



## Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board

# Annual Report 2015-16

*Safeguarding the children of  
Portsmouth*

## A FOREWARD FROM THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Reg Hooke



It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report of the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) 2015/16. The PSCB is a statutory partnership that works to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Portsmouth by working with, and scrutinising, the work of agencies with key responsibilities for keeping children safe in the city. These include staff working in health, social care, police, probation and education settings as well as voluntary sector organisations. We concentrate our attention on the safety of children most vulnerable

and at most risk of harm and we ensure that positive outcomes for children remain a priority for those organisations. We do this in three main ways:

- holding organisations to account at regular Board meetings,
- providing vital training to professionals and
- improving practices by conducting targeted reviews and audits

The Board sets and reviews its priorities annually to ensure we are focussed on those issues that matter most to Portsmouth. This year for example, children told us a major concern to them is bullying and you will see this is now a specific priority for the coming year.

Rather than overwhelming the reader with facts and figures, this report summarises the years' work and highlights specific risk groups and priorities. We have seen some excellent benefits delivered to children this year. Support to children in care (Looked After Children) and young offenders has been commendable. Quality training has been delivered to many schools

Challenges remain of course. Further improvements in Early Help (working with families before things get worse) is essential, as is tackling Domestic Abuse and protecting children from the harm it does to them.

2016/17 will bring further challenges and indeed potentially major developments and change to arrangements for child safeguarding oversight and scrutiny. The recent Government Review of LSCBs (The Wood Review) will lead to legislation that will likely seek to strengthen local partnerships and scrutiny arrangements for child protection, especially the role of local authorities, police and health. This will be a significant evolution of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements as currently set in legislation.

As Chair of the PSCB I will continue to work closely with leaders in Portsmouth to ensure child safeguarding of the vulnerable remains at the heart of any reforms. The PSCB main Board will also be adapting the way it works to better focus the considerable expertise of members on PSCB priorities and other emerging issues. I will also lead the Board in being proactive in response to Government legislation, seeking arrangements that best serve the City's children and, mutually, our neighbouring areas with whom we work closely.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reg Hooke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

# Priorities for 2015/16 and how we delivered against them

## ***PSCB will ensure that the views of children are contributing to learning and best practice***

- 16 young people aged 14-17yrs from a range of secondary schools across the city and the Children in Care Council attended the PSCB development afternoon to give their feedback on the Board's priorities
- Young people told the Board overwhelmingly that their main concern was bullying which affected all areas of their life—at school and online. Bullying is now a specific priority for 2016-17

## ***PSCB will improve communication across Portsmouth so that appropriate knowledge of safeguarding is available to all and so that PSCB is hearing the views of professionals and from children, families and communities from all parts of the city***

- The PSCB, in conjunction with the Safeguarding Adults Board, held Portsmouth's first safeguarding week in June 2015. Over 200 practitioners from across the workforce attended one of the learning opportunities during the week (Single Assessment Framework workshops and Serious Case Review briefings).
- Reflective practice meetings are being more widely used where cases have got stuck or there's been frustrations between agencies and professionals to review what worked well and what was difficult. The committees then support interagency learning by disseminating appropriate messages
- Portsmouth has successfully implemented a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub which allows key agencies the opportunity to share information in the context of safeguarding concerns so as to determine the right services for vulnerable children and families

## ***The PSCB will coordinate the work being done in agencies to tackle exploitation and abuse of young people, including Childhood Sexual Exploitation***

- In 2015/16 Portsmouth piloted a CSE Guardian Angels patrol, a police led initiative to provide advice and raise awareness of CSE by targeting hot spots where children meet within the city.
- PSCB, working with Barnardo's, has provided training to 158 professionals who work with children in Portsmouth through a combination of face-to-face training and online programmes to raise awareness of CSE and trafficking.
- A new Missing, Exploited & Trafficked Strategy has been developed to launch in April 2016. This builds on the previous PSCB CSE Strategy which has successfully embedded good safeguarding around children at risk of sexual exploitation. It now includes our strategic response to missing children and trafficked

## ***PSCB will prioritise improving the effectiveness of agencies and the community in tackling situations where children are neglected or are at risk of neglect***

- In April 2015, the Neglect Identification and Measurement Tool (NIMT) was launched with associated guidance. The NIMT and guidance has been available on the PSCB website since June 2015 and has been promoted across the training programme, as well as parental non-compliance and disguised compliance and importance of supervision.
- The Board's dataset has been updated with neglect indicators to monitor the quantity of children experiencing neglect being identified and responded to by agencies

**Priorities for 2016/17** - the PSCB Business Plan can be found [here](#) on the 'about us' page of the PSCB website

1: **Neglect** - Improve the effectiveness of agencies and the community in addressing neglect

2: **Communication and Participation Strategy** - Improve the awareness of Safeguarding, including the work of the Board, amongst practitioners and the community, with a particular focus on at risk communities. Ensuring that the voice of children influences learning and best practice

3: **Tackling exploitation and abuse across young people in Portsmouth, including CSE**— to ensure robust partnership arrangements are in place to prevent and manage the risk of harm to young people, including Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked Children,

4: **Tackling bullying in schools and online** - as this is what children and young people in Portsmouth tell us is their greatest concern

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# CHAPTER 1

## About the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) is the statutory partnership body responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of services in Portsmouth for protecting and promoting the welfare of children.

The Board is made up of senior representatives from all the main agencies and organisations in Portsmouth with responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Portsmouth. The PSCB fulfils its statutory role in coordinating local work by:

- Developing robust policies & procedures
- Participating in the planning and commissioning of services for children in Portsmouth
- Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and explaining how this can be done

We ensure the effectiveness of local work by:

- Monitoring what is done by partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Undertaking serious case reviews and other multi-agency case reviews, audits and sharing learning opportunities
- Collecting and analysing information about child deaths
- Publishing an Annual Report on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Portsmouth

During 2015-16 the Board has continued to meet bi-monthly, with the Executive Committee meeting on the intervening months. The work of the PSCB is largely undertaken through the sub-committees, supported by the Business Unit and is heavily reliant on the input of staff from all partner agencies.

What follows is a brief overview of the roles, functions and structure of the Board. More detail can be found in the Constitution, which can be found [here](#) on the 'about us' page of the PSCB website.

### **Main Board**

This is made up of representatives of the member's agencies. Board members must be sufficiently senior so as to ensure they are able to speak confidently and sign up to agreements on behalf of their agency, and make sure that their agency abides by the policies, procedures and recommendations of the PSCB.

### **Executive**

The Executive Committee manages the business and operations of the PSCB, ensuring there are clear governance arrangements in place. Progress on the objectives and tasks within the LSCB Business Plan are driven by Executive Group meetings and reported on a regular basis to the Board.

