappointingly, the specific Private Fostering Briefing that forms part of the BSCB suite of training was cancelled on each occasion that it was offered during the reporting year due to low numbers of applicants, which would suggest that professional awareness of the issue has yet to be fully addressed. This material has consequently been included within the broader Working Together training programme to maximise its audience.

6.6 Radicalisation

Radicalisation is the process by which people come to support extremism and terrorism and, in some cases, to participate in terrorism. In this context extremism is defined as “vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs” (HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011) and may include, but is not restricted to, Islamist, far right, animal rights and support for Irish terrorist groups. In March 2015 the government published the updated Prevent Duty Guidance that places duties on many BSCB partner agencies to address radicalisation. Indications of radicalisation in children should prompt a safeguarding response, in addition to which they may be referred to the pan-Lancashire Channel Panel that will co-ordinate the multi-agency response to emerging extremist views.

Overall responsibility for counter-terrorism in Blackpool sits with the Community Safety Partnership, however BSCB retains responsibility for ensuring that children are safeguarded from radicalisation and receives regular updates in this respect. Following challenge from BSCB the local authority has now established a multi-agency Prevent delivery group to oversee the partnership’s response.

In order to support our schools to meet their responsibilities to prevent children from being drawn into extremism, BSCB offered to deliver Prevent awareness training within each Blackpool school. 34 schools accepted this offer and training has been delivered to approximately 1,500 staff. The more in-depth Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training now forms part of the BSCB training programme and 48 practitioners (predominantly from schools) have attended the three courses delivered to date.

Online resources for schools to tackle extremism are provided through the Prevent4schools website which is overseen by the pan-Lancashire LSCB e-safeguarding subgroup.



7. THE CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE

BSCB is committed to ensuring that the children's workforce is properly equipped to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by understanding their experiences and needs as frontline practitioners and by ensuring that they are able to access high quality training that enables them to make a difference to the lives of children in Blackpool.

7.1 Listening to practitioners

BSCB established a Shadow Board of frontline practitioners drawn from partner agencies in March 2015, which is chaired by the Blackpool Council Head of Safeguarding. It meets a few days prior to a Strategic Board meeting and will consider broadly the same agenda. The purpose of the group is twofold: firstly, it can provide a practitioner perspective that is fed into discussion at Strategic Board and secondly, it is able to offer a means by which information can be disseminated amongst practitioners. Shadow Board members are asked to agree with their respective Strategic Board member a means of disseminating information from the shadow board within their own organisation.

During the last year the Shadow Board members have contributed to the Board's understanding of gaps in Domestic Abuse provision and have informed decision making about the review of the children's services front door. They have received presentations on Head Start, Prevent, Female Genital Mutilation and all the reviews and audits completed by BSCB, which they have disseminated within their agencies.

BSCB has also committed to the use of Multi-Professional Discussion Forums to inform its understanding of specific issues or areas of practice and the impact that they have on frontline practitioners. During the reporting period two have been held, which have discussed child sexual exploitation and neglect. The importance of consultations of this nature is often seen in unexpected information that is obtained. For example, the discussion on neglect highlighted that significant numbers of attendees were not aware of the thresholds document and the need for better information about physical abuse within it.

7.2 Working with schools

Schools play a critical role in overall activity to keep children safe. By having contact with children and their families over a sustained period schools develop the knowledge and ability to identify when a child is at risk of harm. From a position in 2014 in which BSCB did not have schools representation on its Strategic Board, we have worked to better engage with schools at all levels of our activity.

At the end of the reporting period we have one secondary, two primary and one special school representatives on our Strategic Board, who are joined by the Schools' Safeguarding Advisor, who has been employed with funding provided by all Blackpool schools to improve their safeguarding practice. Schools are furthermore represented on all our subgroups and we have instigated a programme of half-termly Schools' Twilight meetings that are routinely attended by around thirty headteachers, designated safeguarding leads and governors. During these meetings presentations have been provided about key safeguarding topics, for example CSE, e-safeguarding and radicalisation and schools have been consulted as to how we can best support them.

Our Independent Chair has begun a programme of visiting all Blackpool schools to meet the Headteacher and raise the profile of BSCB, to date he has visited around half of all schools in the area. Overall school performance is being driven by the Blackpool Challenge Board, of which the BSCB Independent Chair and Schools' Safeguarding Advisor are members. The Schools' Safeguarding Advisor also chairs network meetings of school child protection leads, which ensures a connection between strategic and operational approaches.

The Schools' Safeguarding Advisor has visited all Blackpool maintained and academy schools to audit their safeguarding practices and to provide advice as to how these can be improved. He has additionally provided more substantive support to two secondary schools which received inadequate Ofsted inspections. This work enables a significant additional layer of scrutiny to be provided to our Section 175 audit programme, in which schools are asked to self-evaluate their safeguarding practices. In 2015 36 out of 42 schools submitted returns, which was below the expected rate of return, it is expected that this rate of return will be improved with the support of the Schools' Safeguarding Advisor.

In an increasingly fragmented educational environment, BSCB is keen to promote consistent and effective safeguarding practice in schools. Our Schools' Safeguarding Advisor is therefore developing a series of safeguarding policies and procedures that we will make available for all schools to adopt. To date policies have been developed on children who go missing from the school premises, the transfer of child protection records between schools, the letting of schools buildings, core group attendance, media reporting and the use of taxis to transport children to and from school. Policies and procedures have been developed to address issues raised by schools, to tackle BSCB priority areas and to respond to learning from reviews and audits.

What we will do next

- Provide a comprehensive programme of training specifically to meet the needs of schools
- Review and promote good practice in respect of exclusions
- Develop a resource section for schools on the BSCB website
- Triangulate Section 175 audit returns with the Schools' Safeguarding Advisors' audits to thoroughly evaluate safeguarding practice in our schools

7.3 Training and Development

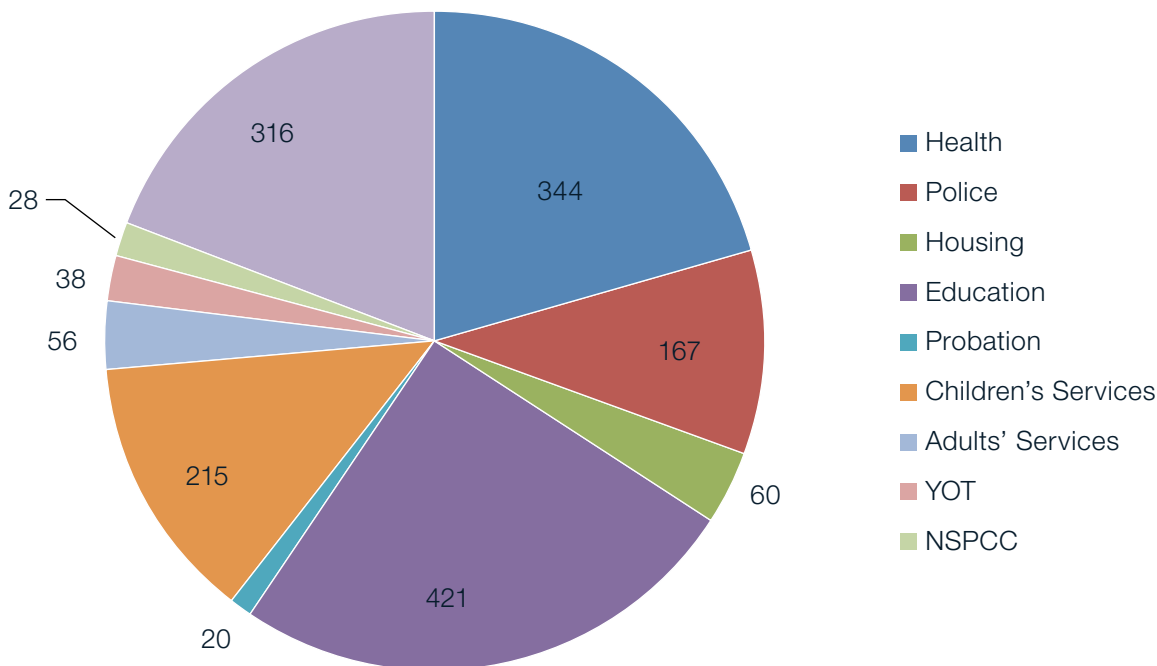
Working Together (2015) requires LSCB to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training. Like most other Boards, BSCB also chooses to deliver its own programme of training as a means of promoting good quality, multi-agency training. BSCB joined its training function with that of BSAB in August 2015 and is now able to offer courses that cover the full safeguarding spectrum to the adults' and children's workforce, while maintaining specific child focussed courses.

