

**St Helens Safeguarding Children Board
(SHSCB)**

BUSINESS PLAN 2016 – 2017



FOREWORD FROM THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Welcome to the 2016/17 Business Plan of St Helens Safeguarding Children Board (SHSCB).

The Business Plan is a key document for the Board. We will use it to drive and focus our work in the coming year in order to ensure that we improve our multi-agency safeguarding practice and improve outcomes for children and young people.

The priorities in the Plan are based upon evidence provided from National priorities and key issues identified within St Helens.

All Board members have contributed to the identification of our priorities and have had an opportunity to contribute to the Plan and the actions within it. There is therefore an expectation that all partner agencies and members of SHSCB will take ownership of the Plan and see it as their joint responsibility to ensure that it is delivered.

During 2015/16 we established a thorough process for monitoring progress with the Business Plan and intend to continue and strengthen this in the coming year, with clear lines of accountability for all our actions.

We also need to continue to focus on how we can actively improve the way we work together across agencies and across adult and children's services. There are examples of excellent multi agency working across the Borough, but Case Audits and Reviews are still highlighting areas where practice needs to be improved, and this must be a focus for 2016/17. We know that safeguarding cannot be carried out effectively unless there is continuous and consistent good communication and joint working between all those involved in working with children.

As Independent Chair I am determined to ensure that we constantly challenge our policy and practice, and do all that we can to prevent harm of any kind to children and young people and to promote their wellbeing. Nothing is more important than the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people.

I am confident that our Business Plan, supported by the hard work and commitment from the members of SHSCB and wider partnerships, will help us to achieve our priorities and will have a positive impact on the lives of children and young people in St Helens.

Susan Richardson

Independent Chair, St Helens Local Safeguarding Children Board

Our Shared Values

St Helens Safeguarding Children Board have identified a number of shared values

- All children have a right to be treated with dignity and for their voice to be heard
- Safeguarding and the wellbeing of children and young people is a priority for all partners
- Active involvement of children and their families will be part of our work
- We will listen to our frontline practitioners and take their views into account
- The Board will act in an open, transparent way and will foster a culture of challenge, scrutiny and support across the partnership
- We will encourage transparency and openness to learning from reviews, audit and other activity, leading to improvements in practice
- The Board will provide training and development to meet the statutory needs of the workforce and to help deliver the local priorities. We will celebrate Good Practice, and demonstrate a commitment to continuously improve.
- Board partners and their respective agencies have a shared responsibility to work together to safeguard children and young people and promote their welfare
- We will work with other strategic partnerships across St Helens i.e. Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership to ensure that our plans are aligned to maximise the opportunities for our children and young people .
- We will further develop a synergy between Adults and Children's Services focussing upon the transition between children's and adult services.

Our Business Plan in context

St Helens has a resident population of approximately 41,100 children and young people aged 0-19 years. Children and young people make up just under 23% of the Borough's population. In March 2014, 4.1% of school children were classified as being of an ethnic group other than White British.

The health and wellbeing of children in St Helens is generally worse than the England average and 10.2% of children aged 4-5 years and 21.6% of children aged 10-11 years are classified as obese. Infant and child mortality rates are similar to the England average. The level of child poverty is worse than the England average with 25.6% of children aged under 16 years living in poverty. The rate of family homelessness is similar to the England average.

The proportion of children entitled to free school meals:

- in primary schools is 22.6% (the national average is 18.0%)
- in secondary schools is 18.9% (the national average is 15.7%).

St Helens has 2 Further Education Colleges and a total of 70 schools. 54 of these are Primary Schools and 10 are Secondary Schools, including one Independent School; one is a Nursery School and 5 are Special Schools of which two are independent of the local authority.

Children are generally achieving in St Helens. At early years foundation stage 62% of children evidence good levels of development which is above national comparators. At Key Stage 2 84% of pupils achieved a combined level 4 in reading, writing and mathematics

which is also above national comparators. Achievement at Key Stage 4 has remained static with 55.2% of children obtaining 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including English and maths. This is slightly below national comparators (56.3% for state schools) but with the gap closer than at any point over the past 5 years. The performance gap for vulnerable pupils is closing across most phases of the educational system but remains too wide.