### **Sub Committees**

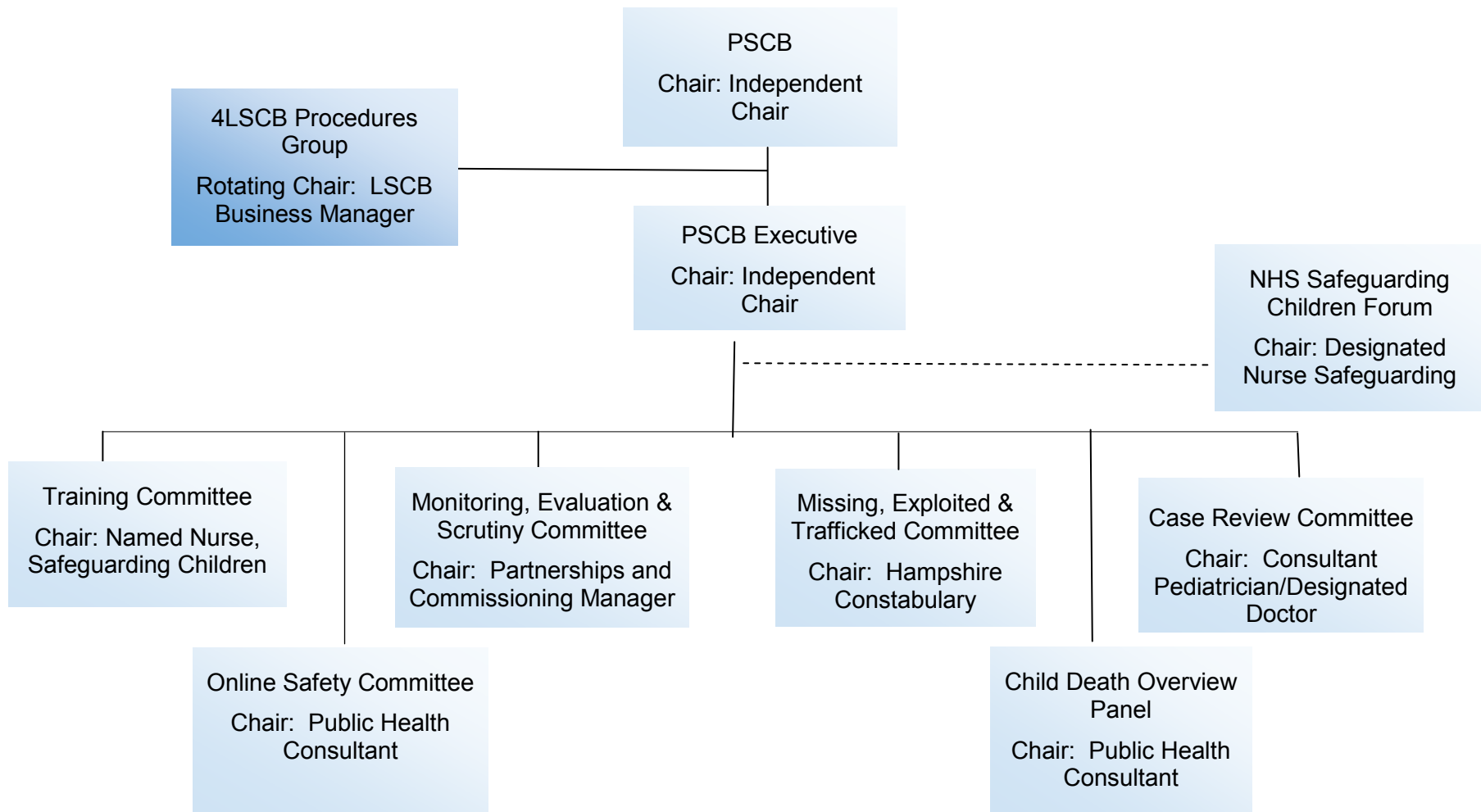
Membership of the committees is made up of staff from bodies or agencies represented at the PSCB, who are co-opted to ensure each committee has the relevant expertise and knowledge to deliver the PSCB Business Plan. Membership of committees can include Board Members themselves. The commitment shown by agencies and their staff is testament to the seriousness with which the PSCB is viewed and the shared intent across the partnership to improve multi-agency working, services and outcomes for children and young people

### **4LSCB Arrangements**

Portsmouth, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Southampton each has its own LSCB, but come together under the 4LSCB umbrella. It is under this arrangement that the four LSCBs produce the child protection procedures that set out how agencies and individuals across all four geographical areas should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The target audience for these procedures is professionals (including unqualified staff and volunteers) and front-line managers who have particular responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and operational and senior managers, in:

- Agencies responsible for commissioning or providing services to children and their families and to adults who are parents;
- Agencies with a particular responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

# PSCB Structure Chart



## Key PSCB Roles

### Independent Chair

Reg Hooke was appointed to the role of Independent Chair to the PSCB in 2013.

The Chair is subject to an annual appraisal to ensure the role is undertaken competently and that the post holder retains the confidence of the PSCB members. The Chief Executive of Portsmouth City Council, David Williams, appoints the Chair and managerial support is provided by the Director of Children's Services.

### Portsmouth City Council

Whilst the Chair and the Board itself is independent, Portsmouth City Council is responsible for establishing and maintaining the PSCB on behalf of all agencies.

The Director of Children's Services and the Deputy Director of Children's Social Care are required to sit on the main Board of the PSCB as these are pivotal roles in the provision of children's social care within the local authority.

### Leader of Portsmouth City Council

The ultimate responsibility for the effectiveness of the PSCB rests with the Leader of Portsmouth City Council, Councillor Donna Jones.

### Lay Members

The PSCB has three local residents acting as Lay Members who support stronger public engagement in local child protection and safeguarding issues and contribute to an improved understanding of the PSCB's work in the community.

The PSCB lay members started off the year by hosting the annual Lay Members Conference in June for LSCB lay members in the South East region. This took a lot of planning and preparation but was a great way to start off the year and gave them the opportunity to discuss their experiences with others and establish in more depth what the role of a Lay Member should be.

During this year the lay members have joined the PSCB Business Manager on some audit moderation visits, which provided a great opportunity for them to speak to various agencies within the city and understand how they put into practice the guidelines around safeguarding.

The lay members also played an integral role in helping prepare for and facilitating part of the PSCB's annual development day, where young people came from around the city to talk about their experiences of safeguarding and helping review the Board's priorities for next year.

The lay members attend the board meetings and stay up to date with the items discussed at the board.

In the coming year they hope to build on their role further and explore opportunities to get more involved with the work of the PSCB and safeguarding children in Portsmouth.

### Lead Member for Children's Services

During 2015-16 this role was held by Cllr Neill Young, a locally elected Councillor with responsibility for making sure that the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities to safeguard children and young people. The Lead Member contributes to the PSCB as a participating observer and is not part of the decision-making process.