The Board's training delivery is overseen by the Training and Development subgroup, the purpose of which is to promote learning and development and to be responsible for the planning, delivery and evaluations of multi-agency training and the verification of single agency training.

What have we achieved in 2015/16?

- The BSCB training programme has been significantly revised and developed to focus on the Board's four safeguarding priorities of CSE, Early Help, Neglect and the Toxic Trio. National priorities have been responded to through the development of Female Genital Mutilation and Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training. Core safeguarding training in Working Together, Fabricated and Induced Illness and Injuries to Non-Mobile Infants continue to be delivered
- Training courses are continually revised to include local and national learning from reviews
- All courses have been reviewed to include safeguarding adults' content and to ensure their relevance for staff in adult facing agencies
- Courses are delivered by a pool of multi-agency trainers that represent the majority of the BSCB partnership
- Training subgroup members have attended a significant number of courses to evaluate and provide feedback to trainers
- On the day evaluations, completed by participants, evidence that the courses are broadly well received and are used to inform future delivery
- CDOP and CSE e-learning package are now available
- In response to requests from our schools a training package for designated safeguarding leads is in development for the new academic year
- A comprehensive programme of CSE training was provided throughout CSE awareness week for different groups of agencies and covering topics linked to daily themes

In 2015-16 we delivered training to 1,665 practitioners



What we will do next

- We have not been able to implement the planned impact evaluation strategy, due to a lack of administrative capacity. This has now been revised and subgroup members will contact participants from their own agency for feedback a number of weeks after attendance to assess the impact of training on practice
- We will work to better understand the training needs of the multi-agency workforce
- We will work to ensure that consistent safeguarding (including CSE) training is delivered internally by partner agencies
- We will work to better understand the types and lengths of training courses that are needed to secure more full attendance – there have been too many courses that have not been full to capacity
- We will work to more fully analyse our course attendance to identify any agencies that are not accessing specific training

7.4 Policies and Procedures

Clear and comprehensive policies are the foundation of multi-agency work to safeguard children. BSCB, in conjunction with its pan-Lancashire colleagues, provides a comprehensive suite of safeguarding policies and procedures that are available to all practitioners online. The website host provides data to evidence the frequency with which the site is used and all audits and reviews consider whether practice has been in accordance with agreed multi-agency policy.

BSCB seeks to ensure that policies and guidance are available to professionals facing any safeguarding eventuality. During the reporting period policies have been updated to reflect new national guidance (radicalisation and female genital mutilation), changes in local practices (fabricated and induced illness and persons who pose a risk) and learning from serious case reviews (procedures for the recording of surnames and safeguarding in early years settings).

7.5 Management of allegations

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) works with local employers and voluntary organisations to decide whether an allegation about an adult working with children is substantiated or not. By operating independently, the LADO is expected to provide a fair and timely resolution to concerns that are raised and ensure that unsuitable people are removed from the children's workforce.

During the reporting period the LADO received 106 referrals (2015: 91), 53% of which came from Children's Social Care. The remainder were submitted by education providers (28%), health agencies (3%), the Police (10%) and the voluntary sector (6%). Referrals were primarily concerned with people working in education (32%), foster carers (27%) and employees in residential settings for children and young people (13%). 31% of investigations completed within the reporting period were substantiated.

Aside from investigating allegations the LADO also works with organisations to improve their recruitment practices and to ensure that they respond appropriately when allegations are made. It is positive to report that referrals are now being received from the voluntary sector after over a year with none, which may, in part, be attributable to awareness raising work that the LADO has undertaken.

An emerging area of work for the LADO is developing her role in relation to providers of transport. Drivers of school transport services are currently included with the LADO's remit due to being contracted by education providers, however other taxi and bus drivers are not, despite the likelihood that they will, on occasion, be called on to transport unaccompanied children. The ability to investigate allegations made against drivers in these circumstances would add a further degree of protection, both for children and adults who may be subject to malicious allegations, and would support other awareness raising work of BSCB with these groups.



8. LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board is a learning organisation. It therefore seeks to review the work of agencies, both individually and as a partnership, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning and actions taken as a result of reviews and audits is collated in the Learning and Improvement Framework which allows for the identification of trends and themes that can be utilised to inform further activity.

This approach enables BSCB to investigate, better understand and respond to the safeguarding environment in Blackpool. For example, the audit programme for 2016 includes audits in respect of parental substance misuse and strategy meetings as a result of issues raised in serious case reviews. The enhanced understanding of the issue that the audit will provide will allow us to disseminate effective practise and to hold commissioners to account for the provision of services to safeguard children.

BSCB promotes good practice by safeguarding professionals through the publication of serious case reviews on our website and through the production of occasional 'Lessons Learned' newsletters that detail learning from audits and ways that individual practitioners can act on the learning. We recognise that a more structured and professional approach is required to communications and during 2016/17 will be working with the Local Authority marketing team to produce regular newsletters.

8.1 Serious Case Reviews and Multi-Agency Learning Reviews

LSCB are required to undertake a Serious Case Review (SCR) when abuse or neglect is known or suspected and either a child dies, or is seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way that professionals have worked together to safeguard the child. SCR should establish what happened and why and whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. LSCB are required to publish SCR and their response to the findings.

BSCB, through the Case Review subgroup, has managed an unprecedented number of SCR in recent years and during the reporting period completed four reviews that were in progress at the beginning of the year and considered referrals for seven more, one of which proceeded to SCR and is currently in progress. Two further cases were agreed not to meet the threshold for serious case review but were considered to offer learning opportunities, so were made subject to lower level Multi-Agency Learning Reviews. Both remain in progress at the year end.

This year BSCB published two SCR.

Child BT

What happened?

Child BT was born into a family with a history of parental substance misuse and died at the age of two as a consequence of methadone ingestion. There had been considerable agency involvement with Child BT's family prior to and throughout their life. Prior to the incident, as far as agencies were aware, Dad was drug free and Mum was stable on a methadone prescription, although both had experienced periods of stability interspersed with those of more chaotic use throughout recent years. Dad had a lengthy criminal record, but had not come to the attention of authorities for a number of years. It would be fair to say that the lifestyle of both parents adversely impacted on their children.

What did it tell us?

The report identified three areas of effective practice, namely the specialist midwife provision that is available for substance misusing mothers, the safeguarding practices of the private nursery provider that was involved and the number of home visits undertaken by professionals involved with the family. It also carried five findings that were:

- Interagency information sharing and working to support the children of problematic drug users need to be strengthened
- Problematic drug use is prevalent within the borough which carries the risk of it becoming normalised for professionals working with families

- The threshold for intervention was not acted on, despite clear reference in the thresholds document to children in drug using families
- A whole family approach was lacking, the father was known but not included in assessments
- Specialist drug services have a critical role in safeguarding, there were indications that the mother was not complying with treatment, but no action was taken

What have we done?

As a result of the review, Public Health and their commissioned substance misuse service providers have reviewed expectations and practices for working with families, including where and how methadone is stored in the house. Measures are now in place for sharing information with all agencies through MASH. The findings of this review will influence the revision of the thresholds document that is underway to ensure that all professionals are able to respond appropriately to substance misuse in families. A Public Health marketing campaign later in the year will raise public awareness of the need for safe medicine storage. Following completion of the review a learning event was held for practitioners who had been involved in the case.

Child BV

What happened?

Child BV was a four week old baby who was found to be unresponsive in the family home. During the preceding twenty four hours both parents had been drinking heavily and were unable to account for the location in the home in which Child BV was found or their actions during the period. Child BV had only been known to universal services, although it emerged that the father was a consistent heavy drinker.

What did it tell us?

The report concluded that the death of Child BV could not have been predicted or prevented and that agencies could not have altered the outcome in this case. There were, nevertheless, five recommendations made:

- That BSCB undertake a professional and public awareness raising campaign as to the impact of alcohol use on the ability to provide safe care for children
- BSCB should continue to promote the need for agencies to complete early help assessments
- BSCB should promote the need to engage with and include fathers in assessments of families

- The referral pathway into substance misuse services should be reviewed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers with specific reference to the role of self-referrals
- BSCB should introduce a safer sleep assessment, for professionals to use in addition to providing safer sleep advice

What have we done?

A safer sleep assessment has been piloted and will be rolled out later this year to all agencies, while our provider of midwifery and health visiting services has held a vulnerable women's study day to promote the need to work with fathers. The findings of this review around the need for early help assessments will influence the development of the early help strategy reported in Chapter 5 above and an awareness raising campaign around alcohol use and safe care of children is planned for later this year. A learning event was held for practitioners involved with the family.

