

London Safeguarding Children Board Update



September 2011

1. Safeguarding London's Children Conference – 5 December 2011

1.1 The London Board's 2011 safeguarding London's children conference is scheduled for Monday 5 December, at the QEII conference centre. Bookings will open in mid-September, and further details will be posted online at www.londonscb.gov.uk shortly.

1.2 Confirmed speakers for this year's event include Anne Marie Carrie, Chief Executive at Barnardo's, and Jo Webber, Deputy Policy Director and Children's Policy Lead for the NHS Confederation. We have also invited the Children's Minister, Tim Loughton MP, to update delegates on the coalition's future plans for safeguarding children following the Munro Review, and workshops throughout the day will highlight some examples of the innovative multi-agency work already underway in London.

2. London Safeguarding Children Awards – 5 December 2011

2.1 The conference will be followed by the ceremony for the inaugural London Safeguarding Children Award, the first ever multi-agency award for best practice in the capital. Judged by a panel of experts including Professor Eileen Munro, Julie Jones CBE (Chief Executive of the Social Care Institute for Excellence), Cheryl Coppell (Chair of the London SCB) and Kay Bell (London Regional Safeguarding Adviser), the scope of the entries received really highlights the excellent work that takes place in local practice every day.

2.2 The London SCB has now completed the short listing for the Award, and have whittled the entries down to four contenders for the main prize - a pilot initiative to tackle parental substance misuse through care proceedings, an early intervention domestic violence project, an innovative approach to improving joint working between children's social care and adult mental health services and a multi-parenting group approach to preventing family breakdown due to violence.

2.3 The judges were keen to ensure that shortlisted entries demonstrated strong evidence of improved outcomes for children and young people, but we also received a number of examples of innovative practice, yet to be fully evaluated but already demonstrating strong potential to make a real difference locally. Four of these entries have been shortlisted for an additional "Emerging Practice" award, and include innovative approaches to stronger engagement with local community and faith groups, a project to improve child safeguarding in adult mental health services and an excellent example of youth involvement in the work of an LSCB.

2.4 The Awards ceremony will be held at the QEII conference centre from 4.45pm – 6pm on 5 December, and more details will be posted online at www.londonscb.gov.uk shortly.

3. London Regional Safeguarding Advisers update

- 3.1 The three advisers (Kay Bell, Kathy Bundred and Vivien Lines) have now been in post since April 2010 and have spent much of the eighteen months working with boroughs and partners across London, providing support and assistance with safeguarding issues and service developments. At the conclusion of each project, the adviser will work with the borough to complete an end of project case study to be shared online. Many of these are now available to download at www.londonscb.gov.uk/london_regional_safeguarding_advisers/, and include details of the following projects:
- Improving quality assurance arrangements in Harrow
 - Strengthening child protection services in Haringey
 - Reviews of the referral and assessment & fostering and adoption services in Bexley
 - Promoting First Response / embedding Family Intervention Projects in Haringey
 - Reviewing services for disabled children and young people in Lambeth
 - Reviewing parental mental health services in Kensington and Chelsea
 - Auditing care plans of children in care and reviewing partnership work in Croydon
- 3.2 A detailed brochure outlining work completed to date and the support available to local authorities and partner agencies is now online at www.londonscb.gov.uk/london_regional_safeguarding_advisers/.
- 3.3 Funding for two of the adviser posts is confirmed through Capital Ambition until 31 March 2012, but the grant for the remaining post expired in April 2011 with the abolition of Government Office London. To ensure the continuation of all three posts, the London Board therefore agreed two six month secondments for advisers to act as interim Divisional Directors for Children's Social Care in London boroughs – Vivien Lines' secondment to LB Newham began in May 2011 and is expected to end in November, while Kathy Bundred will begin work in LB Havering in September 2011.

4. Sector-led improvement pilot

- 4.1 The government has been reducing and removing the external regulatory and inspection systems that over recent years have checked and reported on councils' performance. In its place, local government has been encouraged to lead on devising a new strategy to secure effective self-regulation - the so-called "sector-led" approach to evaluation and improvement.
- 4.2 London is proposing to be an early adopter for a specific programme for children's services, building on the successful experience in deploying the London Regional Safeguarding Advisers. This proposal has been developed by a steering group of lead professionals and is strongly endorsed by London Directors of Children's Services and the Chief Executives London Committee. The proposed approach builds on the national model and takes advantage of its flexibility to allow regions to tailor it to suit their circumstances.
- 4.3 The aims of the early adopter proposal are:
- to improve outcomes for children and young people through supporting boroughs in developing and effectively implementing self-improvement strategies;

- to more consistently collect, share and embed across London examples of good practice and processes in children's services;
- to foster a learning culture and increased trust in the sharing of information between boroughs;
- to enable London to be more proactive in preventing borough children's services failing or going into intervention.

