

# PSCB Annual Report 2014/15



## Safeguarding the children of Portsmouth

## A FOREWARD FROM THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Reg Hooke



It's my pleasure to present to you the annual report of the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) 2014/15. The PSCB is a partnership that works to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Portsmouth by working with, and scrutinising, the work of those 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 charity and voluntary sector organisations working with children in Portsmouth.

We concentrate our attention on the safety of the most vulnerable and at risk of harm and ensure that positive outcomes for children remain a priority.

In July 2014 the PSCB was inspected by Ofsted and judged 'Good'. This is a commendable achievement and reflects the commitment of all members and its committees to the city's children. It is particularly notable as less than a third of LSCBs nationally have been judged this high.

We are not complacent and much remains to be done as we meet new challenges in protecting children effectively at a time that budgets of many partner agencies continue to reduce.

This Annual Report can be read in conjunction with the Business Plan for 2014-17 with details of how we are doing. In the last year we have made good progress in our priorities of tackling neglect, improving our communication to all communities in the city and working closer with children and young people's groups. Action to tackle neglect was kicked off with a very successful multi-agency conference in November and has led to the development of some excellent guidance for professionals. Our three very active lay members have helped develop a new more interactive PSCB website and they have led work to improve the way we link directly with

We have also been working with our partners and other LSCBs across the county in tackling child sexual exploitation and improving our arrangements for meeting our statutory responsibility to monitor any deaths of children in the city.

We will be seeing a lot of change in Portsmouth agencies in the coming year as they respond to their own learning as well as reduced budgets. The PSCB will continue to hold them to account through these times to ensure children remain protected.

Through some challenging times professionals working in the city consistently put doing the best for children in Portsmouth first and I am confident we will see agencies work in ever closer partnership to protect children and to find new and better ways to provide efficient, effective and accessible services.

PSCB's ambition is to ensure that arrangements to safeguard children in Portsmouth are outstanding. By working together and engaging our whole community I am confident we can do this.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reg Hooke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

## Priorities for 2014/15 and how we delivered against them

### ***PSCB will ensure that all consultation, audits, analysis, and recommendations have at the heart of them the views of children***

- We consulted children on the annual report and produced a child friendly version of the paper
- We changed our training programme so that 'the voice of the child' runs throughout.
- We amended our training evaluation forms to include feedback about whether the courses help them 'focus on the child' and understand 'the child's world'
- We consulted local children on the main themes of the PSCB business plan
- We ensured all audits and reviews focused on the child's experience



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

- We facilitated a multi-agency neglect conference in September 2014 to raise professional awareness of neglect and its long term consequences on children.
- We have developed a tool for early help professionals and social workers to promote early identification of neglect within families

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

- We produced and distributed regular safeguarding newsletters
- We commissioned and developed the new user friendly LSCB website

### ***The PSCB needs to constantly challenge itself to ensure it is being effective in improving situations for children and families so we will improve the way we manage our business and how we measure the impact PSCB has***

- We improved our data and analysis so that the PSCB now receives 6 monthly reports on performance and specific recommendations for improvement and action. These recommendations remain under review until completed
- We track all recommendations and actions so we can say whether we have had an impact on children's lives or not
- All board members have agreed to participate in one Section 11 audit a year to show leadership and commitment to constructive challenge

## The Ofsted review of the PSCB

In June and July 2014 the Government inspectorate, Ofsted, reviewed the effectiveness of the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board as a part of the national inspection programme. The safeguarding Board was judged to be **good**. Nationally less than a third of LSCBs have been judged good. The following is the detailed comments Ofsted made:

The Local Safeguarding Children Board was judged as **good** because:

- Robust governance arrangements ensure that the Board meets its statutory responsibilities with membership at the appropriate seniority
- The four priorities identified by the Board are appropriate, and the Board's Business Plan demonstrates how those priorities will be met
- The Section 11 audit, Compact, is well established and the quality assurance of the process is good
- The Board uses a comprehensive multi-agency data set to routinely scrutinise and evaluate frontline performance
- The process for commissioning serious case reviews is set out appropriately in a detailed procedure, and all actions arising from recommendations of the most recent serious case review are complete
- The Board receives regular information about young people at risk and the CSE sub-committee, chaired by the police, leads strategic developments
- Routine and bespoke, internally commissioned multi-agency audits, along with analysis of data, inform and influence the focus of improvement activity
- The PSCB and Children's Trust threshold document is clear and widely disseminated. Child protection policies and procedures are good and regularly reviewed
- Appropriate multi-agency training is provided to all agencies. Take up is good with low rates of non-attendance