Other Serious Case Reviews

BSCB has completed two further reviews during the reporting period and taken the unusual step of deciding not to publish them. This is on the grounds of the impact of publication on involved children. This is not a decision that is taken easily and has been made after the receipt of professional advice and full discussion by the Strategic Board. BSCB is, nevertheless, keen that the learning from the reviews is acted upon and has formulated an action plan in respect of the first review that includes the provision of a standard safeguarding guidance and paperwork for all early years providers and developing the recording of strategy meetings in response to one review. The second review was approved at the year end and the action plan will be included in the 2016-17 annual report.

Other action plans

Two actions plans were reported in the 2014-15 annual report as being under development at the year end. The Baby Q SCR provided a significant number of actions for our provider of midwifery and health visiting services who have submitted a comprehensive action plan that includes revised information sharing and handover procedures between midwifery and health visiting services and for transfers out of area and measures to ensure effective handovers between paediatricians when there are safeguarding concerns. Multi-agency procedures have also been revised to ensure consistent practice in the recording of baby's surnames.

The Child BR SCR has resulted in a review of information sharing pathways between GPs and tertiary care providers and an enhanced employee support service being offered to Children's Services staff. The delivery of this action plan has also offered learning for BSCB in terms of the need to set effective and achievable objectives, given that a number have proved to be beyond the influence of the Board (primarily due to their relating to organisations outside Blackpool) and have therefore been removed with the agreement of the Business Management Group.

Serious case reviews inevitably offer learning that can assist individual practitioners to work more effectively. In order to disseminate the findings of reviews as widely as possible BSCB held six SCR briefings during the reporting period that were attended by in excess of 150 multi agency professionals. These provided an overview of all the recently completed reviews and how individual practice might be adapted as a result. The findings of reviews are likewise included throughout the BSCB training programme, for example, findings noted above in respect of fathers influence the content of our 'Working with Fathers' course.

Full copies of SCR reports are available for a year after their publication date on the BSCB website and on request thereafter.

8.2 Audit activity

When a specific issue is identified by a review or data analysis and it is considered that further information is needed to fully understand its implications, BSCB will undertake an audit of practice to inform its next steps.

The Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG) has undertaken five audits during the reporting period which have assessed core group working (twice), practitioner understanding and use of thresholds, early help provision for children that have not proceeded to an initial child protection conference and child protection plans for emotional abuse. The audit group has considered multi agency work with 341 children in the course of these audits, the findings of which have been included throughout this report.

As a result of MAAG audits action plans are developed that often require multi and single-agency system changes and occasional 'Lessons Learned' newsletters are produced for practitioners to promote changes in practice.

The Performance Management and Evaluation Group undertake deep dive audits into services provided by individual agencies in which managers are invited to attend meetings to discuss how their agency meets its safeguarding responsibilities. During the reporting period it has completed audits into substance misuse provision for children, school nursing, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and early help provision.

The CAMHS audit was a follow up to an audit undertaken in October 2014 and provided evidence of successful challenge in the initial audit. This had resulted in improvements being made in respect of out of hours provision, safeguarding training, more flexible places of appointment and a more effective response to children who do not attend initial appointments.

8.3 Dataset

Working Together (2015) requires that the Local Authority and partner agencies provide the LSCB with data and performance information to allow it to assess the effectiveness of services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

BSCB has adopted a dataset that was developed by Greater Manchester LSCBs and is utilised more widely across the region. The dataset contains a suite of indicators that is structured around the overall child population, children with specific vulnerabilities, those at each stage of the safeguarding system and the children's workforce. The dataset is produced on a quarterly basis and monitored by the Performance Management and Evaluation Group, with the full report being submitted to the Strategic Board on a six monthly basis.

In addition to enabling us to understand and assess the effectiveness of safeguarding activity in Blackpool, as summarised in Chapter 5 above, we are able to identify and challenge agencies about specific subjects. As a result of our analysis of the dataset we have undertaken more in-depth work to understand the position and recording of Looked After Children placed outside their home authority, challenged the local authority in respect of their recording of children with disabilities and maintained a focus on the completion of return home interviews for children who go missing from home.

BSCB progress in this respect has, however been hindered by an inability to secure all its expected data indicators, most notably in terms of the completion of early help assessments, and meaningful commentary about individual indicators in the dataset. In order to resolve this the partnership has agreed to the funding of a half time analyst post, although it will remain incumbent on partner agencies to supply data and commentary.

8.4 Child Death Overview Panel and SUDC rapid response

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a subgroup of the three pan-Lancashire LSCB and undertakes the Boards' statutory functions in relation to child deaths.

By its very nature the death of a child is very distressing for parents, siblings, carers and professionals involved with a family. CDOP carries out a systematic review of all child deaths to help understand why children die and to help prevent future deaths. By identifying modifiable factors, the panel can recommend measures to help to improve child safety and to prevent future deaths. Broader findings can be used to inform strategic planning and the commissioning of services. By sharing the function pan-Lancashire there is a greater ability to identify themes and trends.

Within Blackpool there were 12 child deaths during the reporting period and CDOP reviewed 13 (a CDOP review occurs after all other legal and review processes are exhausted, as a result of which the number of reviews will usually differ from the number of deaths).

Of the 13 deaths reviewed:

- 9 (69%) were deemed to have modifiable factors (circumstances that, if changed, would reduce the risk of future child deaths)
- 6 (46%) were expected (predictable 24 hours prior to death)
- 8 (62%) were aged under one year
- 6 (46%) were female

The weakness of CDOP is the small number of deaths considered (even pan-Lancashire only 127 were considered in year) are statistically insignificant. Consequently, while the review of an individual case may cast a light on risk factors or service provision, extreme caution has to be utilised in the drawing of general conclusions. Nevertheless, CDOP has now captured eight years' data since its inception. During the reporting period a review was undertaken of the 752 deaths that have been reviewed by CDOP between 2008 and 2014, of which 71 were of Blackpool residents. This identified that:

- The pan-Lancashire rate of deaths per 100,000 population in the most deprived quintile is 48.0, compared to 40.2 overall
- The three highest recorded categories of death are peri- or neo-natal events, chromosomal or congenital abnormalities and sudden unexpected deaths

- Within Blackpool 48% of deaths were neo-natal and still births/ peri-natal mortality was significantly higher than national and Lancashire averages
- The overall infant mortality trend is declining, although the rate remains above that of England overall
- The riskiest age is the first year and within that the riskiest period is the first four weeks of life

BSCB seeks to both act on and influence the work of CDOP, for example raising the issue of the need for safer sleep assessments as a result of the Child BV SCR and requesting further information from our acute hospital trust in respect of the high number of still births identified in Blackpool.

Safer Sleep campaign

CDOP has a well-established safer sleep campaign that produces safer sleep advice materials that are distributed by partner agencies throughout Lancashire. During this period the campaign was reviewed to include recent research and is now included on the NICE website as an example of effective practice. A specific marketing campaign was conducted in pharmacies to reach families who do not routinely access other services. During forthcoming months materials will be distributed to ensure that professionals providing safer sleep advice also make an assessment of sleeping arrangements.

Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Childhood (SUDC)

Working Together (2015) requires LSCB to ensure that a multi-agency rapid response process is in place to review the circumstances of any unexpected death of a child. Multi-agency colleagues work together to share information to ensure a thorough investigation, to ensure that the bereavement needs of the family are met and that lessons are learned from the death, where possible. The pan-Lancashire SUDC service is led by two nurses (outside office hours initial co-ordination is provided by Lancashire Constabulary), in conjunction with a range of multi-agency partners, including children's services, acute hospital trusts and North West Ambulance Service.

During the reporting period Lancashire LSCB was reviewed by Ofsted and our shared rapid response service was found to be effective. An external review of the service is being undertaken which will assess its compliance with Working Together and identify any issues with its delivery, while a separate review of all sudden unexplained deaths between 2012 and 2015 is also being completed. Both will be reported in the 2016-17 annual report.

A more full analysis of the work of CDOP can be found in its annual report that is available on the BSCB website.

8.5 Section 11 audit

BSCB requires all its partner agencies to complete an annual self-evaluation as to whether they are meeting their responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act (2004). In 2015 returns were received from all expected agencies, including for the first time North West Ambulance Service and British Transport Police. Returns are scrutinised by the Performance Management and Evaluation Group which decided to test the veracity of returns through visits to meet frontline practitioners in three agencies: North West Ambulance Service, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and Lancashire Constabulary.

This approach provided evidence of good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practice in each agency, together with evidence that the information provided about training and employee support programmes provided within the Section 11 return reflected the experience of frontline practitioners.