THE REMIT OF THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

St Helens Safeguarding Children Board (SHSCB) is responsible for ensuring that children and young people living in the borough are effectively safeguarded by local agencies. The SHSCB seeks assurance that those agencies are working well together and are co-operating to promote the welfare of children and young people living in St Helens - we do this by fulfilling our core objectives as set out in the 'Children's Act 2004' and our core functions which are detailed in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.'

The SHSCB Core Functions include:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve
- Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority
- Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their board partners on lessons to be learned
- Undertaking reviews of all child deaths

OUR PRIORITIES

The Business Plan was developed collectively in December 2015 and outlines the priorities that will inform the work of the Board over the coming year. The following information was taken into consideration when the Board met to agree these priorities.

- St Helens Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015 – 2018
- St Helens Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2014 – 2016
- St Helens Joint Strategic Needs Analysis 2015
- Recommendations from inspections and other reviews
- Good Practice Guidance from ADCS and Ofsted publications
- Priorities identified from the SHSCB performance Management Data and local Quality Assurance Audits
- Outcomes of case reviews and audit – including national serious case reviews and local reports

As a result three local priorities were identified and agreed. These are:

1. To develop awareness of the Complex Safeguarding Issues and risks posed to and by Adolescents (14-18 years old) – particularly those where the risks are enhanced due to complex family relationships / Toxic Trio (Domestic Violence, Neglect, Substance Misuse) / Criminal activity.
2. To maintain a multi-agency overview of the degree to which children and young people in St Helens are exploited and are at risk of being subjected to harmful practices.
3. To review and develop a culture of learning across the multi-agency partnership where good practice is shared.

Specific actions for each of the local priorities are outlined in the attached Business Plan 2016 – 2017 - with responsibilities assigned to sub groups.

LOCAL PRIORITIES 2016 – 2017

PRIORITY 1

Adolescence

Why did SHSCB choose this local priority?

This area was identified as a local priority for 2016 – 2017. Adolescence was identified as a priority following a number of cases presented at the Critical Incident Panel which identified young people for whom the period of Adolescence added significant risk to their safety and wellbeing. Within the past 2 years the Critical Incident Panel has reviewed 1 suicide and 7 near misses, all of these were adolescents and all but 1 of the cases was male.

SHSCB recognised that a factor within these cases is that the young people are living complex lives with increased risk taking at a time when the public begins to see them as adults. It is of note that, after children under the age of 2, this cohort of young people is those most at risk.

Evidence to support

The Board has received one SCR and is due to receive a CIR and PLR all of which feature adolescents.

The Board also noted that the problems posed by adolescents to organisations featured strongly in the Section 11 Scrutiny and Challenge panels that took place.

PRIORITY 2

Children at risk of Exploitation

Why did SHSCB choose this local Priority?

Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be a key focus for SHSCB for 2016 - 2017. However national and local evidence would suggest that there are other areas of exploitation which need to be considered and monitored.

These other areas were:

Radicalisation

Harmful Practices

Criminal exploitation

Evidence to support

PREVENT initiative and the Government agenda for preventing radicalisation of young people. The Catch 22 report into Criminal Exploitation **Running the Risks: The links between gang-involvement and young people going missing** – Increasing numbers of young people going through the Youth Justice system that are linked with Criminal Activity and possible exploitation. SHSCB will also monitor the propensity and reporting of Harmful Practices (Honour Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, and Forced Marriage)

PRIORITY 3

Promoting a Learning Culture

Why did SHSCB choose this local Priority?

SHSCB partners wish to promote a culture of learning, where lessons learnt are viewed positively and agencies feel empowered to work in a culture of honesty and transparency, always putting the child at the centre.

Evidence to support

The same themes are recurring through reviews and audit e.g. hidden male, adolescence. The LSCB recognises its responsibility to feedback these themes and promote learning from them.

Delivering the Business Plan

The SHSCB Executive will take the responsibility for monitoring delivery of the plan on a quarterly basis and will formally report to the Board twice a year with the understanding that any issues that could impact on the delivery of the plan will be escalated to the Board immediately.

Each of the SHSCB sub groups will have an Action Plan that will underpin the delivery of these priorities.

The approved Board and Sub Group structure together with the outline responsibilities are attached.

The Board will retain oversight of progress against a framework that includes a series of measurable outcomes which is monitored regularly by the Executive.

****The 2015 – 2016 Business Plan**

Early Help / Neglect

This activity led to the production of Early Help and Neglect strategies in 2015 - 2016. This area of work will be implemented and developed by Peoples Services for 2016 – 2017

Domestic Abuse

This area of activity will be completed by the Community Safety Partnership – Peoples Services.

