

## 1. Pan-London safeguarding children culture and faith project

1.1 At the end of October 2011, consultation closed on three documents aiming to help practitioners from a range of agencies to better safeguard children in minority ethnic culture and faith (often socially excluded) communities, groups and families:

- *London C&F Practice Guidance*, which has been developed to assist clear insight and effective action to protect and promote the welfare of children living in circumstances which appear to be complex because their faith, culture, nationality and possibly recent history differs significantly from that of host nation children and families;
- *A London C&F Training Toolkit*, which aims to ensure that professionals and voluntary groups working with minority ethnic culture and faith communities, groups and families have access to a wide range of resources, materials and background information to help them develop and design appropriate and sensitive training packages in relation to child protection in its broadest sense; and
- *A London C&F LSCB Strategy*, which seeks to assist Local Safeguarding Children Boards to develop sound, effective and sustainable partnership working with local groups, communities and third sector agencies to protect and promote the wellbeing of children from minority ethnic culture and faith communities, groups and families.

1.2 An LSCB editorial group met in early November to incorporate the feedback received during consultation, and all three documents will be launched at the London Board annual conference on 5 December 2011.

1.3 The documents are part of a larger London Safeguarding Children Board project: the Pan London Safeguarding Children Minority Ethnic Culture and Faith Project 2010-2011 (referred to throughout as the London C&F project). The London C&F project was an action-research project which aimed to promote a step-change in safeguarding London's children living in minority ethnic, cultural or faith communities or groups, working together with local minority ethnic communities and faith groups and the frontline professionals who work with them.

1.4 The London C&F project ran for 18 months from July 2010 to December 2011, and was co-ordinated by the London Safeguarding Children Board and LB Bexley. Project activity was overseen by an operational steering group with membership from London LSCBs and specialist third sector agencies.

1.5 The project comprised three parts:

1. Project work with minority ethnic, culture or faith communities / groups by 11 London local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs);

2. Focus groups in a number of London LSCBs to gather views on how to improve safeguarding for London's children living in minority ethnic groups and communities;
  3. Interviews with a number of London LSCBs, mapping activity and aspiration for stronger partnership work to safeguard children living in minority ethnic, culture or faith communities or groups.
- 1.6 The project will conclude with the publication of a final report in early 2012, and a seminar is currently being planned for April 2012 to share some of the learning from the 11 pilot LSCBs and consider how all LSCBs can make use of the three project outputs locally.

## **2. London Safeguarding Children Board domestic violence project**

- 2.1 Nineteen London LSCBs have now agreed to contribute financially towards a proposed project to significantly improve London's response to safeguarding children at risk of harm from domestic violence. It is anticipated that the project would be primarily funded by a bid through the European Daphne III Violence Against Women and Girls programme, which would provide 80% of the total project cost while London and project partners in Ireland split the remaining 20%.
- 2.2 The main project objectives would be to:
- Increase the level of skills within participating LSCBs' multi agency staff in terms of recognising and dealing effectively with risks to children living with domestic violence (to include increased knowledge of factors relating to perpetrator's behaviour);
  - Offer interested LSCBs a newly developed training module on working with perpetrators and their partners, developed by Barnardo's Northern Ireland, for use as part of the Core Assessment Process;
  - Build on existing examples of good practice within LSCBs which effectively tie in CAADA / MARAC risk assessment and Barnardo's risk matrix;
  - Update the London Board's DV Procedures;
  - Develop a training programme building on the London procedures, existing training courses and practices;
  - Develop training programmes and networks for DV Champions in key agencies/ departments, to be delivered on a local level and ideally driven by local DV forums;
  - Develop a suite of materials to be used by staff after they have undertaken training;
  - Create a baseline and evaluation framework to capture learning;
  - Disseminate the results to a national and international audience.
- 2.3 The final portfolio of activities will be developed according to the requirements of those LSCBs who have agreed to participate in the project. It is proposed that a small amount of each borough's investment be used to cover core project costs, but the bid team would like to work towards offering support worth at least three times the boroughs' investment (as a guide).