### Partner Agencies

The key statutory partners are Portsmouth City Council, Hampshire Constabulary, the various sectors of the National Health Service with responsibility for Portsmouth and schools. A number of other partners make up the PSCB and all are committed to ensuring the effective operation of the PSCB. This is supported by the PSCB Constitution which sets out the governance and accountability arrangements.

### Designated Professionals

Health commissioners should have a designated doctor and nurse to take a strategic, professional lead on all aspects of the health service contribution to safeguarding children across the local area. Designated professionals are a vital source of professional advice on safeguarding children matters to partner agencies and the PSCB. There are Designated Doctors and Nurse roles in post.

## Key Relationships

### Children's Trust

The Portsmouth Children's Trust is a partnership of agencies in the city committed to working together to improve all outcomes for children. The Trust is governed by a Board with formal responsibility for strategic planning, commissioning services, and promoting effective integrated working.

The Children's Trust is responsible for producing, delivering and monitoring the Children's Trust Plan which outlines how improvements in service delivery and design will be made to achieve better outcomes for children and families.

The PSCB reports annually to this body and we hold them to account to ensure they commission the services that are needed based on the agreed safeguarding priorities.

### Health and Wellbeing Board

This Board was established in Portsmouth in 2012/13. It brings together leaders from the County Council, NHS and partner agencies to develop a shared understanding of local needs, priorities and service developments.

The PSCB reports annually to the Health and Well-being Board and will hold it to account to ensure that it tackles the key safeguarding issues for children in Portsmouth.

### Clinical Commissioning Groups

The Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England and Health Services across Portsmouth have been important contributors to the PSCB during 2015-16

### Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board (PSAB)

The overarching purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to:

- Assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place for vulnerable adults as defined by the Care Act,
- Prevent abuse and neglect where possible, and
- Provide timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect has occurred.

The PSCB has a significant interest in the work of the PSAB as there are many related themes such as children in homes where adults have mental health issues, vulnerable teenagers approaching adulthood and those leaving care as adults.

### Joint Working Protocols

The PSCB, Children's Trust and Health and Well-being Board have a well established joint protocol outlining working arrangements between the three Boards.

There is also a joint working protocol between the Health & Wellbeing Board, PSCB and PSAB which sets out:

- the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Boards,
- the inter-relationships between the Boards in terms of safeguarding and wellbeing, and
- the means by which we will secure effective co-ordination and coherence between the Boards.





## Challenge and Change

A main role of the Board is to challenge agencies to make improvements to safeguarding arrangements where risks or potential risks are identified. Having done so the Board will support members to co-ordinate solutions to remove or reduce those risks. Here are a few examples:

- **Following the annual report on Child protection Case Conferences the Board raised concerns that multi-agency partners may not be monitoring the quality of the plans sufficiently**
  - ⇒ In response the Executive Group members undertook an audit . This found that there was a significant weaknesses for all agencies in the descriptions of the child's views, wishes and feelings. The Board is now developing guidance and good practice for agencies . All agencies will report back to the Board on how they routinely share reports with families prior to conferences
- **The Board challenged Hampshire Constabulary on the need for more comprehensive data on children especially those victim of sexual exploitation, neglect and domestic abuse**
  - ⇒ Although this presented a difficult challenge to the police in providing such specific data, Hampshire Police have responded positively and are making significant changes to meet this requirement in 2016/17
- **The Board challenged the School Nursing Service to review its planned changes to service that would have meant that Child protection Conferences (CPC) may have been sitting without Health representation. National policy states that a health representative must be present at a CPC**
  - ⇒ A multi-agency group chaired by the Director of Public Health and including Children's Social Care and Health met and ultimately agreed that a School Nurses, or health visitor , will continue to attend all Initial CPCs and that further support will be tailored to the needs of each case
- **The newly established Multi Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH) this year afforded opportunity to re-examine the information-sharing guidance, particularly following concerns raised by Ofsted about obtaining parental/family consent . The Board sought an update on the embedding of MASH and challenged a number of areas of teething problems in set up**
  - ⇒ The encouraged agencies to reconsider processes and re-issue guidance across the workforce. The MASH has now established robust arrangements that afford consent being considered and promote legitimate information sharing arrangements that assist the Safeguarding of vulnerable children in Portsmouth
- **The Board challenged itself on its lack of engagement with children in its own planning**
  - ⇒ The annual event to review Board priorities included school children being facilitated through the secondary schools member to participate in the day. This was a hugely successful event and the richness of the contributions from the children was highly refreshing and influential

## Financial Arrangements

Board partners continue to contribute to the PSCB budget in addition to providing a variety of resources in kind.

Contributions from partners for 2015-6 were £170,679, £149,790 towards the Board's core budget and £20,889 to support the PSCB training programme.

An underspend of £13,024 was carried forward from 2014-15



### PSCB budget 2015-16

Income	Total Funding £
Portsmouth City Council	123,620
Portsmouth NHS CCG	30,762
Police	13,117
Probation	2,278
Naval Personnel & Family Service	274
CAFCASS	628
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>170,679</b>

Budget item	Allocated budget £
Staffing costs	£ 85,000.00
Additional costs	£ 6,000.00
Chronolator licence	£ 554.00
Independent Chair	£ 25,000.00
Online procedures maintenance	£ 1,500.00
Website maintenance	£ 400.00
Child Death overview	£ 12,600.00
PSCB development day 2016	£ 800.00
Apprentice	£ 2,500.00
MESC	£ 5,000.00
SCR	£ 10,053.00
SAF Launch x3 (refreshments only)	£ 500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 149,907.00</b>

# CHAPTER 2 Safeguarding children in Portsmouth

## The City of Portsmouth

Portsmouth is a port city situated on the southern coast of Hampshire. The city area spans just 15.5 square miles and in 2016, the population is estimated to be approximately 212,800. Portsmouth is recognised as being the most densely populated local authority in the United Kingdom outside of London.

**Approximately 43,800 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Portsmouth. This is 20.6% of the total population in the area.**

The most recent Portsmouth Schools Census (2015) indicates that children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 20.1% of all children living in the area, which is lower than the national average of 28.6% in England. The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language in primary schools is 15.1% (the national average of 18.7%) and in secondary schools is 12% (the national average is 14.3%). After English, Bengali and Polish are the most common languages spoken in Portsmouth schools .

In 2013, there were approximately 9,000 dependent children in Portsmouth aged under 20 years living in poverty, at 21.4% this is significantly higher than the average for England of 18%. The percentage of children and young people living in poverty (where household income is 60% or less of median income) varies greatly across the city, the highest percentage by electoral ward is 43% with the lowest percentage being 4.3%.

Portsmouth has a relatively high proportion of Armed Forces personnel resident in the city, at the time of the 2011 Census, there were 2,396 members of the Armed Forces aged 16 years and over resident to Portsmouth (1.2% of the adult population of Portsmouth, compared to the England average of 0.3%). Additionally 11% of Portsmouth adults (aged 16 years and over) are estimated to be veterans.

