



LSCB Key Messages The Annual Report 2014- 2015

Welcome to the summary of the Annual Report of West Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board for 2014/15. The vision of the LSCB is that every child and young person in West Berkshire grows up safe from abuse, neglect, exploitation and crime. We aim to sustain a strong safeguarding culture and arrangements where the focus is firmly on the experience of the child or young person and their journey to getting early help and support.

A new Independent Chair was appointed in October 2014 and following a self assessment process a development programme to improve effectiveness of the board was put in place. The Ofsted inspection of Children and Families Services and the LSCB in March 2015, judged the board as 'requires improvement'. Their findings mirrored those identified through the self assessment and acknowledged that the impact of the development programme would be demonstrated in the next annual report (2015-2016).

The LSCB has statutory functions that must be complied with in addition to work on priority areas. Full information on how West Berkshire LSCB met its statutory responsibilities can be found in the full annual report on the LSCB website.

The 5 Priorities for the LSCB during 2014-2015 were:

- **Early Help**
- **The Child's Voice and Journey**
- **Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children-**
- **Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Groups**
- **Effectiveness of the LSCB**

Key achievements in the priority areas during 2014-2015 were:

Early Help

- Ofsted recognized
- How strong early help services are in West Berkshire with specific reference to the Family Resource Service and Help for Families.
- The tier 2 anxiety project (Psychology and Social Inclusion) worked with over 850 pupils across Primary and Secondary schools. Feedback from the project showed 78% of students significantly decreased their anxiety levels.

Child's Voice & Journey

- The LSCB challenged agency attendance at Child Protection Conferences, leading to an increase in attendance by Thames Valley Police and completion of reports by GP's.
- The Youth Offending Team has demonstrated strength in proactively seeking feedback from young people and families, and using this to shape the delivery of their services.

Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Children

- 100% compliance with statutory responsibilities for return interviews for children who go missing, with learning linked to service planning and criminal justice intelligence.
- Return interview process responds to the child's needs and focuses on hearing the child's voice and experience.
- Substantial reduction in missing episodes from 2013 to 2014.
- The CSE Strategic Group championed the use of integrated plans for young people allowing risk to be shared across agencies.

Domestic Abuse & Vulnerable Groups

- Pilot programme on healthy relationships intervention for young people (DAY Programme) was delivered in targeted services. The programme was well received with a measurable positive impact on outcomes for children and young people. This has led to a proposal for wider implementation.
- Information sharing arrangements put in place with schools to share domestic abuse information has resulted in increased targeted support for children, young people and families.
- Increased domestic abuse training across organisations has resulted in a rise in recorded Domestic Abuse incidents (both crime and non crime).

Effectiveness of the LSCB

- Streamlined business processes allow for increased discussion and challenge at board meetings resulting in increased scrutiny of safeguarding services for young people.
- Use of performance data directly focuses scrutiny on areas of concern, resulting in increased challenge to improve services for young people.
- Effective links between performance data, auditing, quality assurance and learning allows development of frontline practice and staff training which positively impacts on the services young people receive.
- Clear communication and shared learning from case reviews supports development of best practice.
- Mechanisms to hear the child's voice allows the board to be focused on the issues that are a priority for young people and allows services to learn from the direct experience of service users.

To view the full LSCB annual report for 2014-2015 please visit the LSCB website:
www.westberkslscb.org.uk