



LOCAL SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

LSCBN Annual

Safeguarding Report
2010 -2011

Executive Summary



Date: May 2011

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Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are statutory boards with the responsibility for ensuring organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and that what they do is effective.

This report fulfils the requirements of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2010, which requires LSCBs to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their area.

The report summarises the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Northamptonshire (LSCBN) for 2010-11, the development of its relationship with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, and the safeguarding priorities for 2011-12.

During the year Northamptonshire County Council's Safeguarding and Looked After Children services were inspected by Ofsted. Overall the services were judged satisfactory, as was the work of LSCBN. The report acknowledged the good work of the board in completing the multi-agency safeguarding audit, good oversight of serious case reviews, good training and good professional leadership through the new independent chair. Areas for improvement focused on strengthening scrutiny arrangements with the Children and Young People's Trust; ensuring all board members understood and agreed priorities for improving core safeguarding responsibilities; establishing ongoing involvement of young people in the work of the board, and ensuring board membership reflects community and voluntary sector interests.

Safeguarding Priorities and Achievements for 2010-11

These were grouped under the following headings in the business plan:

1. The LSCBN has effective structures, processes and resources in place to secure better outcomes and carry out its functions.

The LSCBN now has a sound and effective structure in place. It has strengthened its links with the Children and Young Peoples Trust and the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults (SOVA) Board. Members are all agreed that the focus must now be on measuring and monitoring key outcomes for children's safety.

Priorities for 2011-12 will reflect this focus, and will include the implementation of a performance monitoring framework, an agreed programme of multi-agency case audit, and improving the scrutiny and challenge of the Children and Young People's Trust, and its commissioning arrangements.

2. Staff Recruitment, training and support arrangements meet or exceed the national standards for safeguarding children and young people

A comprehensive multi-agency training programme was delivered using a designated pool of trainers. A quality assurance framework has been developed for all training, together with a training needs analysis tool for use across all agencies.

All agencies completed an audit of their internal safeguarding arrangements which included a safe recruitment tool.

Priorities for 2011-12 include measuring the impact of training through the quality assurance framework and agencies' staff performance management framework, and producing standards for staff supervision across all agencies. As a result of findings from a serious case review Kettering Hospital has developed a comprehensive staff supervision framework which will be publicised more widely.

3. The LSCBN engages communities and organisations in safeguarding children and young people

The board has had ongoing media involvement through the publication of three serious case reviews and publicity in relation to its annual conference, and the recruitment of a new independent chair. Particular achievements in relation to anti-bullying and e-safety have been well publicised.

Priorities for 2011-12 are to develop a more pro-active approach to the media to raise the profile of the work of the LSCBN, and to raise the awareness of the public at large to safeguarding issues. In particular, to establish secure links with young people through the Children and Young People's Shadow Board, involve members of the public in the work of the board, and establish more effective links with voluntary sector services.

4. All children and young people are safeguarded through universal, proactive targeted and responsive protective services.

The business plan contained 8 objectives within this priority, reflecting the fundamental purpose of the LSCBN. Much has been achieved in this area, particularly in relation to children referred to social care services as a result of concerns about abuse or neglect. The management of thresholds for initial contact and referral to Children's Social Care has been strengthened; interagency guidance has been reviewed and decisions about possible abuse tightened. As a result the number of children with a child protection plan has risen from 233 at March 31 2010 to 409.

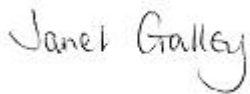
Priorities for 2011-12 are to continue to support good standards of staff supervision and management of safeguarding practice, to implement a new model of assessment, 'Strengthening Families' and to ensure timely interventions to safeguard children, particularly those suffering neglect.

Priorities for 2011-12

The LSCBN has developed its priorities for 2011-12 in conjunction with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. These priorities, together with associated actions, including those identified above, will form the basis of the business plan for 2011-12.

LSCB Northamptonshire will ensure children and young people in Northamptonshire are better safeguarded through:

- Improving the recognition and awareness within the general public of child abuse and neglect so that they understand the risks to children and young people and how they can help to minimise the impact of abuse and neglect;
- Improving the recognition and awareness within the workforce of all organisations of child abuse and neglect so that they better understand their roles and responsibilities in preventing and confronting abuse and neglect, and;
- Promoting safe recruitment, management and supervision practices within all organisations to ensure that all staff are recruited, managed and trained to equip them fully to respond to children whose welfare needs to be safeguarded or who are in need of protection from harm.



Janet Galley

Janet Galley
Independent Chair LSCBN