Specific examples of good practice were identified in ambulance staff making assessments of home conditions, in addition to their primary duties of emergency response, while Police staff had forged relations with schools and children's homes in their area and were therefore able to identify safeguarding issues at an early stage. Adult mental health staff were able to recognise the need to consider the needs of children within assessments of their parents/ carers and were able to access support when concerns were evident.

As a result of the visits, arrangements have now been made to invite ambulance staff to SUDC end of case decision meetings and Lancashire Constabulary have taken measures to improve the distribution of SCR learning. BSCB will also act on feedback provided around information sharing between schools and police colleagues and will work with BSAB to ensure effective transitions between children's and adults' mental health services. There was additionally a general lack of awareness of the work of BSCB, which will be addressed through the production of newsletters and marketing campaigns in the forthcoming year.

BSCB has tested Section 11 audit returns through a variety of means in recent years and the approach adopted during this reporting period of visits to the frontline was effective in confirming that information contained in audit returns reflects the experience of practitioners. However, the approach was time consuming and only covered a minority of practitioners in a minority of agencies. It is therefore likely that this will form part of a wider ongoing approach.

8.6 Inspection and review of partner agencies

The majority of Board partner agencies are subject to individual inspection regimes and as part of its remit to ensure that safeguarding provision is effective BSCB will review reports where concerns are raised in respect of safeguarding practices. As a result of this scrutiny BSCB may request an update as to progress made or may offer to provide more in-depth support to enable an agency to improve its practice.

During the reporting period we received an update report from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals that noted an overall improvement to 'good' and that staff were able to demonstrate a good knowledge of safeguarding. Their safeguarding team have subsequently been nominated for two national awards. Reports have been received and support provided to South Shore Academy and Highfield Humanities College, both of whom received inadequate Ofsted inspections. More positively, St Nicholas Church of England Primary School received Blackpool's first outstanding school inspection since 2009, while over 90% of early years providers have good or outstanding judgements which is amongst the best rates in the country.



9. THE WORK OF OUR PARTNERS

BSCB is keen to promote good practice within Blackpool and to a wider audience. The following examples demonstrate innovative and successful single and multi-agency work undertaken in Blackpool to safeguard our children.

Better Start

Better Start is a multi-agency project, led by the NSPCC, that has obtained £45 million of Big Lottery funding over a ten year period to improve the life chances of children aged 0-4 and their families. The project seeks to provide two outcomes of healthy gestation and birth and school readiness and is built on four cornerstones of improving public health outcomes, transforming systems, ensuring evidence based interventions are delivered to address specific needs and building and sharing learning from work undertaken.

The programme will be rolled out over a ten year period and to date public health campaigns to address alcohol exposure in pregnancy and oral health have been delivered, while Video Interaction Guidance and Parents Under Pressure courses are available. Video Interaction Guidance is a 10-12 week programme that provides parents with recorded footage of positive interactions that they have with their children, with a view to developing confidence in their ability to parent successfully. Evidenced outcomes are a reduction in children's emotional and behavioural difficulties. Parents Under Pressure is an intensive parenting programme for parents who misuse substances. It has been shown to have a positive impact on child abuse potential and to improve parent-child interactions. In forthcoming months the Safe Care programme will be implemented, this provides for intervention with families where there are concerns in respect of neglect, but not at a level to trigger child protection processes. By the conclusion of the Better Start funding period changes should have embedded to the extent that they are part of the overall system and children are born into an environment in which help is provided at the earliest opportunity, thereby improving life chances and reducing the demand for more costly, higher tier services.

Head Start

Blackpool Council is the lead organisation for the Head Start partnership which is currently piloting a project to raise the emotional resilience of 10-14 year olds, with a particular focus on the transition from primary to secondary school. The project is based on an ecological approach that aims to provide a wider environment in which young people are able to flourish. Current interventions include walk and talk counselling, online counselling, art therapy and specific work on exam and prom stress. It has been announced, following the end of the reporting period, that a bid for funding to secure the longer term future has been successful, as a result of which all children in Blackpool will benefit from the project.

Socially Complex Needs Midwifery team

The Blackpool Teaching Hospitals (BTH) Socially Complex Needs (SCN) Midwifery team coordinate and provide care for vulnerable groups including non-English speaking families, substance misusing women, women who are victims of domestic abuse, women with mental health issues, young parents and those who have had previous children removed from their care. There is a negative lifelong impact of poor early bonding and attachment, the SCN team therefore have a vital role to play in improving health and social wellbeing for all women thus reducing health inequalities.

The SCN team work closely with the BTH Safeguarding team and Children's Social Care to ensure timely referrals, assessment, and that a robust birth plan is in place which encompasses the needs and identifies any risk to the unborn. The team also provide screening, education and awareness for women, their partners and families, co-ordinating care to improve family health and wellbeing. They work with the health visitor, who becomes involved with the Mother and unborn at 28 weeks' gestation, thus giving opportunity for joint working and sharing of information. Within 28 days of birth, the care is transferred to the health visitor who will oversee the longer term health and wellbeing of mother and baby. The work of the SCN team has been recognised by both the Baby Q and Child BT serious case reviews as providing an excellent standard of care to mothers with complex needs.

Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) work with first time mothers under 19, many of whom have the same vulnerabilities and complexities as those who are engaging with the SCN Midwifery team. The programme aims to enable young mums to have a healthy pregnancy, improve their child's health and development and plan their own futures and achieve their aspirations. The care is delivered over a 2 year period and is an evidence based approach.

The FNP is a preventative programme and has the potential to transform the life chances of the most disadvantaged children and families in Blackpool, helping to improve social mobility and aims to break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage. The FNP works closely with the BTH Safeguarding Team, SCN midwifery team and children's social care to ensure timely referrals, planning of care and robust sharing of information.

Care leavers housing project

Blackpool Coastal Housing and Blackpool Council are working together to support care leavers into successful tenancies. The care leavers are provided with a support worker to work with them to establish their tenancy, ensure that services are in place and to provide longer term support and mentoring. By doing so the young person will have a home that they can take pride in, there will be a higher chance of them maintaining their tenancy and they will be provided with an additional layer of support as they transition into adulthood.

Child and adolescent self-harm enhanced response (CASHER)

CASHER is a pilot programme delivered in the accident and emergency department of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals. It has been funded by the Blackpool and Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Groups and was prompted by Blackpool having the highest rate of hospital admissions due to self-harm amongst 10-24 year olds in England. CASHER provides an out-of-hours multi-agency response to children who self-harm or display symptoms of mental-health problems. The programme aims to ensure that children are referred into appropriate services (including those to address contributory factors to their presentation such as substance misuse) at the earliest possible juncture and to consequently reduce the need for and length of admissions. Additional outcomes have included the development of wider multi-agency working practices to address issues that have become evident during the pilot.

Cumbria and Lancashire CRC

Cumbria and Lancashire CRC introduced a new initiative in Blackpool, delivered by PACT which is a national charity supporting people affected by the criminal justice system. PACT will provide one to one and group work for offenders, children and families in prisons and the community. This can include Relationship Courses to help build, develop and strengthen relationships within families; Parenting Courses to help develop positive relationships with children and Family Literacy workshops to support parents to help their children with reading, writing and language.

Case studies

YOT

Rob* moved to Blackpool in his mid-teens to try and make a break from negative peer associations and to tackle his drug use. He was subject to Youth Offending Team supervision and referred himself to substance misuse services.

Unfortunately, his relationship with the family member with whom he lived broke down to the extent that he became homeless, which necessitated the involvement of Children's Social Care. Supported housing was secured for Rob which provided practical support and enabled him to develop the life skills that ultimately made it possible for him to stop drug use altogether.

Throughout this period multi-agency work was co-ordinated in regular Multi-Agency Risk Management Meetings that ensured a unified plan to meet Rob's needs and address his offending behaviour. Regular meetings were also held with Rob at his accommodation to ensure that he was supported to achieve his goals for the future.

After a while it became evident that Rob had unmet mental health needs and, with his permission, a referral was made to mental health services. Rob has subsequently received a diagnosis and is being provided with medication and support. He has now been abstinent from street drugs for several months, is accessing a college course and looking to move to semi-independent accommodation.

*all names have been changed to protect the anonymity of those involved.

FIN/ BCH

The Davis* family, who were being supported by the multi-agency Families in Need (FIN) team became homeless and accessed emergency hostel accommodation. While they were resident there FIN worked with the hostel support staff to ensure that they were aware of the family's needs, that they continued to attend health appointments and that the children were able to safely travel to and from school, thereby reducing the disruption that the children experienced.