### **3. Safeguarding children at London 2012**

- 3.1 In August 2011, the London Safeguarding Children Board and London Councils commissioned a report to consider whether the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will raise specific safeguarding children issues and, if so, the extent to which this will place an additional burden on London's local authority children's services.
- 3.2 The report (*Safeguarding children during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Scoping Study*) has now been circulated to all London LSCBs, and makes a number of recommendations aimed towards mitigating any safeguarding children risks that may arise.
- 3.3 Representatives from the Olympic host boroughs met recently with senior officers from the Metropolitan Police to begin planning the more detailed operational response that will be put in place in response to these recommendations, with particular reference to children identified within the wider Olympic footprint. A full proposal will be circulated to all London LSCBs and partner agencies towards the end of November / early December 2011, and an information pack for LSCBs will follow in early 2012.
- 3.4 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. The pack has been developed to assist trainers when training POD managers, mentors and volunteers.
- 3.5 Four "train the trainer" sessions have also been arranged for those with responsibility for training, to be delivered free of charge at the Red Cross headquarters in Moorgate. These will take place on Monday 28 November 2011 and Friday 17 February 2012 (morning and afternoon), and can be booked through [bolandb@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:bolandb@ealing.gov.uk) (subject to availability).
- 3.6 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.

### **4. Safeguarding London's Children Conference – 5 December 2011**

- 4.1 The London Board's 2011 safeguarding London's children conference is now open for bookings at [www.londonscb.gov.uk](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk). Taking place at the QEII Conference Centre on Monday 5 December, the conference is an excellent opportunity to hear from speakers such as Anne Marie Carrie (Chief Executive at Barnardo's) and Jo Webber (Deputy Policy Director and Children's Policy Lead for the NHS Confederation), while workshops throughout the day will highlight some examples of the innovative multi-agency work already underway in London.

### **5. London Safeguarding Children Awards – 5 December 2011**

- 5.1 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.

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 The Awards ceremony will be held at the QEII conference centre from 4.45pm – 6pm on 5 December.

## **6. London disturbances seminar**

- 6.1 The London Safeguarding Children Board and Metropolitan Police Service will be hosting a joint seminar in November to share some of the data and intelligence that have been gathered in the months following the disturbances, particularly focussed on the role and involvement of children and young people.
- 6.2 Free places have been offered to all London LSCBs, and presentations and papers from the event will be posted online at [www.londonscb.gov.uk](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk) in early December.

## **7. Working with children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour – implementing the AIM protocol in London**

- 7.1 The London Safeguarding Children Board has agreed to support a pilot project led by the Youth Justice Board, aiming to enhance London's response to children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour through adaptation and implementation of the AIM project.
- 7.2 The AIM (Assessment Intervention Moving on) project was established in 2000 with a remit to develop a means of responding consistently and effectively to children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour, initially across the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester. In recent years, the project has also trained extensively across London boroughs to a wide range of agencies and practitioners who have expressed significant interest in developing a framework of response within which their training would fit.
- 7.3 The broad aims of the London pilot project are to:

- Produce documentation (policies, procedures and protocols) to enable the support of young people who display sexually harmful behaviour for use by London Youth Offending teams and partners on a pan London basis;
  - Share findings with interagency partners with a view to adopting the protocols London wide;
  - Brief Yots on the implementation and use of the protocols in the context of AIM training delivered through the London INSET programme.
- 7.4 The YJB have identified two clusters of potential pilot areas in London, with a view to implementing the AIM policies and procedures and undertaking assessment / intervention training to support the implementation. The identified boroughs are:
- a) Lewisham, Lambeth, Croydon, Southwark
  - b) Newham, Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham
- 7.5 An initial meeting to consider the proposal in more detail has been held with youth offending team leads for each of the boroughs, who will now feed back to their respective LSCBs for discussion of possible sign up.
- 7.6 Pending approval from each of the LSCBs, it is anticipated that the pilots will begin in late 2011 and may run until July 2011, when an evaluation report will produced.

## **8. LSCB funding survey**

- 8.1 Following a successful exercise last year, the London Board has once again conducted 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 was conducted on an anonymous basis, with the results made available through the London LSCB Chairs group in November 2011.

## **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 attempt to develop a joint approach. 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.
- 9.2 The working group, chaired by Alice Peatling from Havering Council, has now met twice, with representation from a number of LSCBs, the police, mental health and the London Ambulance Service, and has agreed the following approach:
- That the group would aim to produce a pan-London section 11 audit template, with some flexibility for local priorities to be added where necessary;
  - That this template would be based on a mix of the model currently in use in Bexley, which was felt to be particularly strong on challenge, and the pan-London response already in use within the Met Police child abuse investigation command;
  - That this would be accompanied by a guidance document, to include recommendations on frequency of audit (there was general agreement on

biennial audits, timed consistently across London) and examples of good practice in actually carrying out the audit process..

- 9.3 The group will meet again in December to further refine the proposed template and begin drafting an accompanying guidance document, with a consultation period planned for early 2012.

## **10. Safeguarding trafficked children**

- 10.1 Following on from the February 2011 launch of a new guidance document and toolkit to help agencies identify and support trafficked children, the London Board and GLA held a joint seminar at City Hall on 1 November 2011 to spread the learning from the work more widely and consider next steps. Chaired by the Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes, the session also highlighted some of the existing good practice in operation across the UK, and a follow up is already being planned for February 2012.
- 10.2 The Board is also 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], and discussions are underway with partners in Denmark and Italy.