4.4 Funding has yet to be formally confirmed for this new approach, but the proposed model of delivery will be for two London Regional Safeguarding Adviser posts to be focussed exclusively on the improvement pilot. With the London Board's existing advisers committed to ongoing projects, it is anticipated that two additional practitioners with experience at the level of assistant director of social care could be recruited on an interim basis to provide this additional resource for the remainder of 2011/12.

5. Pan-London safeguarding children culture and faith project

5.1 This is an action-research project, funded through the Migration Impact Fund, which aims to promote a step-change in safeguarding London's children living in minority ethnic, culture or faith communities or groups. The Project is expected to conclude in April 2012.

5.2 The project comprises three parts:

- 1) The London boroughs of Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Enfield, Hackney, Merton, Newham and Tower Hamlets are currently piloting projects designed to promote statutory and voluntary agency safeguarding children partnership working with local minority ethnic and faith communities and groups.
- 2) The 32 London LSCBs will run consultation focus groups for communities and professionals in their areas to gather views on how to improve safeguarding for London's children living in minority ethnic, culture or faith communities or groups.
- 3) LB Bexley will interview all the London LSCBs to map activity and aspiration in London for partnership for safeguarding London's children living in minority ethnic, culture or faith communities or groups.

5.3 Project activity and findings will be published in a project report. The project outputs will include:

- a) Guidance about the additional issues which a professional may need to think about and act on, in relation to children and families across different cultures and faiths, to accompany the London Child Protection Procedures;
- b) A training toolkit to help professionals to identify children across cultures and faiths who are in need of support or protection; and
- c) A local safeguarding children board model engagement strategy to assist minority ethnic communities and faith groups in protecting their children and working with statutory services to do so.

5.4 These three outputs are currently in draft form, and will be released for consultation across London in mid-September. It is anticipated that the guidance, toolkit and strategy will be launched formally at November's Safeguarding London's Children conference, with the final project report following in Spring 2012.

5.5 The full project description and terms of reference are available online at www.londonscb.gov.uk/culture_and_faith/

6. Safeguarding children at London 2012

- 6.1 The London Board has recently commissioned a small scoping study to establish the level of safeguarding response that is likely to be required during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This study will capture the range of safeguarding risks associated with the Games and conclude with a report outlining the steps needed to mitigate these. It is anticipated that this research will conclude in mid-September 2011.
- 6.2 Members of the London Board's *Safe Games for Children* training subgroup, led by Bernadette Boland (Ealing LSCB) and made up of four London LSCB training co-ordinators and volunteers from the Met Police, NSPCC, the Red Cross and Children and Families Across Borders (formerly International Social Services UK) have also now developed a training pack for volunteers, to be rolled out through City Operations and the London Ambassadors Volunteers Programme. The pack has been developed to assist trainers when training POD managers, mentors and volunteers.
- 6.3 Three days training free training for all London LSCBs are also being arranged, to be delivered free of charge at the Red Cross headquarters in Moorgate. The dates and further details will be advertised shortly.
- 6.4 Finally, the London Board are continuing to speak to the London Organising Committee (LOCOG) and have spent time providing expert input to their own internal safeguarding policies.

7. LSCB funding survey

- 7.1 Following a successful exercise last year, the London Board is once again conducting a scoping exercise of LSCB budgets and spending to try and establish a London wide picture on safeguarding board capacity and any outstanding issues that need to be addressed. As previously, the survey will be conducted on an anonymous basis, with the results made available through the London LSCB Chairs group in October 2011.

8. Safeguarding trafficked children toolkit and guidance

- 8.1 In February 2011, the London Safeguarding Children Board launched a new guidance document and toolkit to help agencies identify and support children who have been trafficked. The guidelines were developed in close partnership with the national Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and a range of government and third sector agencies, and aim to support social workers, teachers, police, health workers and other professionals who may come into contact with suspected victims of trafficking.
- 8.2 This work brings together a wide range of tools and good practice into one document for the first time, and provides some excellent advice on joint working to tackle this complex issue. Having been piloted extensively in a number of local authority areas over the past 18 months, the London Board and ADCS have now agreed to make this work available to local authority children's social care teams and LSCBs across the UK.
- 8.3 Overall, the *London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit 2009* has helped a number of authorities to develop, implement and strengthen good practice in the safeguarding of trafficked children. The toolkit has assisted in the identification of 56 trafficked children during the pilot period, 47 of whom were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Certain tools and sections of the guidance were widely used in this identification.