## Policy Context

[Section 14 of the Children Act 2004](#) sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- a. to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b. to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

[Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006](#) sets out that the functions of the LSCB, and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) provides a clear framework for LSCBs to do this in.

Further information can be found at [www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk](http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk)



## Vulnerable Groups

Children can become vulnerable and subsequently be at increased risk of harm for a variety of reasons. National case reviews demonstrate that children living in households where there is domestic abuse, substance misuse or their parents are mentally ill are known to be at a greater risk.

We also understand the long-term damaging effects of neglectful parenting on children. We know that children who go missing from school or missing from home are also placed in greater danger of harm. Despite this it is not always possible to know the complete picture of the children whose safety is at risk because some abuse or neglect may be masked. To counter this partners in the PSCB have identified some groups of children that are understood to be at particular risk. This helps ensure that their needs are understood and that they form part of our local picture.

The PSCB annual report details our understanding of the categories of children and young people identified as being vulnerable and in need of protection.



## Children at risk of being neglected

Between April 2015 and March 2016 the numbers of children subject to protection plans rose significantly, starting at 236 and rising to 305 before the end of year figure at 275. However, the proportion of children with a plan under the category of neglect has remained at approximately 70%.

In relation to the numbers of children becoming looked after as a result of neglect, the statistics also highlight some consistency, that approximately 25% children subject to protection plans as a result of neglect concerns become looked after.

Neglect has remained a prominent issue in Portsmouth. The work being completed has yet to evidence impact in tackling neglect at an earlier stage to prevent escalation.

The number of staff accessing the neglect tool and guidance on the PSCB website is increasing. Portsmouth City Council is embedding a restorative approach across the workforce that seeks to build family capacity and resilience and strengthening the early help offer so as to reduce escalation into statutory services.

Further work to examine the impact of neglect in the city and how we are tackling it is planned for 2016-17

## Children at risk of going missing, sexual exploitation and/or being trafficked (MET)

The Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Committee has continued to focus activity on increasing awareness of these concerns locally and ensuring that practitioners have the right tools to respond. The Committee has seen changes in staff across the agencies represented but the Operational Group overseeing front line practice has continued to receive robust support across health, social care, education and police agencies.

The group has developed a new strategy to try and ensure children at risk are identified at an early stage. This strategy encompasses missing, exploited and trafficked and is based around 5 key pillars:

1. Scrutiny and Oversight,
2. Understand and Identify,
3. Prevention,
4. Intervention and Support, and
5. Disrupt and Bring to Justice.

It is now recognised that missing from home or care presents significant risks of CSE and developing a joint strategy will allow the LSCB to better focus on protecting children in Portsmouth and identifying early risk and providing early intervention and support. Training has been provided to 158 professionals who work with children in Portsmouth through a combination of face-to-face training and online programmes to raise awareness of CSE and trafficking.

### Trafficking

The numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) arriving in Portsmouth rose significantly in 2015/16 and this has resulted in more trafficking assessments and safety plans being completed. Staff in children's social care have been working closely with Barnardo's, the British Red Cross and the Home Office to better understand and plan for children at risk of trafficking and those who have been trafficked. A better recording system has now been established to be able to report on these issues. This is an area of ongoing work across agencies so as to better meet the needs of this growing group of young people

### Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

The Portsmouth CSE risk assessment tool has been reviewed and revised in accordance with staff feedback. Practitioners from children's social care, the youth offending service and Barnardo's are routinely using the assessment tool to determine the level of risk and inform the right response. Across the year 102 young people were identified to be at risk of sexual exploitation (18 at high risk, 67 at medium risk and 54 at low risk). Over the course of the year 56 children received a service from the U-Turn service provided by Barnardo's to address concerns about sexual exploitation. Evidence from children's social care indicates that the risk escalated in 14 cases and decreased in 31 cases - however the risk has remained unchanged in 63 cases.

We are reviewing the CSE cases where risk has remained unchanged throughout the intervention so as to understand what we might need to do differently. We are also working across the partnership to better capture data across all agencies involved in this work so we can better capture the impact our interventions are having.

In 2015/16 Portsmouth piloted a CSE Guardian Angels patrol, a police led initiative to provide advice and raise awareness of CSE by targeting hot spots where children meet within the city. This is being evaluated to establish the impact on safeguarding children.

### Missing

In relation to missing there has been work to map the pathways to services for young people going missing from home and missing from care once, twice or more in a 90 day period. There is now an automatic multi-agency strategy discussion held once a child has gone missing 3 times in a 90 day period. 244 young people went missing during 2015/16 (96 from home and 148 from care) and 157 independent return interviews were completed by Barnardo's.



## Current Challenges for the MET priority

The challenges faced this year by the MET Committee have been collating the right dataset and understanding what the data is telling us. This is being developed as a priority in 2016/17 to fully understand the impact on children and build on what works.

The priorities for this Committee in 2016-17 will be:

1. To prevent children being subject of CSE and to reduce the risk to those who have been exploited by providing support.
2. To obtain coherent data across the partnerships that forms a robust performance framework
3. To ensure an effective and established information sharing and risk assessment mechanism to identify those at risk
4. To identify, disrupt and prosecute those who sexually exploit or traffic children.

The PSCB MET Strategy is available on [here](#) on the 'about us' page of the PSCB website



## Private Fostering

A privately fostered child is defined as 'a child who is under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) and who is cared for, and provided with accommodation, by someone other than:

the parent

a person who is not the parent but who has parental responsibility, or

a close relative defined in this context as a brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or step-parent.

A child who is looked after in their own home by an adult is not considered to be privately fostered. Children who are privately fostered are amongst the most vulnerable and the Local Authority must be notified of these arrangements.

Information collected locally mirrors the national situation in relation to low notifications and reports rarely coming from parents. There were 11 young people subject to private fostering arrangements between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Five of these were new notifications with 2 being male and 3 female. At the end of March 2016 there were only 2 open private fostering cases. Of the current Private Fostering Arrangements only 2 people with parental responsibility made a financial contribution to the placement and both of these were young people in language schools placements. The placements were secure overall with only one placement breakdown. In all cases the child was visited within 7 working days of receipt of notification of the arrangement and additionally throughout the year on a six monthly basis, and an annual review.

The last Ofsted inspection of Children's Services in 2014/15 identified the local authorities' response to children who are living in Private Fostering Arrangements as an area for improvement. A comprehensive marketing plan has been developed to address this.

More information about private fostering can be found [here](#) on the 'parents & carers' page of the PSCB website and the Private Fostering Annual Report is available upon request.

## Children who offend or are at risk of offending

Portsmouth Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Hampshire Police implemented a Triage Decision Making Panel in April 2015 as a means for diverting children and young people from the criminal justice system. Between April 2015 and March 2016, 279 discussions were held with robust and appropriate outcomes reached for each child and young person in every case.