The agencies worked together to complete a GIR continuous assessment tool, after which, in view of the risks to the family from other parties, a referral to the Duty and Assessment team was made. FIN ensured that all involved were kept aware of the risks to the family and by sharing their expertise, FIN and the hostel staff were able to secure suitable move on accommodation. Support was finally provided to ensure that possessions were not lost on moving and that the family's immediate basic needs were met once they had moved.

Secondary School

Lucy* is a pupil at a mainstream secondary school in Blackpool but has a very poor attendance record, which is thought to stem from her own mental health problems and a difficult home environment. Professionals who accessed the home described it as being unliveable and residents were noted to have very poor standards of personal hygiene. This increased concerns that Lucy was being neglected, while it was noted that her mother seemed unable to fully communicate with or support her as a consequence of her own mental health difficulties.

The complexity of issues in the household was such that a significant number of agencies were needed to support the family to make changes and to reduce the risks to Lucy. Involvement was therefore secured from school pastoral and child protection staff, Children's Social Care, the Families in Need Team, CAMHS, school nursing, the Police, the housing provider and adult mental health service. By providing a co-ordinated response to address multiple needs the level of neglect that Lucy experienced has been reduced and both the family's home environment and personal hygiene have improved. By securing mental health provision for both Lucy and her mother they are able to communicate more effectively and Lucy's attendance at school has now improved and she has been able to remain in mainstream education.

LCFT

Sally* is an adult who is receiving support for her mental health needs from Anne*, a Registered Mental Health Nurse. Sally disclosed that when she was younger a care worker abused her as a result of which she experiences low moods, anxiety and thoughts of self-harm. This experience has made it difficult for her to trust professionals. Anne reflected on this case with the Safeguarding Team and was advised that there are some concerns that needed to be addressed urgently and information needed to be shared to ensure there was no current risk to other young people from the care worker who abused her, this would also demonstrate to Sally that agencies would believe her. With support Sally was able to provide further information about the care worker which was provided to the LADO.

It also emerged that during her 'welcome call' to services, Sally refused to disclose details of her children, or that they were already known to Children's Social Care. Anne was curious as to why she refused to provide her children's names but was able to establish the details of the four children by contacting other health and children's social care colleagues. Anne was then able to establish which other services were supporting the family and was able to ensure they were aware of her role in providing care and support to the family. All agencies were then able to share appropriate information to ensure the safety of the children. Conversations and plans also include Sally's needs and Anne was able to help guide her through the meetings and support plans. With co-ordinated interventions Sally's mental health improved, her Trust of services improved and the family were supported to stay together.

*all names have been changed to protect the anonymity of those involved.

10. ASSESSMENT OF BOARD EFFECTIVENESS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

BSCB was reviewed by Ofsted in July 2014 and found to require improvement. We are confident that we have made significant progress in respect of the majority of issues that were raised in this review. We are now compliant with statutory requirements in terms of membership and have made significant progress in engaging schools at strategic board, subgroup and operational levels. We have developed our range of performance information through a revised dataset, Section 11 audits and single agency deep dive audits which, together with our ongoing audit and review programme, form our Learning and Improvement Framework. The findings contained therein have been used to develop our audit programme and to pursue service improvements, for example the domestic abuse perpetrator programme.

Some areas raised by Ofsted remain ongoing pieces of work on our business plan. While the use of the thresholds document is embedded in all our training and one audit has provided some re-assurance about practitioner understanding, other serious case reviews and practitioner consultations suggest that the issue has yet to be resolved. BSCB is likewise not assured that consistent early help is provided across the partnership, partly due to a lack of quantitative evidence. These two areas will form key priorities for BSCB during the early parts of the 2016/17 business year. The provision of early help likewise remains the primary concern in terms of its assurance of the robustness of the overall safeguarding system.

More broadly, consistent progress has been made toward the delivery of the CSE action during 2015-16, however the evolution of the response to children missing from home has been slower and significant improvements are required in the rate of completion of return home interviews. The slow progress made in terms of delivering a neglect assessment tool remains a source of concern and will attract the scrutiny of BSCB throughout the forthcoming year. As the year has progressed other safeguarding issues have emerged nationally, namely radicalisation and familial child sexual abuse, which will come to form part of BSCB's ongoing programme of work. Locally, we have become increasingly aware of the high number of children who self-harm and will seek to ensure that agency responses are effective.

While the Learning and Improvement Framework now provides a means to collate learning and plan ongoing activity, work to evidence outcomes is less well embedded and should come to form a routine part of Board activity. One mean that this can be achieved – through consultation with children and young people – is in development, which should allow some progress to be made to better understand the impact of BSCB activity.

BSCB had an external review in October 2015 by the Independent Chair of Liverpool LSCB. On the day Board members commented that they felt there was more consistency in attendance, more debates and challenge in meetings and that the Board was more focussed and driven from the top. A consistent theme throughout the day was the need for greater co-ordination between strategic boards in Blackpool to reduce duplication and improve communication. This issue is being addressed by the Independent Chair through meetings with other strategic board chairs and through a wider review of governance arrangements in Blackpool. Board members also highlighted the lack of commentary provided within the dataset and this challenge to our partner agencies to provide meaningful data and commentary remains.

More broadly 2016-17 will be a period in which many of our partner agencies experience a reduction in resources, this comes at a time when we know that the numbers of children in need of protection is increasing. BSCB has written to all partner agencies to request assurance that risks to safeguarding provision will be mitigated when changes are made to services. This will remain an important focus of our work during the forthcoming year.

Finally, the Government's response to the Wood review of LSCB suggests that significant changes could be made to the strategic multi-agency responsibilities for safeguarding during the forthcoming year. During what may be a transitional period, BSCB will seek to continue to hold its partner agencies to account for the effectiveness of their safeguarding responses.

11. MESSAGES FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Children and Young People

Nothing is more important than making sure that you are safe and well cared for. As adults, sometimes we think that we know best... we don't... and that's why we want to hear from you. Please help us understand how we could make a difference to your lives. If you are ever scared or worried about your own safety, or that of a friend, please speak to someone that you trust or ring ChildLine on 0800 1111

The people of Blackpool

You are best placed to look out for children and young people and make sure that they are safe. Don't turn a blind eye. If you see something, say something. If you are worried about a child please call the Duty and Assessment team on 01253 477299. You will not have to leave your name if you do not want to.

Frontline staff and volunteers who work with children and families

Thank you for your unstinting work to keep children safe in Blackpool. Please ensure that you keep up to date with the changing safeguarding environment and use our shared policies for keeping children safe. If you do not agree with the actions of other agencies escalate your concerns, it may help keep a child safe. Make use of our free multi-agency training programme and get involved in other Board activities for practitioners.

Elected members

You are the leaders and representatives of our local communities. When you consider plans ask what effect they will have on our children and whether they will ensure that they are safe. You are corporate parents to children in the care of the Local Authority. Demand the best for them, ensure that they have the life chances you would want your own children to have.

Chief Executives and Directors

You set the tone and culture for your organisation. Inspire others to be interested in children and to keep them safe in everything that they do. Provide time for staff to attend our training and hold them to account for applying their learning. Ensure that you comply with your Section 11 duties and provide evidence to us of how you do this.

Commissioners

If you have control of a budget that is used to commission a service for children ensure that you listen to children when you make decisions. Hold your providers to account to meet their responsibilities to safeguard children.

The local media

Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility. Help us communicate this to the local community. Every year hundreds of children in Blackpool are kept safe from harm. This is good news.

12. APPENDICES

Strategic Board members at the time of publication

Name	Title	Agency
David Sanders	Independent Chair	
Jenny Briscoe	Lay Member	
Cllr Graham Cain	Elected Member	Blackpool Council
Cllr Debbie Coleman	Elected Member	Blackpool Council
Delyth Curtis	Director of Children's Services	Blackpool Council
Dr Arif Rajpura	Director of Public Health	Blackpool Council
John Blackledge	Director of Community and Environment Services	Blackpool Council
Amanda Hatton	Deputy Director of People	Blackpool Council
Josephine Lee	Interim Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker	Blackpool Council
Moya Foster	Senior Service Manager (Early Help)	Blackpool Council
Andrew Lowe	YOT Service Manager	Blackpool Council
Kate Barker	Lead Early Years Consultant	Blackpool Council
Paul Turner	Schools' Safeguarding Advisor	Blackpool Council
Helen Williams	Chief Nurse	Blackpool CCG
Cathie Turner	Designated Nurse	Blackpool CCG
Dr Sujata Singh	GP Representative	Blackpool CCG
Marie Thompson	Director of Nursing and Quality	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Hazel Gregory	Head of Safeguarding	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Rob Wheatley	Designated Doctor	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Bridgett Welch	Assistant Director of Nursing	Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
Sue Warburton	Deputy Director of Nursing	NHS England
David Rigby	Sector Manager	NW Ambulance Service
Nikki Evans	Superintendent	Lancashire Constabulary
Andrew Webster	Detective Superintendent	Lancashire Constabulary
John Donnellon	Chief Executive	Blackpool Coastal Housing
Vacant	Director 14-19	Blackpool and the Fylde College
Jane Bailey	Principal	South Shore Academy
Rosie Sycamore	Headteacher	Highfurlong Special School
Karen McCarter	Headteacher	Norbreck Primary Academy
Cara Vaughan	Deputy Principal	Waterloo Primary Academy
Jackie Couldridge	Service Manager	CAFCASS
Martin Murphy	Senior Service Manager	NSPCC
Sonia Turner	Assistant Deputy Director	NW National Probation Service
Louise Fisher	Assistant Chief Executive	Cumbria and Lancashire CRC