- 8.4 However, rather than just being a set of discrete tools, the toolkit offered pilot authorities a comprehensive framework with which to approach the safeguarding of trafficked children. At the heart of this framework is multi-agency working, which recognises that trafficking is a complex form of child abuse and requires a proactive response supported by specialist training and input from professionals, voluntary groups and community agencies alike.
- 8.5 The London Board has recently agreed to hold a joint seminar with the GLA at City Hall in November, to publicise this work more widely and support any LSCB areas which would be interested in further embedding the learning from the guidance and toolkit. Chaired by the Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes, this session will also highlight some of the existing good practice in operation across the UK, and further details will be circulated shortly.
- 8.6 The Board is currently working with a range of partners in drafting a bid for European funding to roll this work out more widely across the EU. Organisations currently interested in supporting the bid include Glasgow City Council, Southwark Council, Manchester City Council, Hillingdon Council, Counter Human Trafficking Bureau [CHTB], and the International Organization for Migration [IOM]. Discussions are also underway with partners in Denmark and Italy.

9. Section 11 audit process

- 9.1 The London Board has recently established a small multi-agency working group to look at the section 11 audit processes currently in use across London and consider the feasibility of developing a joint approach, ideally in the form of a model template for gathering information from partner agencies.
- 9.2 The main driver for this work is to reach an agreed position for the various pan-London organisations which need to respond to more than one LSCB or work across more than one borough, which will be particularly important once the range of new cross-borough health arrangements are in place.

10. London Board Highlights 2010/11

- 10.1 The 2010/11 London Board Highlights paper summarises some of the work successfully undertaken over the past year, and is available to download at www.londonscb.gov.uk.

11. Developing robust multi-agency information sharing arrangements

- 11.1 Kathy Bundred, one of the Board's Regional Safeguarding Advisers, is currently supporting a multi-agency project which aims to develop better information sharing arrangements between the range of agencies working with children and young people, with a particular focus on the quality of partnership work when child protection referrals are initially received. This work was inspired by the successful implementation of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Exeter, which is being considered alongside a range of options as a possible model to be adapted for London.

12. Ensuring strong child protection practice in the changing health economy

- 12.1 The Board has been working closely with NHS London to support the safeguarding team's efforts to ensure that child protection arrangements remain robust in the new structures, and a crib sheet has already been circulated to LSCB Chairs with a list of suggested questions to ask of their health colleagues in relation to transforming community services.
- 12.2 The Board has also written to Tim Loughton and the Munro Review team to stress the importance of safeguarding as the new health economy continues to evolve, highlighting in particular the key role of Health and Wellbeing Boards, the need for consistent public health representation on LSCBs and the importance of ensuring that new GP commissioning arrangements are developed with safeguarding children considerations firmly embedded. With this in mind, the Board will shortly begin work with Children England and NHS London to create an aide memoire for GP pathfinders on commissioning children and young people services.

13. London list of SCR panel chairs and authors

- 13.1 The London Board has compiled a London list of serious case review panel chairs and authors, for LSCBs to consult when considering commissioning an SCR. If you would like a copy of this list, please contact jan.dean@londoncouncils.gov.uk.
- 13.2 Please note that the London Board is unable to offer any individual endorsements, and the list should be seen as a compilation of chairs and authors who are available for work in London. The document includes contact details for each individual's most recent commission if an LSCB would like a more personal recommendation.

14. London pilot of the SCIE methodology for learning from SCRs

- 14.1 The London Board is currently testing alternative models to conducting case reviews by supporting a pilot of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) approach in Barnet, Hackney, Haringey, Hillingdon, Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Wandsworth with funding from Capital Ambition.
- 14.2 A pilot project management group (PMG) has been established with representation from LSCBs, the Met Police, NHS London, the voluntary sector, UKBA and a member of the Munro Review team. The group is chaired by Kay Bell. The PMG is in place to ensure early learning from the pilot and manage issues and risks.
- 14.3 Each pilot LSCB has identified two lead reviewers, comprising either two internal staff members or one external consultant and one internal member of staff, as well as a review team and a case for review. The London Regional Safeguarding Advisers are also involved as part of review teams where appropriate.
- 14.4 An interim report will be presented to the London Safeguarding Children Board in September 2011, and findings will be shared more widely at the Safeguarding London's Children conference on 30 November.

15. Datasets project

- 15.1 The pilot phase of the project has been completed, with an amended dataset agreed by the 10 pilot LSCBs. This has now been incorporated into the online database, which is administered by the London Board. Pilots experienced a number of challenges in collecting such a wide range of information, particularly in relation to Health, where problems with receiving data and inconsistencies in definitions and quality of data led to delays in completing upload to the system. Police data is being received centrally by the Board on a quarterly basis.

- 152 The online system was rolled out to all London LSCBs on 31st January 2011, at which point they were provided with log on details to upload and benchmark data year on year and against other LSCBs. Hosting is commissioned externally until December 2011, and the London Board will evaluate the project and consider next steps in the autumn.