**Priorities for 2015/16** - governance was a one-year project during 2014-15, and Ofsted concluded that PSCB's governance arrangements were robust. For 2015-17 priority area 4 will focus on tackling exploitation and abuse across young people aged 11+ in Portsmouth

**Child neglect** - Improve the effectiveness with which agencies and the community deal with it

**Communication** - Improve the awareness of safeguarding, including the work of PSCB among practitioners and the community, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable communities

**Voice of the child** - Ensuring that we hear the views of children and it helps improve what we do

**Tackling sexual exploitation** and abuse of young people across 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 with a population of approximately 208,900, it is recognised as being the most densely populated area in the United Kingdom outside of London.

- Approximately 48,500 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Portsmouth. This is 20.6% of the total population in the area
- Approximately 24.4% of the local authority's children are living in poverty (the England average is 20.1%)
- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals in primary and nursery schools is 21.3% (the national average is 18%), and in secondary schools is 20.1% (the national average is 15.7%)
- Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 20.1% of all children living in the area, compared with 21.6% in the country as a whole
- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Mixed Ethnic Group: White and Asian (3.5%), Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi (3.5%) and White: Other White (2.9%).
- The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language in primary schools is 15.1% (the national average is 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
- Portsmouth has a relatively high proportion of Armed Forces personnel resident in the city, with 2.3% of the adult population compared to the England average of 0.3%
- The city's child poverty rate (24.4%), (compared to the national average of 20.1 %) masks significant differences at ward level, with rates ranging from 6.3% to 48.1%

## 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.

### Policy Context

Following consultation the government published amendments to statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015). Revisions include changes to:

- the referral and management of allegations against adults working with children
- notifiable incidents involving the care of a child
- definition of serious harm for the purpose of serious case review criteria.

Further information can be found at

[www.gov.uk/Working Together to Safeguard Children.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/Working Together to Safeguard Children.pdf)



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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 deep-dives 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

### 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

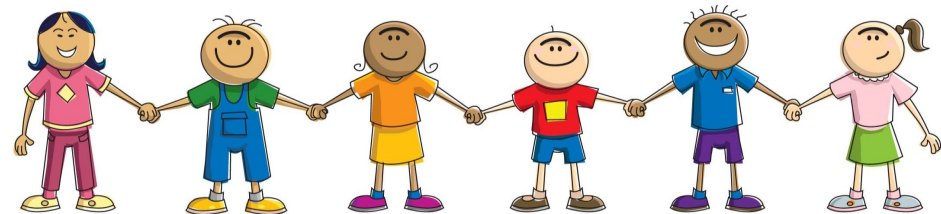
The Executive Committee manages the business and operations of the PSCB, ensuring there are clear governance arrangements in place and drives forward the strategic priorities as outlined in the Business Plan.

### Committees

Membership of the committees are made up of staff from bodies or agencies represented at the PSCB, who are co-opted to ensure each group has the relevant expertise and knowledge to deliver the PSCB Business Plan. Membership of committees can include Board Members themselves.

### 4LSCB Arrangements

Portsmouth, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Southampton each has its own LSCB, but come together under the 4LSCB umbrella in order to share procedures and policies, skills, knowledge, resources and learning.



# CHAPTER 1

## About the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board

### 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 and Adults' Services.

#### Portsmouth City Council

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

The Director of Children and Adults' Services and the Director of Children's Social Care are required to sit on the Main Board of the PSCB as this is a pivotal role in the provision of adult's and 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.

#### Lead Member for Children's Services

This role is held by 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

All partner agencies in Portsmouth 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.

#### 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.

During the last year PSCB Lay Members have been actively involved in the development of the Communication Strategy for the Board which has now begun to be implemented and is exploring the involvement of faith groups. They have also participated in learning reviews, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) working groups and capturing the voice of the child. The PSCB is also hosting the South of England Lay Members event for 2015.