The Priority Young Person Strategy for those who have been convicted 4 times or committed more than 5 offences in a year has continued to reduce the number of young people in this cohort.

There has been increased engagement by the young people working with YOT with substance misuse services. 100% of children referred are seen within 15 days. In the last quarter 100% of young people engaged with this service reported reduced use.

There is clear evidence of increased Education, Employment & Training (EET) for the young people receiving a YOT intervention, and this number went from 40% in Quarter 2 to above 70% in Quarter 4.

As one of the teams within Children Social Care, YOT has a clear link with the safeguarding teams and uses this to seek appropriate advice and make inter-agency safeguarding referrals where appropriate.

At the beginning of interventions with young people, as part of the initial assessment, practitioners use self-assessment tools to gauge the views and understanding of the young person. Viewpoint, a nationally accredited feedback, is used for service user feedback at review stage and the end of a court order. Portsmouth YOT is either in line with national average or exceeds it in a number of areas; drugs and alcohol - 100% of young people felt things got better after YOT intervention, emotional health - similarly positive. An impressive 80% of young people considered they are less likely to offend following YOT intervention (against a national average of 74%) and 95% felt they were treated fairly by staff.

The Youth Offending Team continues to evidence good practice which was endorsed in the re-inspection 2015/16 when the team was awarded the highest possible score for their protection of children and young people. The inspectors found examples of good quality individual and strategic work and made particular reference to the joined up work related to Child Sexual Exploitation.

The YOT is an active member of the local Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (young people) operational group. Contributing to this, the YOT has developed a mapping database for children at risk, including CSE, offending and missing. Further work and funding is needed regarding the maintenance and management of this information.

Over the year staffing levels have presented a challenge however the team has supported each other to overcome this and should be fully staffed by July 2016.

The priorities in this area for next year are:

- Reducing first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- Reducing reoffending
- Reducing use of custody



## Child and young person's mental health and wellbeing

The mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people are of crucial importance and as such have a major impact on the safeguarding and life outcomes of children. Research indicates that half of lifetime mental health problems start by the age of 14.

During this year Solent NHS Trust have tried to make it easier for children, young people, parents and carers to access help and support when needed. With their Single Point of Access for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) coordinating all services available in Portsmouth City for children, young people and families who present with a range of emotional, behavioural and mental health needs.

In 2015-16 CAMHS received 1,755 referrals and additionally responded to 1,605 duty calls from parents and professionals seeking advice or guidance. They are working hard to improve wait times for specialist input and are developing direct access treatments and group work for conditions including anxiety, emotional coping skills, family work and eating disorders.

For vulnerable high risk children tackling sexual exploitation and emotional abuse of young people across Portsmouth has been a priority for the CAMHS Children in Care and Youth Offending Team. They were effective in offering extended support and therapeutic training through the 'Caring for the Traumatised Child' programme to carers of children and young people who present at a higher risk of developing mental health difficulties.

The reported outcomes from children, young people and their families within the CAMHS Friends and Family Test and peer audits demonstrate that the treatment children received was what they needed, when they needed it and that they were treated with respect and dignity.

In 2016/17 a transformation plan is in place to further develop services in order to promote, protect and improve the emotional health children and young people in Portsmouth. Initiatives include;

- Creating a self-harm awareness campaign to enhance the self-harm care pathway in schools and develop positive coping strategies.
- Increasing consultation to multi- agency teams to promote early intervention to identify and support those families earlier to prevent serious mental health problems developing.
- enhancing the Infant Mental Health service to strengthen attachments between parents or carers and therefore prevent early neglect, trauma and build resilience.
- enhance the existing Eating Disorder offer to young people.
- enhancing the crisis support package to prevent admission and support discharge from hospital.
- building the skills, competencies and confidence e of the children's workforce so they are equipped to best support children and young people's mental health in Portsmouth.





## Female genital mutilation, circumcision or cutting (FGM/C)

Female genital mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision or cutting) is a cultural practice in some communities.

It refers to procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways. The practice causes severe pain and has several immediate and long-term health consequences, including difficulties in childbirth and dangers to the child. It is illegal in the UK.

FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore dealt with as part of existing child and adult safeguarding/protection structures, policies and procedures. One of PSCB's functions is to raise awareness of this amongst partners.

The prevalence of FGM in Portsmouth is difficult to estimate, because of its hidden nature. National datasets have been set up, which will help us to better estimate prevalence more accurately in time. Local estimates are based on many assumptions, are not included at this time.

Southern Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS) developed and delivered the Community Champions Training Project delivered over a 4 week programme. The project was a community-based initiative which

- challenges the powerful social norms of FGM,
- empowers women to self-reflect on FGM,
- reinforces participants' wellbeing, and
- focuses on challenges on the health issues of women and girls.

There are some diaspora communities (those who have left their ancestral homeland and retained their cultural practices) who are affected by FGM/C that are reluctant to engage with work around FGM/C but since SDAS developed the Community Champions Project, it has been able to engage with more women from a wider range of communities including those originating from countries of high prevalence.

SDAS also delivered a 7 session programme which consisted of issues affecting every woman and child, predominantly from FGM/C affected communities regardless of their disposition towards the occurrence or non occurrence of FGM/C in their communities. The programme empowered women to consider and discuss how cultural differences emanating from these issues might clash with UK legislation. The overarching aim of the programme was to increase the confidence of women within affected communities to reject FGM/C as part of their identity, and strengthen their voice to speak out against the practice thereby safeguarding themselves and their children. raise issues and concerns in order to access support. This work was funded by a variety of small funding streams.

### **Mandatory Reporting of FGM/C**

From 31 October 2015 regulated health and social care professionals and teachers are required now to report cases of FGM/C in girls under 18 which they identify in the course of their work to the police. To ensure that GP Practices and the wider Health economy comply with this a number of awareness raising activities have been carried out by Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and it is referred to in all relevant PSCB training

The priorities in Portsmouth for next year are:

- Increased partnership working with statutory agencies (through training and information sharing) to consolidate work on safeguarding women and children
- Reaching women and children at high risk of FGM in Portsmouth to raise awareness of FGM and its legal and health complications
- Reaching school age children who are at risk of FGM through age appropriate content in schools

# CHAPTER 3

## The child's journey

### Early Help (including Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Single-Assessment Framework (SAF))

Early Help is about intervening and supporting children and families where they are at risk of being on a downward path and that by helping early the need for statutory intervention will be averted. There is a strong moral and indeed financial case for Early Help as it can, and should, avoid long term and even life time damage to children and remove the associated long term costs to society.

The SAF was launched in June 2015 and creates a shared inter-agency assessment and planning tool. It enables those working with a child or family to gain a holistic view of their needs and bring together the right services to meet those needs.

In 2015/16 in excess of 600 early help assessments were made under the new Early Help Single Assessment Framework process.