SHSCB will request a report on implementation and progress within each of these key areas at the Board Meeting held in the autumn 2016.

Glossary of Terms

SHSCB – St Helens Safeguarding Children Board

LSCB – Local Safeguarding Children Board

WTSC – Working Together to Safeguard Children

CDOP – Child Death Overview Panel

The Governance Structure of St Helens Safeguarding Children Board

The LSCB Team

LSCB Independent Chair
 LSCB Business Manager
 LSCB Learning & Development Officer
 LSCB Quality Assurance Co-ordinator
 LSCB Business Administrator

St Helens Safeguarding Children Board Chair - Independent Chair
LSCB is a statutory board with the core duty to ensure there are good high quality arrangements in place across local agencies to protect children from harm.

LSCB Executive Sub Group Chair - Independent Chair
The Executive Group reinforces Safeguarding practice in St Helens at an operational level and support effective multi agency working. The Executive will take the lead for ensuring the delivery of the LSCBs Business Plan priorities and ensure that Sub Groups undertake their roles and responsibilities in an efficient effective and timely manner.

Case Review Sub Group Chair - TBC	Learning & Development, Policy and Procedures Sub Group Chair-TBC	Multi Agency Audit and Review Sub Group Chair - TBC	Children at Risk of Exploitation Sub Group Chair – TBC	Development Priorities Sub Group Chair – TBC	Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel Sub Group Chair – TBC
The LSCB Case Review Sub-Group is responsible for initiating, overseeing and monitoring the case review process, assuring the Board on the quality of interagency practice. The Case Review Sub Group will consider, in all cases, whether children have been listened to and their voices acted upon to make recommendations to the Executive or to individual agencies as appropriate.	This group is responsible for ensuring that all children and young people in St Helens are safeguarded by means of multi-agency policies and procedures which are applied consistently to promote their safety and wellbeing. Its purpose is to ensure that high quality policies and procedures are in place and that they are integrated and co-ordinated across partner agencies within the borough.	This group is responsible for the monitoring and scrutiny of Safeguarding practice through improving and strengthening the audit and quality assurance functions of the LSCB.	The group is responsible for ensuring that children and young people will be safer in St Helens because there are effective strategies, policies, procedures, practices, learning and development in relation to CSE, Harmful Practice, Radicalisation, Children exposed to Domestic Abuse, Children MFH/C/E	The Development Priorities Sub Group will be responsible for leading and overseeing the development of action plans. The Sub Group will also be responsible for monitoring progress against implementation plans by appropriate partner agencies.	CDOP is a subgroup of the LSCB and is a joint arrangement between Merseyside LSCBs. Through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of child deaths, the joint CDOP aims to better understand how and why children in St Helens die and use the findings to take action to prevent other deaths and improve the health and safety of children across the Borough and the bereavement support and follow-up available to their families.

St Helens Safeguarding Children Board (SHSCB)

BUSINESS PLAN 2016 – 2017



Local Priority 1- We will develop awareness of the Complex Safeguarding Issues and risks posed to and by Adolescents (14- 18 years old) – particularly those where the risks are enhanced due to complex family relationships /Toxic Trio (Domestic Violence, Parental Mental Ill Health, Substance Misuse) / Criminal activity

Why we will do this – Reviews suggest that the risks posed to and by adolescents are not always recognised or understood by key professionals.

In addition SHSCB have listened to messages from our partners in the Youth Justice System, Health Sector, Schools and General Practitioners.

What difference do we want to make? – We want to see systems and procedures that enable the workforce to safeguard adolescents.

REFERENCE	DELIVERY ACTIONS	LEAD	TARGET TIMESCALE
LP1.1	A Development Day will be held for multi-agency practitioners to share the learning from SCRs and other reviews.	Executive Group	September 2016
LP1.2	Groups of front line practitioners that work predominantly with adolescents will be identified and will receive training on how to recognise and respond to the risks posed to and by adolescents	Learning, Development, Policy & Procedures	February 2017
LP1.3	The Board will commission a multi-agency audit on the theme of risks posed to vulnerable adolescents and risks posed by adolescents to others	Multi-Agency Audit and Review	January 2017
LP1.4	The Board will gain assurance that there are appropriate strategies to ensure adolescents are specifically targeted with a view to keeping them safe.	Safeguarding Children – Development Priorities Sub Group	November 2016