# CHAPTER 1

## About the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board

### 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 and 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 the Children's Trust Plan which outlines how improvements in service delivery and design will be made.

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.

#### Joint Protocol

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

#### Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is elected by residents of Hampshire & the Isle of Wight and charged with securing efficient and effective policing across the two counties. On behalf of the public they set policing priorities for Hampshire Constabulary and holds the Chief Constable to account for the quality of policing service offered to the community. The PCC is committed to enabling good community cohesion and effective multi-agency relationships wherever policing and crime prevention have a role to play.

#### Members Agencies' Management Boards

PSCB Board members are senior officers within their own agencies providing a direct link between the PSCB and various agencies' boards.

During 2012/13 NHS agencies underwent significant reform and lines of communication changed and throughout 2013/14 the working links were built and strengthened between the Management Boards under the new structure and the PSCB.

#### Clinical Commissioning Groups

The Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England and Health Services across Portsmouth have been important contributors to the PSCB during 2014/15.



# CHAPTER 1

## 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 2014/15 were £149,907.

An underspend of £22,949 was carried forward from the previous year.



## About the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board

### PSCB budget 2014/15

Income	Funding £
Portsmouth City Council	108,500
Portsmouth NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	27,000
Police	11,617
Probation	2,000
Naval Personnel & Family Service	240
CAFCASS	550
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>149,907</b>
Carry forward 2013/14	22,949
<b>Total 2014-15 Budget</b>	<b>172,856</b>

Budget item	Allocated budget £	Actual spend £
Staffing costs	96,400	91,200
MESC	5,000	5,000
Chronolator licence	554	554
Chair	25,000	24,000
Case review Overview Author	12,352	5,500
Review Independent Chair	n/a	6,050
Apprentice	2,500	2,500
HCC on line procedures maintenance	1,250	1,250
Tri-ex website maintenance	600	600
Child Death overview	12,500	12,500
Website	5,000	0
Neglect conference	1,000	1,000
e-Safety	5,000	4,900
MET	2,000	1,000
Neglect work stream	0	500
Publicity & promotions	2,000	1,976
PSCB dev. days 2015	1,000	1,600

## CHAPTER 2

## Safeguarding children in Portsmouth

### Children exposed to domestic violence and abuse

During 2014 32% of all violent crime in Portsmouth was domestic related, reflecting an increase of 6% on the previous year. There was a decrease in the number of child protection plans involving Domestic Violence and Abuse from 61% in 2013/14 to 58% in 2014/15.

Since the Domestic Violence and Abuse review in 2012, domestic abuse referrals to specialist agencies have increased year on year (890 in 2012/13 to 1,592 in 2014/15). We recognise there is still work to be done to improve the appropriate identification and referral of domestic abuse by all agencies.

### Neglect

As at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, 66% of children subject to a child protection were placed under the category of neglect. Throughout the year, neglect was consistently the most used category of all child protection cases (averaging 70%) therefore tackling child neglect remains a priority for PSCB in 2015/16.

### Child sexual exploitation, missing and trafficked children

The PSCB developed a comprehensive joint strategy allowing multi agency professionals to effectively identify children at risk of abuse or exploitation, assess their need and implement plans to manage risk and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Practitioners from key agencies, including children's social care, education, health and police meet on a monthly basis to consider all children in Portsmouth at risk of going missing, being exploited or trafficked and to share information, including who is known to who and any connections to other children, 'hotspot' locations and potential perpetrators.

Barnardo's are commissioned to work with these vulnerable children, offering a specialist service to the children considered trafficked or being exploited and completing a return interview with those children who go missing from home so as to understand the factors leading them to do this and ensuring there are services in place to address these issues.

### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

PSCB launched a risk assessment and planning tool to assist practitioners across the workforce in exploring vulnerability factors and making an analysis of the level of risk of sexual exploitation. The tool allows practitioners to determine children considered at high, medium and low risk so that an appropriate response can be facilitated to meet their needs.

Robust data tracking from September 2014 onwards identified that as at March 2015 there were 109 children in Portsmouth considered at risk of CSE - 19 identified as being high risk, 48 medium risk and 11 low risk. Between September 2014 and March 2015 1 high risk case reduced to medium and 9 children moved from medium to low level risk.