Glossary of acronyms

BMG	Business Management Group
BSAB	Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board
BSCB	Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board
BTH	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CASHER	Child and Adolescent Self-Harm Enhanced Response
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CIB	Children's Improvement Board
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
FIN	Families in Need (team)
FNP	Family Nurse Partnership
GIR	Getting it Right
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LAC	Looked After Child
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MAAG	Multi-Agency Audit Group
MACSE	Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (meeting)
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MFH	Missing From Home
NICE	National Institute for Clinical Excellence
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PMEG	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Group
PVP	Police Vulnerable Person (referral)
SCN	Socially Complex Needs (Midwifery team)
SCR	Serious Case Review
SUDC	Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Childhood
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Ruth Henshaw, Delivery Development Officer
Date of Meeting:	13 October 2016

COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT Q1 2016/17

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider performance against the Council Plan 2015-20 for the period 1 April – 30 June 2016.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the content of the report and highlight any areas for further scrutiny which will be reported back to the Committee at the next meeting.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of performance against the Council Plan 2015-20.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered: N/A

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: 'Communities – create stronger communities and increase resilience'.

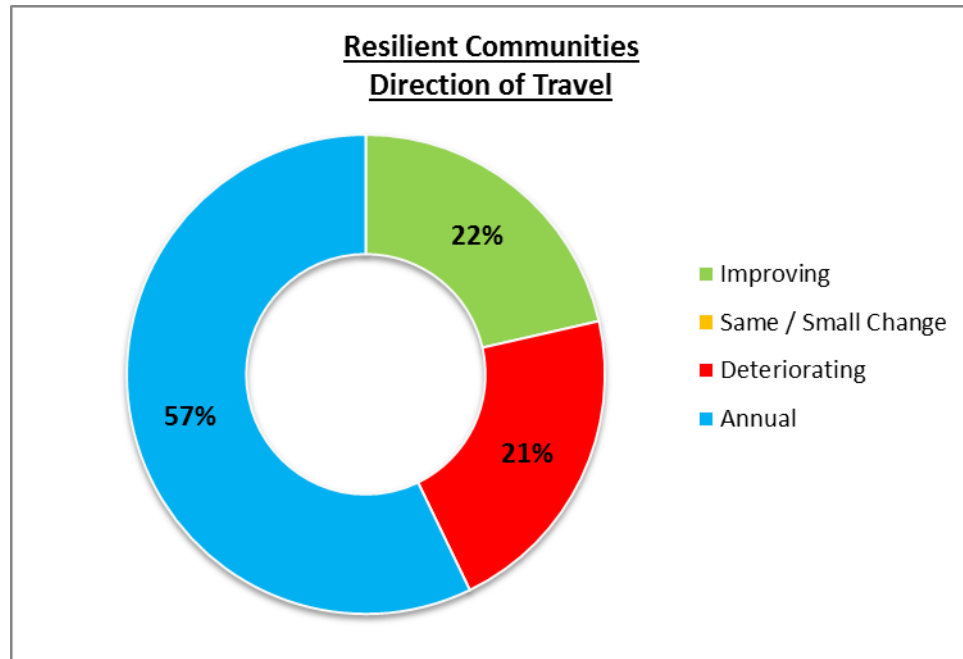
5.0 Background information

5.1 This report reviews performance against the priorities in the Council Plan 2015 - 2020. The report focuses on a set of core performance indicators which have been developed in consultation with the Corporate Leadership Team.

5.2 Performance against the resilient communities indicators will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee.

6.0 Overview of Performance

6.1 There are 14 indicators within the performance basket for Resilient Communities. The graph below shows the direction of travel against performance in Q1 2016/17 compared with previous performance.



6.2 The majority of the Council Plan indicators for this Committee are either annual or bi-annual and therefore cannot be reported in this quarter. Of those indicators where data is available, half are showing an improvement in performance.

6.3 There are three indicators where performance has deteriorated in Quarter 1 2016/17:

- Number of referrals / Rate of referrals to Social Care per 10,000 children;
- Number of looked after children / Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population; and
- % of children who became subject to a child protection plan for a 2nd or subsequent time.

Further information on these indicators can be found in **Appendix 9(b) – Q1 Exception Reports**.

7.0 Witnesses/representatives

7.1 The following persons have been invited to attend the meeting to report on this item:

Ruth Henshaw, Delivery Development Officer

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 9(a): Q1 KPI Spreadsheet

Appendix 9(b): Q1 Exception Reports

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Human Resources considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 None

14.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

14.1 None.

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 None

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Corporate Key Performance Indicators
Performance as at 30th June 2016

KEY - Direction of Travel Icons:

↑✓	Performance is improving or on target
↓✓	Performance is improving or on target
↑↓	Small deterioration in performance / slightly off target
↔	No change
↑✘	Performance is deteriorating or off target
↓✘	Performance is deteriorating or off target

Lead Cabinet Member	Indicator	Outturn 2013/14	Outturn 2014/15	Outturn 2015/16	DoT (13/14 v 15/16)	2016/17				Outturn 2016/17	Target 2016/17	Direction of Travel		Notes	Dept
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Against Previous	Against Target		
Cabinet Secretary £0 (Resilient Communities)	CLlr Cain	% take up of free school breakfasts	77.4%	82.3%	83.1%	↑✓	A	A	A		Increase on last year	Annual			CES
	CLlr Cain	Death to service time for cremations (% within 14 days)	56%	41%	44.9%	↓✘	39.2%				60%	↑✓	n/a	39.2% compared with 35.6% in Q1 2015/16.	GPS
	CLlr Cross	Proportion of service users with a completed review in year	58.7%	54.8%	48.7%	↓✘	26.5% (991/3,745)				60%	↑✓	n/a	26.5% compared with 15.1% in Q1 2015/16.	AS
	CLlr Cross	Permanent admissions of older people (65+) to residential care per 100,000 population	994.3 per 100,000 pop.	876.5 per 100,000 pop.	983.1 per 100,000 pop.	↓✓	No. 46 / Rate 161.7				1,100 per 100,000 pop.	↓✓	n/a	161.7 compared with 245.8 per 100,000 pop. in Q1 2015/16.	AS
	CLlr Cross	Proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation	84.6%	78.6%	78.1%	↓✘	A	A	A		80%	Annual			AS
	CLlr Cross	Proportion of older people offered reablement services following a discharge from hospital	1.9%	1.8%	Data available Oct 2016	n/a	A	A		A	Increase on last year	Annual			AS
	CLlr Cain	% of children attending a primary or secondary school judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding	73.2%	68.3%	61.9%	↓✘	A		A	A	75%	Annual			CS
	CLlr Cain	Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	46.7%	44.6%	41.5%	↓✘	A		A	A	55%	Annual			CS
	CLlr Cain	% of children achieving Level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2	75.6%	77.4%	78.8%	↑✓	A		A	A	80%	Annual			CS
	CLlr Cain	% of pupils achieving a Good level of development at EYFS profile	51.8%	54.9%	61%	↑✓	A		A	A	TBC	Annual			CS
	CLlr Cain	% of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training	6.8%	6.5%	6.4%	↓✓	A	A	A		6.2%	Annual			CS
	CLlr Cain	No. of referrals / Rate of referrals to Social Care per 10,000 children	No. 3,610 / Rate 1,242.2	No. 2,774 / Rate 955.6	No. 2,551 / Rate 885.5	↓✓	No. 2,813 / Rate 976.4				No. 2,291 / Rate 795.4	↑✘	↑✘	Figures based on rolling 12 month average.	CS
	CLlr Cain	Number of children looked after / rate of children looked after per 10,000 population	No. 443 / Rate 152.4	No. 454 / Rate 156.4	No. 469 / Rate 162.8	↑✘	No. 487 / Rate 169				No. 443 / Rate 153.8	↑✘	↑✘		CS
	CLlr Cain	% of children who became subject to a child protection plan for a 2nd or subsequent time	18.4%	18.2%	19.1%	↑✘	21.6%				TBC	↑✘	n/a	Performance has worsened since Q4 15/16 although there has been a slight improvement on Q1 15/16 (22.4%).	CS