## **11. Sector-led improvement pilot**

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 London has agreed 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 detail of this model was 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 approach builds on the national model and takes advantage of its flexibility to allow regions to tailor it to suit their circumstances.
- 11.3 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.

11.4 Work is already underway in London, both within individual boroughs and on pan-London initiatives such as the MASH project (see point 12, below), and two London Children's Services Advisers have been contracted to carry out specific work as part of the pilot.

## **12. Rolling out Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) in London**

12.1 The London Safeguarding Children Board is supporting an ongoing initiative to roll out Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs across London, with pilots already underway in a number of areas.

12.2 Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs co-locate safeguarding agencies and their data into a secure assessment, research, and referral unit for notifications of vulnerable children. By providing a fire walled facility, each partner can exercise the tension between privacy and sharing information for safety. This will identify unknown risk by building up a full picture on the child of concern and their family, and is seen as a key tool in building stronger partnership work to identify vulnerable children at an early stage and put in place protective strategies to keep them safe from harm.

12.3 Each hub will provide a re-alignment of resources behind a MASH 'front door' and will include a range of partners including Children's Services, Health, Mental Health, Education and the Police. It will both share information about children at risk of harm and filter the volume of notifications, allowing a focus on those most of concern, preventing duplication and providing a balanced intervention approach by the best placed agency saving money and mitigating risk.

12.4 To assist the MASH development work taking place at a local level and bring clarity to London-wide work, key partners (health, police, GLA, London Councils and the London Safeguarding Children Board) have agreed on a refreshed high level oversight structure to steer the initiative as roll out continues across London.

12.5 These new arrangements will be led by a small high level strategic board, supported by an operational capability (which may include a programme board). The strategic board will consist of the following partners:

- Mayor of London's Advisor on Health and Families (Chair)
- Lead London Borough Chief Executive for Children's Services;
- Safeguarding Lead for the Association of London Directors of Children's Services;
- London Safeguarding Children Board Chair;
- Lead Borough Chief Executive for Crime and Community Safety;
- Assistant / Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police;
- Senior Health Service Representative (to be agreed).

12.6 Formal terms of reference for the high level strategic board will be agreed at the first meeting of the refreshed group in early December, but a number of primary objectives have been discussed:

- To agree the broad parameters of a core MASH offer, which could then be tailored to suit individual borough circumstances;
- To set a strategy to support the extension of the core MASH offer across London, identifying what success would look like in the roll out of the model;
- To oversee the delivery of this strategy;
- Where appropriate, to identify and resolve problems, and remove blockages;

- To review progress periodically;
  - To identify and share learning and good practice;
  - To identify potential funding opportunities for the roll out of MASH.
- 12.7 A review of the Board's arrangements in overseeing progress and success with the roll out of MASH will be undertaken 18 months after the Board commences.

### **13. London pilot of the SCIE methodology for learning from SCRs**

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 An interim report was presented to the London Safeguarding Children Board in September (available at <http://www.scie.org.uk/children/learningtogether/latestnews.asp>), and findings will be shared more widely at the Safeguarding London's Children conference on 5 December.

## 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 10.00 – 12.00):

- 6 December 2011
- 23 February (prov) 2012
- 17 May 2012
- 20 September 2012
- 6 December (prov) 2012

A3 The group last met on 8 September 2011, and papers from this and all previous meetings are available at [www.londonscb.gov.uk/lscb\\_chairs/](http://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)

- 16 November 2011
- 14 February 2012
- 8 May 2012
- 11 September 2012
- 27 November 2012

B3 The group last met on 6 September 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are available at [http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/lscb\\_development\\_officers\\_network/](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)

- tbc

C3 The group last met on 13 October 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):
- tbc
- D3 The group last met on 13 October 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are all available at [http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/mental\\_health\\_network/](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 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 13 September 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are available at [http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/child\\_death/](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 7 December 2011 (2pm – 4pm)
- F3 The group last met on 14 September 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are available at [http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/culture\\_and\\_faith/](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):
- 16 November 2011
  - 14 February 2012
  - 8 May 2012
  - 11 September 2012
  - 27 November 2012
- 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](mailto:ian.dean@londoncouncils.gov.uk).
- G4 The group last met on 6 September 2011, and papers from this and previous meetings are all available at [http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/training\\_subgroup/](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](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/olympics). Future meeting dates are as follows (all 10am – 12pm at London Councils):
- 24 January 2012
  - 27 March 2012
  - 22 May 2012

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