Between 2013 and 2014 34% of Portsmouth children identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation were children in care.

Barnardo's provide training to primary and secondary school staff so that they are able to identify those children who may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation and the PSCB has online training available to all staff in Children's Social Care & Safeguarding.

Hampshire Constabulary, Portsmouth City Council Children's Social Care and Barnardo's have developed a project where CSE 'Guardian Angels' will patrol identified locations on Friday evenings to offer additional protection for vulnerable children and disrupt problematic, anti-social, exploitative and criminal behaviours.



## CHAPTER 2

## Safeguarding children in Portsmouth

### Missing Children

- Between April 2012 and March 2013 there were 1,398 children and young people under 18 years old who were recorded as missing in Portsmouth. This figure reduced significantly the following year (2013-14) to 801 and then saw a small increase to 956 in 2014-15
- 35 children and young people in care were reported missing in 2014/15, accounting for 315 missing reports. The majority were for less than 24 hours (267 episodes).

The overall reduction of missing reports is promising and we attribute this to earlier intervention by way of:

- Improved inter agency assessment and planning
- More effective coordination surrounding the Common Assessment Framework and Team Around The Child processes reducing the potential for escalation
- Accurate recording of missing / absent cases resulting in the identification of risk of harm to the children and young persons
- Formation of MET (Missing / Exploited / Trafficked) groups both at operational and strategic levels for Portsmouth and Hampshire respectively

The scrutiny of these cases identified gaps in the coordination and referral of cases between UKBA, National Crime Agency and local agencies and resulted in the following actions being implemented:

- Process map produced for all staff to follow to share information and make timely notifications
- Awareness raising of process to UKBA, Police and CSC staff
- All juvenile referrals to be routed via the JAT for full multi agency oversight
- Hampshire Constabulary to facilitate training & awareness for staff via Anti- Slavery Partnership Protect sub group
- Improved information sharing across agencies
- Aggregation of intelligence by Hampshire Police to inform local profiling

The PSCB is also represented on the Hampshire and IOW Anti-Slavery Partnership (ASP), which was been formed to tackle human trafficking and modern day slavery.

### Child Trafficking

There are close links between trafficking and child sexual exploitation with national trends showing an upsurge in children entering the National Referral Mechanism from being trafficked within the UK for sexual exploitation. Portsmouth is a portal entry to the UK from mainland Europe;

During 2014/15 the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) stopped 9 juvenile clandestine entries or unaccompanied minors and referred them to Children Social Care; of those 9 had trafficking indicators.

# CHAPTER 2

## 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 20 young people subject to private fostering arrangements between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Eleven of these were new notifications with 8 being male and 3 female. Of the current Private Fostering Arrangements only one person with parental responsibility makes a financial contribution to the placement. 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 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 was subsequently established to address this.

# Safeguarding children in Portsmouth

## Children who offend or are at risk of offending

Portsmouth Youth Offending Team (YOT) is awaiting verified figures from the Youth Justice Board relating to throughput and interventions for 2014/15, a delay has been caused by a recent move to a new case management system.

The most recent available data indicates that the average age of young people subject to intervention during the period 2014/15 was 15 years and 3 months. Of those, 80% were male, 3.2% are currently from a Black or Minority Ethnic background and none were Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers.

45.95% were identified as having a Special Educational Need, 11% were currently children in care. 23.9% of the caseload are currently part of the Priority Young Person Cohort and most at risk of offending.

Since July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 the YOT has been using a Live Re-Offending Tracker to measure live-time re-offending rates. Of those young people receiving an intervention since this time, 17.9% of young people re-offended, which is significantly below the projected National Frequency of 30.4%. In addition to this, use of custody continues to decline rapidly. In 2014/15 only 6 custodial sentences were imposed, whilst only 5 young people were remanded into secure Youth Detention Accommodation, compared to 24 in 2012/13. First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System has risen during 2014/15 and the police and YOT have recently introduced a new Triage process to tackle this.



# CHAPTER 2

## Safeguarding children in Portsmouth

### Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision or cutting) 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. **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.