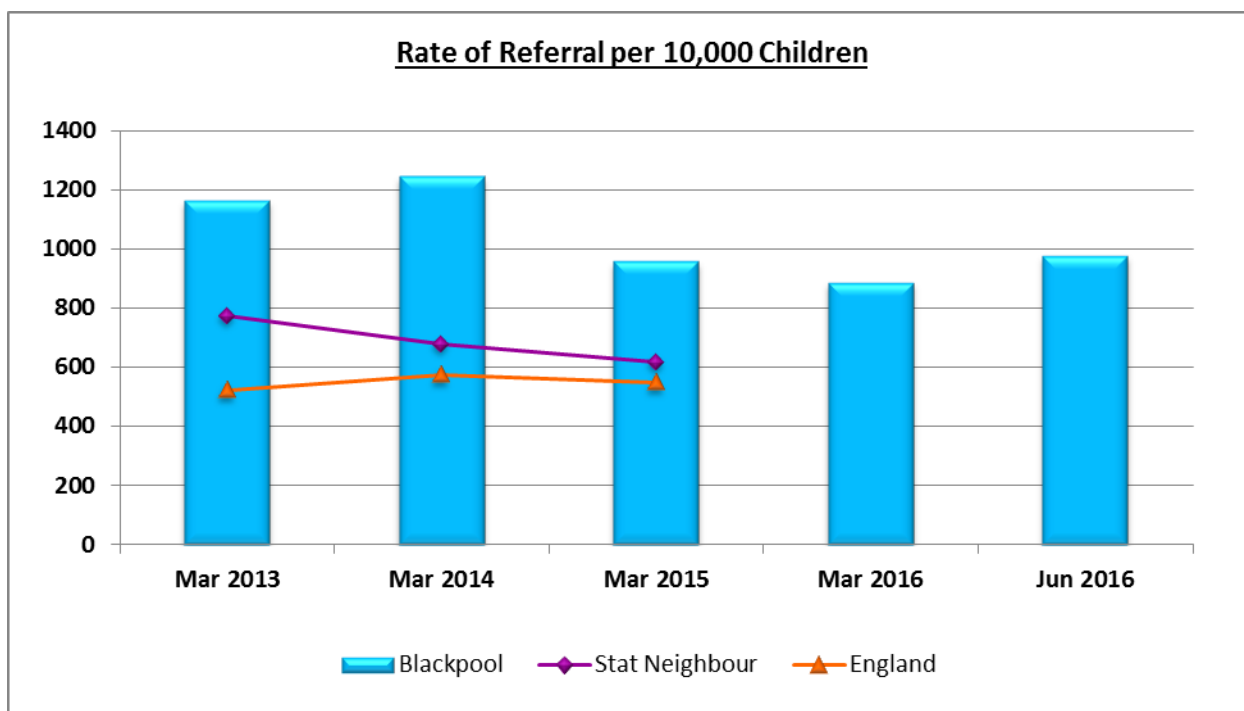
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**CABINET SECRETARY
(RESILIENT COMMUNITIES)**

Indicator Description	Better to be?
Number of referrals / Rate of referral to Social Care per 10,000 children	Low

No. (Rate)	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target
	2,774 (955.6)	2,551 (885.5)	2,813 (976.4)				2,291 (795.4)

Direction of Travel			
Current vs. EoY (15/16)	Current vs. EoY (14/15)	Current vs. England (14/15)	Current vs. Stat Neighbour (14/15)
↑*	↑*	↑*	↑*



Commentary:

The number of referrals has increased in the month of April, however the number of contacts leading to social care referrals has also increased which would suggest that the quality of contact and referral has improved. The number of referrals increased again in the month of May before dropping in June, in line with the pattern of the numbers of contacts.

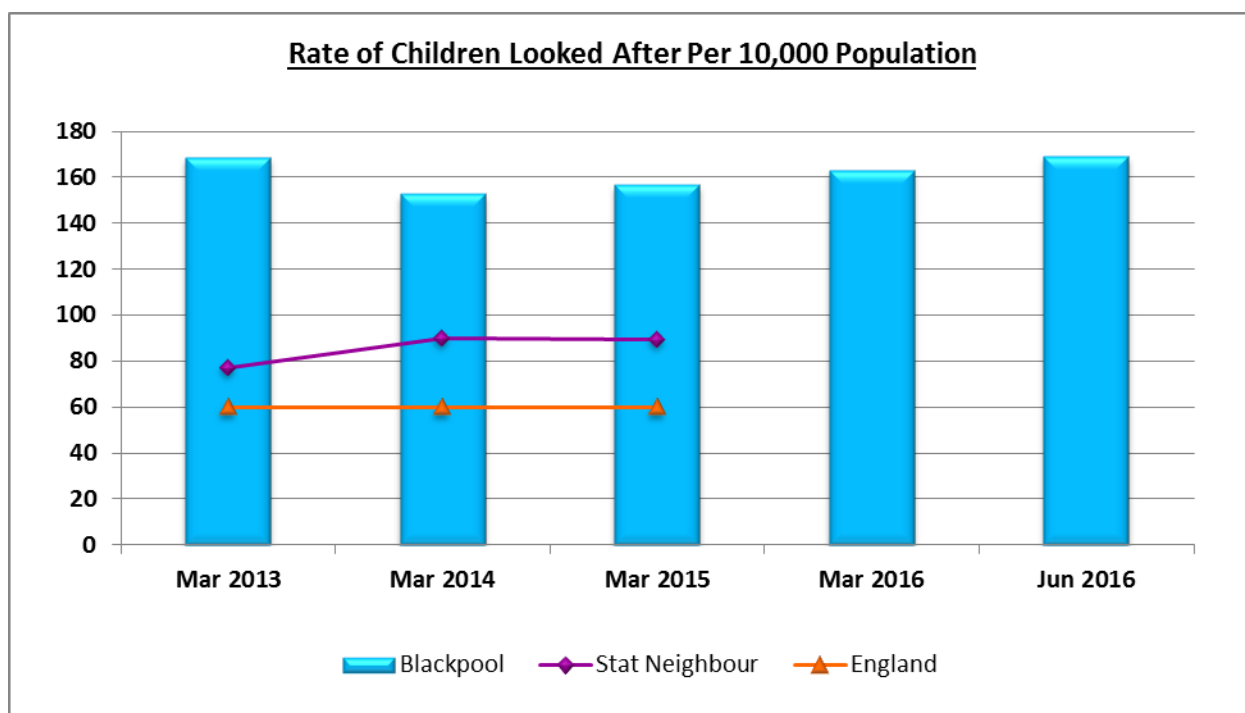
The numbers in total remain high resulting in high caseloads within the Duty and Assessment Teams.

Appendix 9(b) - Exception Reports (Q1 2016/17)

Indicator Description	Better to be?
No. of children looked after / rate of children looked after per 10,000 population	Low

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17				Target
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
No. (Rate)	454 (156.4)	469 (162.8)	487 (169)				443 (153.8)

Direction of Travel			
Current vs. EoY (15/16)	Current vs. EoY (14/15)	Current vs. England (14/15)	Current vs. Stat Neighbour (14/15)
↑*	↑*	↑*	↑*



Commentary:

Since Christmas we have seen a significant increase in the number of looked after children. This is due to a number of babies entering care and one family of 9 children requiring a placement. The current number of looked after children is 486 (as at 23rd August).