Portsmouth Children's Trust has responded to a range of challenges around Early Help in Portsmouth with a clear strategy to restructure a range of universal, early help and safeguarding services into three locality-based Multi-Agency Teams (MATs) to improve the integration of key multi agency services for children and families.

The MATs is a partnership of Portsmouth City Council, Solent NHS Trust and Barnardo's and will see over 230 staff co-located into multi-disciplinary services serving the three localities. A clear focus for the MATs will be the identification of children and families requiring early help responses from the system.

In addition to the co-location, the Stronger Future strategy (within which the development of the MATs sits) will be making improvements to the flow of work into services to ensure families get the right responses, as well as rolling out a shared practice model based on Restorative Practice.

### Joint Action Team - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

During 2015-16 the Joint Action Team, providing the gateway to children's social care, was transformed into a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH affords key agencies the opportunity to share information in the context of safeguarding concerns so as to determine the right services for vulnerable children and families. The MASH is being closely monitored to ensure that it delivers a quality, safe service.

There were 19,299 contacts into JAT/MASH during 2015-16 resulting in 2,081 referrals to Children's Social Care. 1,837 Single Assessments were completed by Children's Social Care to determine the needs of children and their families.



## **Children In Need (including children subject to protection plans) and Looked After Children**

In March 2016 Children's Social Care were working with 648 Children in Need; 275 Children subject of Child Protection Planning and 322 Looked After Children (which included 32 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children).

Assessments indicate that staff have a good awareness of the signs of neglect and the impact on children. Training has been provided for Children's Social Care (CSC) staff and their Team Leaders and Service Leads provide good supervision and oversight.

CSC have been significantly involved in the work to develop Multi-Agency Teams (MATs) as part of the Stronger Futures program to develop affordable and even better services for vulnerable families in Portsmouth. It is anticipated that a number of children's services will co-locate early in 2016-17 with the aim of integrating early help services later in the year. As part of this work the children's workforce will be trained in restorative practices so that a shared approach to intervention is embedded across the workforce.

CSC staff work hard to gain the voice of the child and during 2015/16 the participation of children in their Looked After Children Reviews and Child Protection Conferences has improved and we have involved more children in the recruitment of CSC staff.

Children's Social Care have taken the lead in the MET operational group and are a key agency in improving the identification of young people at risk of CSE and working with them and the rest of the community to reduce risk. This year CSC have reviewed and revised the CSE Risk Assessment Toolkit following feedback from staff.

It has been recognised that for children in care, placing them more than 20 miles from home increases their vulnerability to CSE. In Portsmouth, Children's Social Care has continued to increase the pool of local foster carers, reducing the number of children who are placed more than 20

miles from home increases their vulnerability to CSE. In Portsmouth, Children's Social Care has continued to increase the pool of local foster carers, reducing the number of children who are placed more than 20 miles from the city.



In working restoratively with families Children's Social Care are expecting to:

- strengthen the support to families so that more children remain in the care of their family, or return home from care in a safe and timely way;
- reduce the average time children spend in the care of the Local Authority before moving to permanent care arrangements through re-unification, adoption or special guardianship;
- reduce the need for repeat care proceedings.

In addition to this Children's Social care will work with colleagues from police and health to rationalise MARAC, MAPPA and Prevent process through the MASH so as to streamline pathways and limit duplication.

# CHAPTER 4

## Children's workforce

### PSCB Safeguarding Training

The PSCB training programme is delivered by a team of professionals from its partner agencies. During 2015-16 2,137 delegates have attended PSCB courses:

- **669** spaces were filled on the **multi-agency modules**,
- **366** delegates accessed **eLearning** courses and
- **1,102** delegates were taught in **single agency settings (mostly schools)**

This figure is consistent with that of the year 2014-2015 and reflects that the PSCB makes a significant contribution in relation to having a well trained workforce in the city to keep children safe. Post evaluation shows that delegates improve their knowledge and confidence as a result of attendance.

The main groups of professionals accessing the multi-agency programme are those from schools, early years providers (nurseries and child minders) and voluntary sector organisations.

There has been an increase in delegates from Portsmouth City Council's (PCC) Housing and Children's Social Care directorates. There has been a piece of targeted work to ensure those working in Housing Services understand their responsibilities with regards to safeguarding children and bespoke Basic Awareness courses were delivered in all PCC Area Housing Offices.

The increase in attendance from Children's Social Care social workers related to newly qualified social workers attending the programme as part of their Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) and other CSC staff using the programme to refresh their safeguarding knowledge.

Whilst the attendance from organisations such as Hampshire Police remain low in comparison to other agencies, it is encouraging that police colleagues have recently attended the new PSCB Working with Vulnerable Children (Missing, Exploited and Trafficked) course.

The content of the programme has been reviewed to ensure that 'the voice of the child' runs throughout all of the courses. We also have amended our evaluation forms to include feedback from delegates

about whether the courses help them 'focus on the child' and understand 'the child's world'. PSCB Traded Services Arrangements with schools have been successful with many schools signing up to have their safeguarding training delivered through the PSCB and we continue to deliver whole school training (sometimes to over 100 staff at one time) on a regular basis. The new course for Designated Safeguarding Leads has been popular, with full attendance at all courses. The evaluation shows that this course is helping to ensure that school's safeguarding policy and practice is effective in keeping children safe.

There is a strong focus on Neglect across the whole programme and related practice issues. We have delivered a number of briefings on Serious Case Review messages which were well attended and received by many professionals across the multi-agency workforce.

The whole programme of courses has been reviewed to ensure they reflect the PSCB Business Plan priorities and learning from PSCB Committees. There is a new course focusing on 'Working with Vulnerable Children' - Missing Exploited and Trafficked. There has been positive evaluations in terms of this course providing practitioners with the knowledge and skills to identify and respond to these issues, including the use of local toolkits.

### Online Safety

During this year the PSCB Online Safety Implementation Plan has been further developed with the aim of raising awareness of the relevant issues, building professionals confidence in dealing with children's safety online and encouraging agencies to embed online safety into their ongoing safeguarding practice. The Online Safety Committee was reconvened to support the delivery of this implementation plan.

The PSCB have reappointed an Online Safety Officer who supports the delivery of the training offer, researches good practice, identifies emerging online safety concerns and keep up to date with changes to national guidance. The Officer in turn produces regular newsletters for professionals working with children which updates them on these as well as local good practice and signposting to useful resources.

A training offer has been developed for 2016-17 which includes workshops for schools staff, sessions in Children's Centres to introduce the subject of online safety to parents of pre-school children and a forum for professionals working with children to enable the sharing of good practice.

## Allegations against adults working with children and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The Local Authority Designated Officer or LADO, is a post that is responsible for overseeing the response to allegations made against adults working with children. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015) set out the framework for how the LADO role is delivered.