During 2014/15 work was undertaken to:

- map prevalence and trends across the City
- agree actions necessary to prevent FGM
- deliver training and awareness raising for agencies
- develop a programme for community engagement
- develop a risk identification checklist



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

The Child Health Profile for Portsmouth (March 2014) identified the admission rate to hospital for children as a result of self-harm was higher than the England average and work was required to develop appropriate care pathways for children who self-harm.

The numbers of children presenting with Neurodevelopmental Disorders has also increased and work undertaken to develop clinical care pathways to enable timely and effective access to services.

In 2014 the Solent Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) underwent a service redesign. A Single Point of Access Team (CAMHS SPA) was developed to co-ordinate all services available in Portsmouth City for children, young people and families who present with a range of emotional, behavioural and mental health needs. This team aims to speed up the response times for children, young people and families who do meet the criteria for a targeted and specialist child and adolescent mental health service.

Longer term specialist evidence based treatments for children, young people and their families are offered through the Extended Team, CAMHS Learning Disability Team, Early Intervention Team, CAMHS Children In Care Team, Multi-Systemic Therapy Team, Paediatric Liaison and Outreach Team. Providing individualised treatment interventions designed to address the needs of children and young people and their families / support networks who have serious to severe mental health disorders.

In addition the CAMHS Children in Care Team extended their offer for those groups of children and young people who present at a higher risk of developing mental health difficulties by offering training and consultation to adoptive parents, Special Guardianship carers and family and friends carers. Care Leavers aged 18 to 25 years will also be offered access to an emotional and mental health review together with information and advice regarding access to adult services.

# CHAPTER 3

## The child's journey

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

In 2014/15 in excess of 700 CAFs were completed in Portsmouth.

In July 2014 Ofsted judged that the early help offer in Portsmouth required improvement; particularly in relation to services for adolescents.

Portsmouth Children's Trust responded to improve early help services for vulnerable children and families with the aim to restructure services into three locality-based Multi-Agency Teams (MATs) to improve the integration of key multi agency services for children and families.

The SAF will be launched in June 2015 and create a shared inter-agency assessment and planning tool. It will enable 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.

### **Joint Action Team**

The Joint Action Team provides the gateway to secure safeguarding services for children in Portsmouth. This multi-agency triage service supports the children's workforce in delivering effective early help and safeguarding intervention for vulnerable children and families.

The Joint Action Team is made up of professionals from across children's and adults workforce and each member of the team is able to use their shared knowledge, skills and networks to ensure that children and families have access to the right services at the right time.

In 2014/15 the Joint Action Team assumed lead responsibility to coordinate the city's response to children considered at risk of sexual exploitation and children going missing from home.

**It is envisaged that the Joint Action Team will be transformed in to a Portsmouth Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub during 2015/16.**

### **Children In Need**

In 2014/15 11,966 contacts were made to the Joint Action Team which were converted into 1,627 referrals being made to Children's Social Care and Safeguarding; 1,600 assessments were completed to determine whether children and families should be provided with support under the statutory Children In Need framework (s17 Children Act).

In March 2015 there were 490 Children In Need in Portsmouth being supported by Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, the majority being supported through the Family Support Service.

The Family Support Service provides focused family intervention to improve outcomes for children in need over a 6 month period and works closely with colleagues from Health, Education and the Police as well as specialist provision from Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse services.

Less than 20% of children receiving a service from Children's Social Care are re-referred and the service continues to achieve a reduction in these numbers indicating consistent service improvements.

### **Children subject to Child Protection Planning**

Portsmouth saw a 22% increase in child protection plans over the last year compared to the previous year, this remains 1% below the statistical neighbour average. The number of children subject to a plan within a 2 year time period reduced over the year to 4% at the end of March 2015 and this relates to 11 children over the year. Duration on a plan over a 2 year period has reduced over the year but is above the statistical neighbour average.

Over the last year, the service has been restructured to increase the capacity of child protection conference chairs and plans are in place to explore the viability of a strengthening families model to child protection work over the coming year. PSCB challenged all agencies regarding the quality and timely submission of child protection conference reports in accordance with 4LSCB Child Protection procedures and this has been an area showing significant improvement.