London Board Networks

A LSCB Chairs network

- A1 Tim Beach from Barnet chairs this group, which is made up of the 32 London LSCB Chairs. The Department of Education are also represented on the group as a link into national policy developments.
- A2 Future meeting dates are as follows (all 2pm – 4pm):
- Wednesday 28 September 2011
 - Tuesday 6 December 2011
- A3 The group last met on 2 June 2011, and papers from this and all previous meetings are available at www.londonscb.gov.uk/lscb_chairs/.

B LSCB development officers network

- B1 Suzanne Elwick from Waltham Forest chairs this group, which consists of the 32 London LSCB development officers or equivalent.
- B2 Future meeting dates are as follows (all 2pm - 4pm)
- Tuesday 6 September 2011
 - Wednesday 16 November 2011
- B3 The group last met on 17 May 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are available at http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/lscb_development_officers_network/, together with shared resources from the group.

C London child protection managers

- C1 Sally Phillips from Hounslow chairs this network, which is made up of the 33 London borough child protection managers or equivalent. The group meets quarterly to share good practice, monitor and discuss trends in child protection activity and develop pan-London solutions to shared issues.
- C2 Future meeting dates are as follows (all 2pm - 4pm)
- Thursday 13 October 2011
- C3 The group last met on 14 April 2011, and additional future meeting dates will be available shortly.

D Network of safeguarding children named professionals in London Mental Health Trusts

- D1 Jan Pearson from East London NHS Trust chairs this network, which aims to support London mental health trust staff working in this relatively new and very specialist area of

work to carry out their role confidently and effectively. The group is made up of the named professionals for safeguarding children in the ten London Mental Health Trusts.

D2 Future meeting dates are as follows (all 9.30am – 12pm):

- Thursday 13 October 2011

D3 The group last met on 14 July 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are all available at http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/mental_health_network/, together with shared resources from the group.

E Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Chairs network

E1 This group is chaired by Ruth Meadows, Chair of Wandsworth CDOP, and aims to promote consistency and share good practice around the operation of child death review processes in London. The group consists of the Chairs of all London's Child Death Overview Panels.

E2 Future meeting dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 13 September 2011 (2pm – 4pm)
- Tuesday 6 December 2011 (2pm- 4pm)

E3 London CDOPs have recently published annual reports to their LSCB, which have been collated by the London Board and analysed for common themes. A London overview report has now been circulated to all CDOPs.

E4 The group last met on 7 June 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are available at http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/child_death/, together with general details on the operation of child death review process in London.

London Board subgroups

F Safeguarding children across culture and faith

F1 This group is chaired by Andrew Fraser (DCS at Enfield), and aims to respond to the safeguarding needs of London's diverse communities and faith groups. The group is made up of representatives from Local Safeguarding Children Boards and a wide range of statutory and non-statutory agencies. The subgroup is co-ordinating the Pan-London safeguarding children culture and faith project (see point 9, above)

F2 Future meeting dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 14 September 2011 (2pm – 4pm)
- Wednesday 7 December 2011 (2pm – 4pm)

F3 The group last met on 25 May 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are available at http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/culture_and_faith/.

G London Board training subgroup

- G1 This group is chaired by Bernadette Boland from Ealing, and consists of all London LSCB Training Co-ordinators plus the Training Manager for the Metropolitan Police, a representative from the training subgroup of the London Designated Nurses Network, and a representative from the NSPCC.
- G2 Future meeting dates are as follows (all 12pm - 1.30pm):
- Tuesday 6 September 2011
 - Wednesday 16 November 2011
- G3 The group recently produced model induction training for LSCBs to use as they see fit and have recently refreshed a review of Competence Matters, the Board's pan-London LSCB training framework. The subgroup has also compiled a list of recommended child protection trainers, available on request from ian.dean@londoncouncils.gov.uk.
- G4 The group last met on 17 May 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are all available at http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/training_subgroup/.

H Olympics subgroup

- H1 This group is chaired by Philip Ishola from Harrow Council. Membership comprises the Olympic LSCBs, other interested LSCBs, the Metropolitan Police Service (SCD5 and SCD9) and representatives from the voluntary and community sector (ECPAT UK, Refugee Council, Children's Society, Stop the Traffik).
- H2 The group is in place to ensure that London LSCBs and partner agencies were prepared for the potential challenges around safeguarding children at the 2012 Games and to influence the Olympics delivery agencies in relation to prioritising the safeguarding children in planning and delivering the Games.
- H3 Papers from previous meetings are available at www.londonscb.gov.uk/olympics.
Future meeting dates are as follows (all 10am – 12pm at London Councils):
- Tuesday 27 September 2011
 - Tuesday 22 November 2011

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