Notifications need to be made to the LADO within 24 hours of a manager becoming aware of an allegation or concern of a safeguarding nature regarding a person working or volunteering with children.

**This framework for managing allegations should be used in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:**

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children.

Children's Social Care	7
Schools	53
Early Years	21
Further Education	3
Health	3
Foster Carers	24
Childminders	3
Adults	3
Other	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

The number of notifications to the LADO during 2015-2016 has increased by 12.8% from the previous year with 150 notifications being received. These were from the following agencies:

Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Further work is currently underway for smooth transition from MASH Police to the Police investigating Officers who are able to offer valuable and current information to the strategy and review meetings.

LADO meetings are chaired by the LADO and held as soon as possible and within two days if a child or children are at risk of harm. This timescale has been met in 89% of cases and this is significant improvement over previous years. A designated minute taker is present at the meeting and minutes are sent out within 5 working days. This timescale is usually met in 100% of cases. The outcomes of the allegations in the 150 cases were:

Substantiated	16
Unsubstantiated	16
Malicious	5
Unfounded	1
False	18
Advice only (not reached criteria)	71
Transferred to another Local Authority	12
Transfer to Designated Adults Safeguarding Manager	2
On-going	9

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015) states that 90% of cases should be resolved within 3 months. In the twelve month period 89% of cases were resolved within 3 months. It is further guidance that 80% of cases should be resolved within one month, and current data estimates this is being achieved in 82% of cases. This is a 4% increase from the previous year. More detail on the LADO process and work undertaken during 2015-16 can be found in their annual report which is available from the PSCB upon request.

A designated administrator has recently been appointed for LADO and it will be the role of the administrator to follow up on any cases which may be waiting update from other agencies prior to conclusions. It is anticipated that this will lead to the DfE guidance being exceeded in future years.

*Notification forms can be found on the PSCB website. If you wish to discuss a matter with the LADO (Denise Lingham) she can be contacted on 02392437648 or email [LADO@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)*

Police referrals have continued to rise and are evidence of the close working links between the LADO, the Child Abuse Investigation Unit

# Chapter 5

## The effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Portsmouth

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Portsmouth, evidence is drawn from a wide range of sources which are analysed together to assess the whole system:

- Engagement with children and young people
- Monitoring and reviewing
- Performance management and quality assurance:
  - How much did we do?
  - How well did we do it?
  - What difference has it made?
- External inspections and reviews.

### Partner Compliance with Statutory Safeguarding Requirements

Effective practice to safeguard children and young people is dependent on partners having appropriate policies, procedures and arrangements in place to support their staff. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and sections 175 and 157 of the Education Act 2002 set out the requirements for agencies and form the basis for regular self-auditing of compliance. A full self-assessment of statutory partners' compliance with s(11) responsibilities was undertaken between December 2015. and January 2016.

This year 87 agencies, including schools, GP surgeries, nurseries, teams within Portsmouth City Council etc., completed this audit and the key finding was that the child protection system in Portsmouth is effective. A range of measures demonstrate a timely and effective system, despite increased numbers, and that processes and systems to keep Looked After Children safe are good.

98% of all agencies scored as either good or outstanding against their leadership and management, and no agency felt that their responsibility in relation to safeguarding being clearly communicated to staff was less than good.

The two standards against which more agencies felt their current practice either requires improvement or is inadequate were Early Help Processes and Staff Recruitment and Selection; the percentage of respondents assessing their practice in these areas as less than good were 13% and 12% respectively.

As a result the Board will continue to closely monitor early help activity and processes and ensure there is sufficient availability on the Early Help training module, which includes an overview of the Single Assessment Framework. The Board will also ensure that there is adequate provision of Safer Recruitment training and that relevant agencies are attending.

For future Section 11 Audits, PSCB is working with Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight LSCBs to design a common template, in recognition of the fact that many agencies work in more than one area and to ask them to complete more than one self-assessment tool per year is too onerous a task.

### Learning from Audit Activity

The PSCB oversees a range of audit activity to understand the effectiveness of early help and safeguarding in the city. These include multi-agency audits, single agency audits and 'deeps dives' into specific topics.

This year we have developed a new tool for case auditing which can be applied to child protection, child in need and early help cases. This year we have received audits on:

- Bruising of non-mobile children
- The application of threshold in the Joint Action Team (the predecessor to the MASH)
- The identification of domestic abuse in the ante-natal period
- Early Help assessments and plans
- Use of safeguarding advice line in community health provider

PSCB audit activity has highlighted the following learning:

- Identification of domestic abuse and the potential impact on babies and young children needs to improve
- Safeguarding of non-mobile children is effective
- There are a number of examples of high quality early help responses but this is not seen broadly enough across the full children's system
- Thresholds for statutory safeguarding responses need to be more widely understood and applied
- The quality of improvement plans following single agency audit activity needs to improve

# CHAPTER 6

## What happens when a child dies or is seriously harmed in Portsmouth?

### Serious Case Reviews

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to consider holding a Serious Case Review (SCR) when abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in a child's death or when a child has been seriously harmed and there are concerns about how professionals may have worked together.

The PSCB only have one ongoing SCR which was commissioned following the unexpected death of an infant in 2014. The review of agencies involvement with this child has been completed, but the process has been delayed by the need to take account of parallel processes (e.g. legal proceedings), However this has not stopped the partnership implementing their actions plans and the Case Review Committee is monitoring the impact of these. The executive summary will be published once court proceedings are completed

During 2015 the PSCB published a learning review into the case of a child who was removed from hospital by his parents. Recommendations and action plans resulting from this review have been completed. The executive summary of this case has already been published and is available on PSCB website

In addition the PSCB is committed to undertaking smaller scale reviews where the case does not meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review but it is considered that there are lessons for multi-agency working to be learnt

During 2015-16 eight cases have been brought to the attention of the Case Review Committee for discussion. In these cases all agencies to whom the family are known are asked to provide a summary of their involvement. It is encouraging that in all of these cases there were examples of effective multi-agency working, such that none met the criteria for a SCR or required a partnership review.

A summary of the discussions of the cases are circulated to all participating agencies for dissemination to support learning and highlight good practice. In two of the cases where it was recommended single agencies have conducted a more thorough review of their practice and reported to Case Review Committee on the result of these reflections to ensure that any learning is disseminated more widely.

Some examples of how this learning has impacted practice are:

- Following a case presented by Solent NHS Trust Child And Adolescent Mental Health Services, more complex cases in CAMHS should now have a clear, easily accessible summary and action plan separate to the clear narrative of the notes to use in out of hours, emergency situations
- The Health Safeguarding Forum was used to share learning relating to the sibling of a case involving a non-accidental injury to a young child. The review revealed no concerns about joint working and that there was evidence of good communication between the GP and Health Visitor around the child in question. However, in relation to the sibling there was relevant learning on how GP Practices might highlight frequent attendees so that all Practice members are alerted to them and meetings between health professionals to share information to help plan support for these families can be arranged
- A learning review undertaken by Children's Social Care into the death of a care leaver found relevant learning for the Through Care Team event though the young person was 19yrs old at the time. The review has resulted in the relevant procedures being updated to ensure the Personal Adviser's responsibilities regarding transition planning are clearer and the team were provided with training so that these expectations were clear and understood

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Since April 1st 2008, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in England have had a statutory responsibility for the child death review process.