# CHAPTER 3

## The child's journey

### Children in Care

The majority of children in care are looked after because they have been neglected and/or physically, sexually or emotionally harmed by their parents; or are unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Children In Care can be living with foster carers (sometimes the foster carers are friends or relatives of the child), at home with parents under the supervision of Children's Social Care, in residential care or in other settings such as secure units, schools or hospitals.

The largest age group of Children In Care locally is our 6-13 years age group (42%). The other 58% evenly is represented across the 0-5 and the 14+ age groups. The implication of this being that the 6-13 year age group may have the potential to stay in care longer because returning home or being adopted is less likely for the older age group.

Nationally the number of Children In Care has been increasing since 2010 and indications are that there has been a further significant increase in year 2014/15. The number of children who left the care system through adoption has significantly increased (58% increase since 2010) following Government reforms. However this is slowing down and has led to further indications from Government regarding legislative change around Regionalisation of Adoption Agencies.

Portsmouth has a rate of 75 children in care per 10,000 of the population compared to the average national rate of 60 per 10,000, but remain the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in our statistical neighbour group. At the end of March 2015 we had 320 children in care compared with 318 last year.

Children In Care often have poorer outcomes than the non-looked after children. A high proportion, (67%) have special educational needs (SEN) and they are over-represented in the prison population and as adults in mental health institutions. These challenges make it all the more important that all partners in the City work together to help looked after children succeed and fulfil their ambitions, for example this year we have seen an increase in the number of our young people who leave care going to University.





# CHAPTER 3

## The child's journey

Placement stability is a key indicator and there is a co-dependency between placement stability, school attendance and positive progress and attainment for Children In Care. At the end of March 2015, 73% of our Children In Care children who had been Looked after for two and a half years had been in the same placement for over two years.

12% of our Children In Care are placed more than 20 miles away from Portsmouth City Council, 1% less than in 2014. The majority of these are living in Hampshire with our own Portsmouth City Council foster carers.

98% of our statutory visits are undertaken within the appropriate timescale (usually every 6 weeks, unless a child is in a permanent foster placement where it is 3 monthly).

7% of Children In Care aged 10-17 who have been looked after for more than 12 months had a conviction, final warning or committed an offence in the previous 12 months. This represented a 3% improvement on the previous year.

The majority of our children are placed in care services and are attending schools graded by Ofsted as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

There were only 7 young people in external residential care at the end of March 2015. This is a significant reduction from the previous year when 12 were looked after in external provision. Supporting young people out of area poses a much greater challenge for Social Workers and for young people placed away from their families and communities, therefore this is a very positive picture.

### Service Improvements for Children in Care

Local residential services for Children in Care children have been re-provisioned, taking into account an analysis of local need and occupancy levels. The national average for Children in Care placed in residential care is 9%, locally 4.4% of our Children in Care children are in residential care (2.1% in external provision).

In line with the needs of our young people a remodelling of residential provision is planned during 2015/2016 with a move from a larger accommodation to a 3 bedded unit, focusing on a domestic model of care.

CAMHS now offers an "in-reach" service to Social Workers and residential provision following an extensive review of the overall service. This will be reviewed to ensure that it is impacting positively on our most vulnerable young people.

The reunification project has been set up in conjunction with the Department for Education and Loughborough University. The aim is to re-engage with families where there is ongoing positive contact between the child and their family and where there is a possibility of reunification, to ensure a thorough risk assessment process is implemented and there is safeguarding against risk of further abuse/harm.



# CHAPTER 3

## The child's journey

### The Voice of the Child

PSCB partially funded the appointment of a local care leaver as an apprentice in a youth participation and engagement role for one year. This apprentice fulfilled a core role in championing and capturing the voice of the child as follows;

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) was consulted as to how to best approach delivering the key messages of the PSCB to young people, as a result -

- Children and young people commented and contributed to the content of the PSCB website
- A young person's version of the PSCB annual report was developed to capture the key outcomes from 2013-14 and the PSCB plans for 2015-16.
- The PSCB Annual Report and Business Plan (Children and Young Persons version) was shared with children and young people through a programme of workshops delivered in primary and secondary schools.