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- 1. Number of agencies represented at the Development Day for Adolescence and levels of seniority**
- 2. Evaluation of the extent to which participants feel the learning objectives were met**
- 3. Evaluation of impact of Adolescence training on perceptions of frontline staff working with adolescents (Kirkpatrick model) 50% professionals reporting improved practice. 3 case studies demonstrating improved practice to be identified per year.**
- 4. Evidence of specific targets for adolescents within partner strategies / plans will be collected by SHSCB**
- 5. 10% increase in the no. of agencies effectively completing EHAT for adolescents by April 2018**
- 6. Evidence of challenge logged where agencies are not giving full consideration to adolescents**
- 7. The Board will receive will receive reports at 6 and 12 months from the Adolescence Group detailing the work undertaken**

Local Priority 2 – SHSCB will maintain a multi – agency overview of the degree to which children and young people in St Helens are exploited and are at risk of being subjected to harmful practices

Why we will do this – There is local and national evidence which informs us that children are exploited in a number of ways. SHSCB wishes to understand the profile of the different areas of risk within St Helens

What difference do we want to make? – By recognising the risks SHSCB can ensure that preventative measures are put in place to increase the safety and well-being of children and young people within the borough of St Helens

REFERENCE	DELIVERY ACTIONS	LEAD	TARGET TIMESCALE
LP2	<p>SHSCB will regularly gather, analyse, share and use data to inform multi agency practice and decisions about care and intervention.</p> <p>Reports will be presented to the Board on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Child Sexual Exploitation – including online abuse b) Criminal Exploitation c) Children Missing from Education, Home and Care d) Children exposed to Domestic Violence e) Radicalisation f) Harmful Practices 	Children at Risk of Exploitation Group	<p>December 2016</p> <p>December 2016</p> <p>December 2016</p> <p>15 July 2016</p> <p>1 July 2016 (Executive)</p> <p>15 July 2016</p>

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- 1. The number of informative and timely reports presented to the Board – 95% produced and approved to date deadline**
- 2. Evidence that strategies, policy, procedure and other decisions are informed by information and recommended actions within the reports.**
- 3. Evaluate the effectiveness of any training delivered in improving the professionals approach in the area of risk – 2 areas per year evaluated**
- 4. SHSCB to evidence challenge where policy / practice is viewed to be ineffective in this area.**

Local Priority 3 – We will review and develop a culture of learning across the multi-agency partnership where good practice is shared

Why we will do this – SHSCB have noted that key messages are not always being effectively disseminated across the partnership, good practice is not always shared

What difference do we want to make? – SHSCB wants to see agencies and professionals fully engaged within a learning culture, and demonstrating the ability to use learning as a tool to make a difference. The sharing of good practice to become routine.

REFERENCE	DELIVERY ACTIONS	LEAD	TARGET TIMESCALE
LP 3.1	SHSCB to ensure that good communications support effective learning. This will be demonstrated through opportunities for learning and dissemination via : a) Newsletters (quarterly) b) Briefing Sheets (quarterly) c) Action Learning Sets (twice yearly) d) Reflective Learning (quarterly) e) Audit Feedback (as per audit) f) Policy / Procedure rollout and training g) Large events h) Smaller events	Learning and Development , Policy and Procedure Group	April 2016 – March 2017
LP 3.2	SHSCB to gain assurance that an appropriate programme of multi-agency training is delivered for 2016 / 17	Learning and Development, Policy and Procedure Group	April 2016 – March 2017

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- 1. No of partners participating in training events**
- 2. Four Briefing sheets produced for key areas per year**
- 3. Four focussed Learning Events to take place per year**
- 4. Challenge to be made to agencies when evidence of dissemination is not provided.**
- 5. Improved communication demonstrated across LSCB ,SAB,HWBB**

**The Income for the Safeguarding Children Board comes from Partner agencies
Budget Contributions 2015 – 2016 & proposed contributions 2016-2017**

	2015-2016	2016 – 2017
Local Authority (CYPS)	72,000	73,800
Local Authority (Public Health)	10,000	10,000
CCG	51,000	52,275
Whiston Hospital	5,200	5,330
5 Borough Partnership	5,330	5,465
Bridgewater	5,200	5,200
Police	19,890	20,390
National Probation service	1,100	796.87
Community Rehabilitation Service	1,100	1,130
CAFCASS	550	550
Total	171,370	174,936.87