The CDOP review specified child deaths, drawing on comprehensive information from all agencies on the circumstances of each child's death. Particular consideration is given to the review of sudden unexpected deaths in infancy and childhood; accidental deaths; deaths related to maltreatment; suicides; and any deaths from natural causes where there are potential lessons to be learnt about prevention.

Through this review the Panel identify:

- any lessons to be learnt or overall patterns and trends, including any system or process issues within any agency or voluntary sector and any public health issues
- any case giving rise to the need for a referral to the Case Review Committee
- any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area
- any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in the area.

Until 2015 Portsmouth LSCB partnered with Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Boards to form a single CDOP. However, following a review of these arrangements by the Independent Chairs each of the four LSCBs now has its own CDOP arrangements but on the two principles:

1. Each LSCB works to the same Rapid Response procedures, as well as standard CDOP forms, across the four areas
2. There will be shared learning and data sharing on a minimum annual basis.

The four CDOPs will continue to produce one annual report, which will be managed by Hampshire CDOP and is available [here](#) on the 'about us' page of the PSCB website.

In Portsmouth CDOP is now a part of the Case Review Committee meeting 4 times a year, using part of these meetings to review the deaths of children who were usually resident in Portsmouth. A representative from Public Health Chairs the CDOP, and the Specialist Midwife for Safeguarding Children attends.

Portsmouth CDOP gathers and assesses information on the deaths of all children and young people from birth (excluding those babies who are stillborn) up to the age of 18 years. This includes neonatal deaths, expected and unexpected deaths in infants and in older children and young people. The outcomes of these reviews are shared with the other CDOPs in Southampton, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to ensure that any common themes and emerging trends are identified and learning shared.

During the period of review there were 11 Portsmouth child deaths of which 6 were unexpected. The Portsmouth panel has reviewed 3 of these cases and there are no themes or trends connected to these deaths. The breakdown of these figures is as follows:

⇒ Children 0-4 years = 7

⇒ Children 5-17 = 4

⇒ Over two thirds of the children were female.

⇒ 5 deaths were in the first 2 quarters of the year and 6 in the final quarter.

⇒ Of the 3 cases reviewed by the Portsmouth panel none had any modifiable factors

There are currently 7 outstanding cases to review. One of these includes an ongoing serious case review.





# CONCLUSIONS

## Message for everyone

Contribute to a learning culture in Portsmouth. Be tenacious in your efforts to safeguard children. Be curious, be prepared to challenge and be open to challenge to ensure we learn lessons from what we do. Remain curious and persistent wherever you have concerns about a child.

## Messages for Elected Members

Demand the best for our children. Use your role as Corporate Parents to ensure that Looked After Children in Portsmouth get the high level of care and support they deserve.

Expect agencies to provide robust evidence from children and young people that the support they receive is improving their lives.

Scrutinise plans and reports and challenge safeguarding service delivery if it is not good enough.

Get to know Portsmouth from a child's point of view. Understand the risks children in Portsmouth face and the support they receive to address them.

Take advantage of training and development opportunities on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

## Message for Children and Young People

Children and young people are at the heart of the child protection system. Your voices are the most important of all. The PSCB continues to seek better ways of hearing children and young people's views.

## Messages for The Police and Crime Commissioner

Ensure Police commit fully to the delivery of the PSCB MET strategy, which includes children who are missing, exploited and trafficked.

Ensure that there is an effective multi-agency response to incidents of child neglect, reducing the likelihood of the children suffering significant and long term damage.

Ensure there are appropriate arrangements to support child victims of crime through court processes and recovery

## Messages for Clinical Commissioning Groups

CCGs in the health service have a key role in scrutinising the governance and planning across a range of organisations.

Discharge your safeguarding duties effectively and ensure that services are commissioned for the most vulnerable children.

## Message for the Community

Remember that children in our community are all our responsibility. If you have concerns about a child contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0845 6710271 or 023 9266 8793.

## Messages for the City Council

Continue your work to improve outcomes for children leaving care and increase their engagement in education, employment and training.

## Messages for the Children's Trust

Make sure the plans for early help assessment promote the identification of and effective support for families experiencing neglect.

In your decision-making around structuring early help services ensure new arrangements promote links with the local community, particularly with those groups who find engaging with services challenging.

## Messages for the Children's Workforce

Keep yourself up to date with national and local processes, practices and issues around Early Help and Safeguarding.

If you are concerned about the professional decision making around a child, challenge it, and escalate if it hasn't been resolved.

# Membership of the PSCB March 2016

Title	Agency
PSCB Chair	PSCB
Business Manager, Home-Start (Vice Chair)	Portsmouth Voluntary Sector
Deputy Director of Nursing	Solent NHS
Director of Children's Services	Portsmouth City Council
Director of Public Health	Portsmouth City Council
Deputy Director of Children's Services, Children's Social Care	Children's Social Care-Portsmouth City Council
Chief Operating Officer Portsmouth CCG and Director of Adult Services	Adult Services - Portsmouth City Council
Director of Nursing	P/mouth Hospital NHS Trust
Clinical Executive	Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group
Assistant Director of Nursing (Patient Experience)	NHS England
Head of Child & Family Services	Solent NHS
Chief Superintendent	Hampshire Constabulary
Cabinet Member for Children and Education	Lead Member for Children's Services
Leadership Adviser & Senior Manager for Allegations, Education and Strategic Commissioning	Portsmouth City Council
St Georges Beneficial C of E Primary School, Portsmouth	Portsmouth Primary Schools
Headteacher, Springfield Secondary School, Portsmouth	Portsmouth Secondary Schools
Executive Director, Student & Alumni Services, Highbury College	Portsmouth Colleges
Service Manager, Hidden Violence & Young People	Domestic Abuse Services-Portsmouth City Council
Options Manager, Housing	Housing -Portsmouth City Council
Commissioning & Partnerships Manager	Children's Trust Board
Director of Operations, Motiv8	Portsmouth Voluntary Sector
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Anglican Diocese	Diocese
Methodist Association	Diocese
Southern Counties Baptist Association	Diocese
Demand Management Lead	S/Central Ambulance Service
PSCB Lay Person x 3	
Head of Operations, Hampshire & IOW CRC	Probation
Director of Offender Management	Probation
Area Officer	26 Naval Welfare
Higher Officer	UK Border Force



## **PSCB contacts details**

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**Website:** [www.portsmouthscb.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthscb.org.uk)



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