Through the workshops secondary school children identified the following as being their concerns around keeping safe in and around Portsmouth -

- Internet Safety - Online pop ups, not being confident knowing who people are online, fake internet accounts, being tracked on line (geo tagging), and on-line gaming, online bullying
- Keeping safe on the streets - concerns about unsafe areas, groups of young people, being followed or approached by strangers or drunk people, being mugged
- Peer pressure regarding drug use, meeting unsafe people, jumping off the sea walls (being reckless), feeling that saying 'No' brings unwanted attention, and can lead to bullying
- Unsafe relationships with older adults "being touched up"/sexual harassment

### Learning from Workshops with Secondary School Pupils

- Young people's perception of safety is personal and not always the same as adults
- The e-Safety 'Beware of Lurking Trolls' campaign has had an impact but due to constant changes in social media and applications these messages need to be continually updated and delivered across schools
- A lot of children are using applications and on line games that are not age appropriate and not enough parents appear to know how to safeguard their children's use of the internet
- Young people locally are genuinely worried about risks of attack particularly from other young people and they need some basic lessons in staying safe
- A number of young people were concerned about experiencing harassment in public places, especially of a sexual nature. Predominately these were females and some were very young to have had those concerns. If children are visiting public places alone, or in small groups, they need to know how to deal with unwanted attention or inappropriate contact



### **PSCB Safeguarding Training**

PSCB partners funded the provision of multi-agency safeguarding over 2014/2015 which resulted in 2,058 delegates being trained in safeguarding overall (1,115 multi-agency course delegates and 943 single agency/bespoke course delegates).

During 2014-15, the PSCB Multi-Agency Training Committee was established to oversee the local multi-agency safeguarding offer and quality assures the training programme.

A post safeguarding training evaluation and impact exercise was piloted in 2014 with delegates asked to evaluate the impact of learning from the course on their practice (6 months after the course). Response rates were very good and feedback positive overall. The training committee has reflected on the first 6 months of the post evaluation exercise some changes to evaluation questions have been made to gather more specific responses with regards to impact of training on practice.

In 2014, we added a new course specifically for Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools to the core offer, this proved popular with all courses places filled and there has been positive feedback from delegates. A new e-learning course on Child Sexual Exploitation was also offered to key groups of professionals.



# CHAPTER 4

## Children's workforce

### Learning from PSCB audits

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 Deep Dives into specific topics.

This year, the PSCB undertook a Deep Dive audit into the safeguarding of children with disabilities with a focus on hearing the voice of children. There was some good practice identified; however there was some key learning that has led to an improvement plan, namely:

- How children presented was rarely being recorded in their files unless at crisis point
- The child's voice was not effectively captured in too many cases and was often implicit rather than explicit
- The identity of the Lead Professional was often unclear
- Awareness of the PSCB Working with Resistant Families guidance was not widespread or routinely being applied
- Too often, professionals did not know how to access specialist advice and information on how to communicate with children with disabilities
- It was noted that different electronic recording systems meant that it was not always possible to keep soft evidence of the children and young person voice e.g. pictures, 3 D modelling etc.

Other PSCB audit activity has highlighted the following:

- There has been improvement regarding the timeliness of agency reports to child protection conferences
- Children's participation in child protection conferences has improved
- Identification of domestic abuse and the potential impact on babies and young children needs to improve
- The early identification of child neglect and effective planning and intervention where it is a factor continues to challenge practice
- Thresholds for social care intervention appear appropriate and that decision-making made at the point of referral are good



# CHAPTER 4

## Children's workforce

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

The number of notifications to the LADO during 2014/2015 remained consistent with the previous year with just one extra notification (133 in 2014/2015 against 132 in the previous year).

Notifications have come from all partner agencies and the voluntary sector. Whilst the overall numbers may not have increased, there is a decrease in notifications which do not meet the LADO criteria, this indicates that a greater percentage of notifications are being made appropriately and therefore indicates an increase in investigations required overall.

Notifications regarding staff in Education and Children's Social Care increased this year, and notifications relating to foster carers has remained at the same level as seen in the previous year. There has been a slight increase in notifications being made to the LADO within 24 hours of the referrer being made aware of the concern or allegation and there has been a 23% increase in strategy meetings being held within 2 working days of the LADO receiving the referral in accordance with procedures.

The timeliness of investigations is improved and currently investigations completed in 3 months is 89.3% and within 1 month is 75.23%. This is just below the recommendations of the guidance which is 90% and 80% respectively and will continue to be a focus of improvement over the next year.