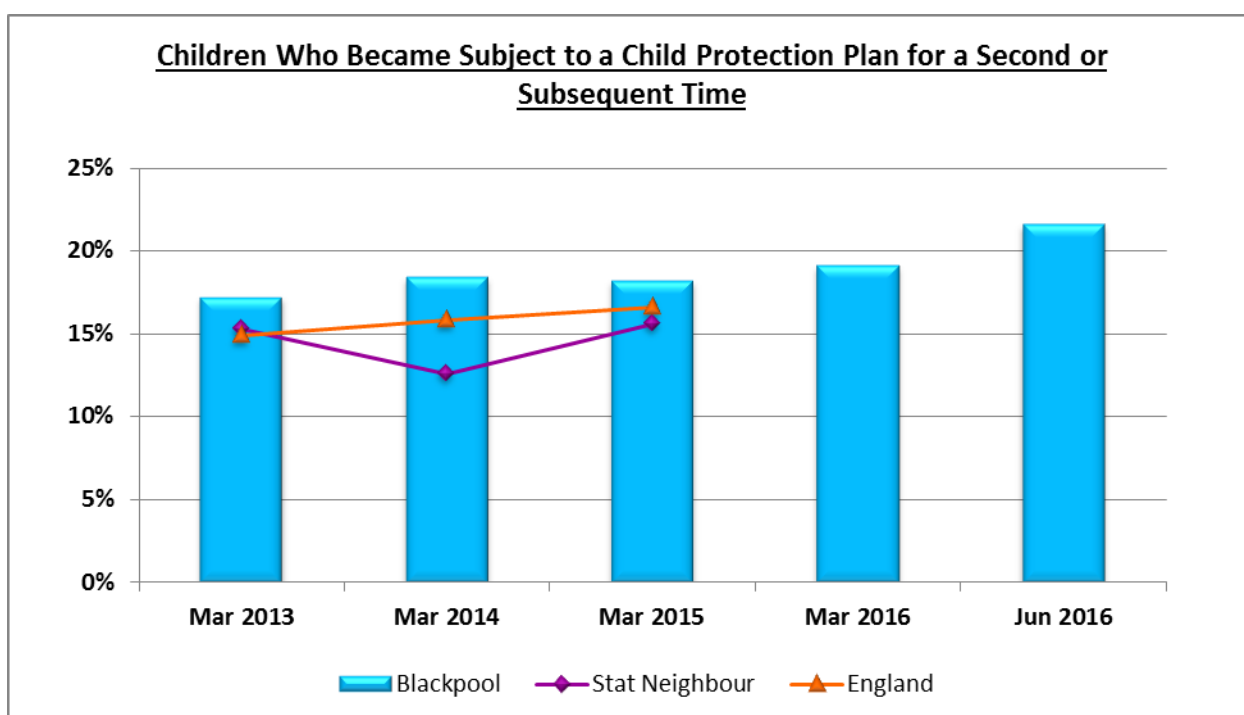
We are reviewing our current residential provision and looking at the full range of placements we have available to our young people. We have a number of young people with very complex needs that are extremely difficult to place and we are looking at how we could develop bespoke high level therapeutic placements for this group of young people. In addition we are working to consider an edge of care model similar to that provided in Blackburn and also a PAUSE project to reduce the numbers of babies that require placements.

Appendix 9(b) - Exception Reports (Q1 2016/17)

Indicator Description	Better to be?
% of children who became subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time	Low

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target
18.2%	19.1%	21.6%				TBC

Direction of Travel			
Current vs. EoY (15/16)	Current vs. EoY (14/15)	Current vs. England (14/15)	Current vs. Stat Neighbour (14/15)
↑*	↑*	↑*	↑*



Commentary:

In December 2015 our performance was 15.5%. This has increased to 16.6% in February and then to 19.1% in March 2016. This is a significant increase within a 4 week period and would suggest that a number of the children who became subject to a child protection plan in March had been on a plan previously. Performance in the first 2 months of 2016/17 decreased to 15.7% before increasing to 21.6% in June.

An audit has been undertaken by the Safeguarding and Review Service Manager with regard to the percentage of children who became subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time. The recommendations from this audit can be found in the PI Book for October 2015.

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Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.
Date of Meeting	13 October 2016

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the scrutiny process continues to be fully accountable and an important part of the democratic process.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

5.0 Background Information

At the end of each Municipal Year, a report is produced detailing the work carried out by the Council's Scrutiny Committees and Panels during the last year.

The report will be distributed to councillors, key officers and external organisations with an interest in the work of Overview and Scrutiny.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 10(a) - Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

Focus

This annual report provides an overview of the work carried out by Scrutiny during the Municipal Year 2015/2016.

In 2015/2016 a new Scrutiny structure based on two committees was introduced to promote an increased focus on the Council's two priorities: The Economy: maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool *and* Communities: creating stronger communities and increasing resilience. Alongside the new structure, a new culture of effective questioning and challenge of Executive Members, Senior Officers and key priorities and performance has been developed.

The change in structure and culture has made a huge impact to the way in which scrutiny is undertaken in Blackpool with more challenge being provided than ever before.

Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has considered a number of key issues, including Child Sexual Exploitation, Social Care Placements, Mental Health provision and Respite Care alongside more general reporting from both Children's and Adult's Services on a regular basis.

In addition the Committee has held three special meetings. Two of these meetings have been focused on The Harbour, where Members have raised a number of concerns with Lancashire Care Foundation Trust regarding the provision of services to patients, lack of bed capacity in the mental health sector and lack of community provision.

The third meeting was a joint meeting with Members of the Tourism, Economy and Resources Committee due to the cross cutting nature of the items being considered. Thematic discussions on Homelessness and Domestic Violence were held resulting in recommendations to undertake further scrutiny of the health of homeless people and the Domestic Violence Strategy.

The Committee also undertook the statutory health scrutiny function receiving regular reports on topics such as performance from the Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Blackpool Hospitals Trust and Healthwatch.

Scrutiny @ Blackpool

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Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has successfully undertaken its role to scrutinise the functions and responsibilities within the portfolios of the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council. Cabinet Members and senior officers have been held to account in terms of both decisions taken and proposed Key decisions.

Members have developed a focus on scrutinising relevant performance information to ensure that targets are met in order to improve outcomes in areas including Waste Services and Street Cleansing, Transience, Tourism and Car Parking.

The Committee has effectively undertaken its role in financial management monitoring as well as considering the calculated cumulative impact of budget cuts in Blackpool since 2011/2012. The Committee also held a Budget Consultation meeting with Non-Domestic Ratepayers and Trade Union Representatives to consider the budget proposals for 2016/2017.

With regards to the Committee's statutory responsibility, the performance of the Community Safety Partnership has been regularly scrutinised and officers and Members of the Partnership have been held to account.

The Committee has also undertaken its statutory scrutiny duty to consider the delivery of flood risk management and other duties in respect of bathing water management.

Looking Forward 2016/2017

A new Health Scrutiny Committee has been introduced to ensure effective scrutiny of health bodies and concerns in Blackpool. The Committee is developing its workplan to ensure a focused approach to scrutiny of health and will be continuing with the work the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee started on The Harbour.

The remit of the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee has been amended following the removal of Health Scrutiny and as such will have the capacity to focus on the effective scrutiny of Children's and Adults Services. The Committee hopes to hold a number of thematic discussions on key areas including Care at Home, Early Help and the Youth Justice System. Further joint pieces of work will be undertaken, as appropriate, moving forward.

The Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee will continue to monitor the financial performance of the authority, as well as monitoring performance of the Community Safety Partnership, Tourism, Council-owned Car Parks, Waste Services and Street Cleansing. The Committee will also look to embed scrutiny of the Council Plan in relation to the Council Priority: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

Pupil Referral Unit Scrutiny Review Panel



The Review Panel was established following concerns raised by the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee regarding the size of the Pupil Referral Unit in Blackpool. A single meeting was held to gather evidence and speak to appropriate officers and was a number of conclusions and recommendations were drawn to make improvements, all of which were accepted by the Executive.

Recommendations included providing a consistent approach to school exclusions and providing educational diversity in every school.

The Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee has been monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and is pleased with the progress made to date.

Public Health Scrutiny Review Panel

The Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee considered that there were a large number of issues raised in the Public Health Annual Report, which required more detailed consideration and so agreed to establish a Review Panel.

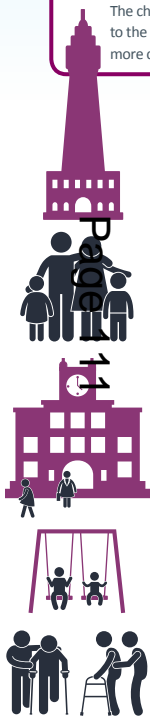
The Panel considered the wider determinants of health, targets and priorities moving forward, the revised Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Draft Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.

The Panel considered that there was a significant amount of work being planned and undertaken to adequately try to address the findings in the Public Health Annual Report. Members made a number of recommendations which focused on helping to tackle health inequalities, reactions the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and identified future areas to be scrutinised. The report is subject to Executive approval.

Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages Scrutiny Review Panel



Following a referral from the Public Protection Sub-Committee, a Scrutiny Panel was held to review the Council's policy on licensed horse drawn hackney carriages, following an increase in the number of concerns, including the amount of horse droppings and the standard of driving. The Review Panel came to a number of conclusions and made a number of recommendations to the Executive, all of which were approved. Recommendations included undertaking a full health and safety risk assessment and investigating a potential driving test for operators. The Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee is actively monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.



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