Cross border working with neighbouring LADOs is well established and is supported by the network meetings available to the LADOs.

This year has highlighted a number of cases where individuals have been required to update safeguarding training in order to return to the agency's workforce. This has identified a need for bespoke training to help the individual recognise how their own behaviours may impact upon the safeguarding of children and young people. This is a development area for 2015/2016.



# CHAPTER 5

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

### Child Deaths Reviews 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 purpose of a SCR is to establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Following a recommendation from the Case Review Committee (CRC), the PSCB Independent Chair commissioned a Serious Case Review in 2014/15. The report from this review is incomplete at the time of this Annual Report but the findings will be available for reflection later in 2015. Any recommendations arising from this review will be carefully considered and implemented and it is the role of the CRC to oversee and monitor the implementation of any recommendations in a timely manner.

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.

Six cases have been brought to the attention of the CRC for discussion since publication of the last annual report. Notes of the discussions are circulated to all participating agencies for dissemination to support learning. The learning from case reviews was also presented to agencies at the PSCB away day. The Committee's aim is to highlight any learning from case reviews to agencies involved to help inform and improve future practice.

# CHAPTER 5

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

### Child Death Overview Panel

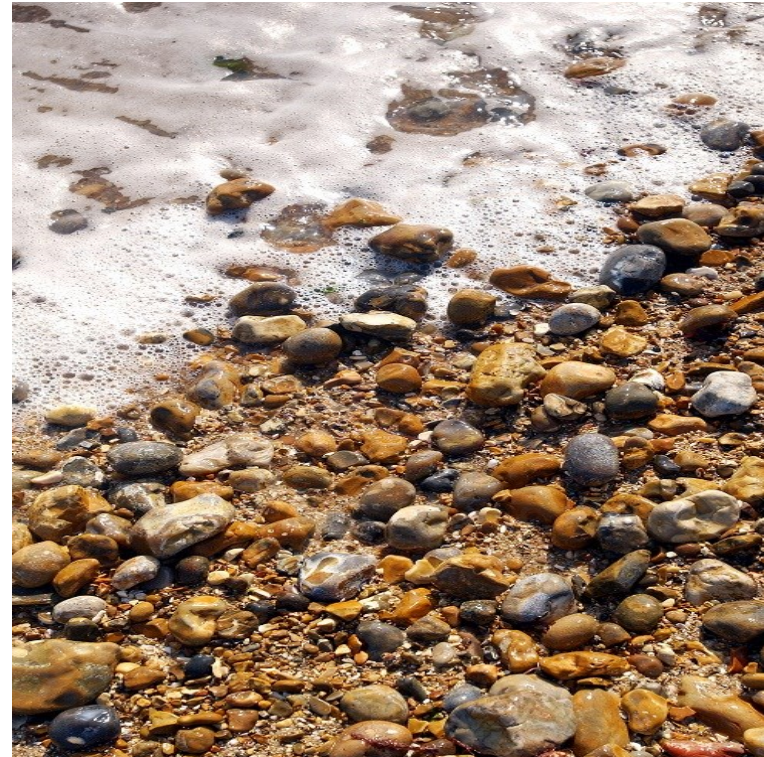
Since April 1st 2008, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in England have had a statutory responsibility for the child death review process.

The 4LSCB Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) receives notifications of the deaths of all children from birth to 18 years in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth or Southampton. Notifications are received from a number of sources including the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages; the coroner(s); emergency departments; paediatricians; and the police force(s).

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.



Portsmouth received 11 child death notifications to CDOP within 2014/2015 this year of which 7 were unexpected deaths, at the time of writing this report there are two cases pending review by the CDOP.

**It is planned that the 4LSCB CDOP group will disband in late 2015 and local CDOP arrangements will be established.**

# CONCLUSIONS

## **Message for everyone**

Be tenacious in your efforts to safeguard children. If you are concerned that a child or group of children are not getting the care or support they deserve persist in your efforts to engage them, their families and networks of support around them.

## **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 is developing 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 CSE strategy, which includes children who are missing 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.

## **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.

You are required to 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 Joint Action Team on 0845 6710271.

## **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.





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