

# Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board Meeting Minutes

Pitch View East, Wembley Stadium

Thursday 23 November 2017 09:30-12:30

## Present:

### Designation

Barnardo's - Assistant Director Children's Services West Locality  
 Brent CCG - Assistant Director  
 Brent CCG - Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children  
 Brent CCG – Named Doctor, Brent Community Paediatrics  
 Brent Council - Children and Young People Strategic Director  
 Brent Council - Operational Director Integration and Improved Outcomes  
 Brent Council - Head of Adults Services  
 Brent Council – Head of Community Safety  
 Brent Council – Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance  
 Brent Council – Strategic Partnership Officer  
 Brent Council – Data Analyst, Strategic Partnerships  
 Brent Council – Governance Officer  
 Brent LSCB Independent Chair  
 Brent LSCB Lay Member  
 Brent LSCB Lay Member  
 Brent LSCB Lay Member  
 Colege of North West London – Principal  
 Queens Park Rangers in the Community – Head of Safeguarding  
 Central North-West London Mental Health Trust - Associate Director Quality, Safety & Safeguarding  
 Special School Representation – Head Teacher the Village School  
 London North West Healthcare (LNWH) Trust – Head of Safeguarding  
 Metropolitan Police – Child Abuse Investigation Command  
 Metropolitan Police – Brent Borough Command  
 Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) Trust - Head of Safeguarding Children  
 CAF/CASS – Enhanced Family Court Adviser  
 The Football Association  
 London Ambulance Service (LAS) - Quality Governance & Assurance Manager  
 London Ambulance Service (LAS) – Emergency Medical Technician  
 Brent Council- Lead Member for Children and Young People (Observing)

### Name

Marie Moody  
 Duncan Ambrose  
 Dr Arlene Boroda  
 Dr Ashutosh Joshi  
 Gail Tolley  
 Nigel Chapman  
 Helen Duncan-Turnbull  
 Karina Wane  
 Sonya Kalyniak  
 Wendy Proctor  
 Trisha Sharma  
 Nikolay Manov  
 Mike Howard  
 Pamela Stewart  
 Sophie Esenwa  
 Chris Kingham (Ms)  
 David White  
 Janet Barr  
 Catherine Knights  
 Kay Charles  
 Carol Ann Williams  
 DCI John Foulkes  
 A/DI Tracey Knights  
 Trish Stewart  
 Katie Warren  
 Phil Barnett  
 Chris Miles  
 Emily Grist  
 Councillor Mili Patel

## Apologies:

### Designation

Brent Council - Operational Director Safeguarding, Performance and Strategy  
 Brent Council - Director of Public Health  
 NHS England – Clinical Quality and Safety Manager (Safeguarding Portfolio)  
 Brent Council – Acting Headteacher, Brent Virtual School for Looked After Children  
 Brent LSCB Lay Member

### Name

Brian Grady  
 Dr Melanie Smith  
 Sarah Green  
 Sarah Miller  
 Lucy Elgood

<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Introduction, Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Key Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All apologies for absence were noted on page 1 of these minutes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Key Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 September 2017, were accepted as an accurate record, subject to the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item 6, bullet point 4, the second sentence to read – ‘She expressed her willingness to work in partnership with the BFFD to raise awareness of issues such as cot deaths, safer sleeping and SUDI.’</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Key Points &amp; (3a) Actions of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nigel Chapman informed the Board that no one had taken up the offer to attend a morning meeting at the Brent Family Front Door. He reminded participants that this was still possible.</li> <li>As Brian Grady had sent apologies for this meeting, an update on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) of boys would not be provided.</li> <li>The Chair noted that the response to Section 11 had been included on the agenda of the present meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>(3b) Information sharing between Police &amp; Schools re. Domestic Abuse (Operation Encompass)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair raised a concern that this initiative which was agreed in April, 2016, had not yet been implemented and needed to be progressed by Brent Police. He has raised the matter locally over the past 18 months and it was discussed at a meeting of the Chairs of London Local Safeguarding Children Boards. One of the key points identified was the need to have more information about students who had come into the knowledge of the Police when they had been called in relation to domestic abuse incidents. In response, DCI John Foulkes said that a new safeguarding lead for London had been appointed (Commander Richard Smith) and encouraged the Chair to contact him. Moreover, Commander Smith had identified five Superintendent leads to operate in various areas. DCI Foulkes suggested further discussion on this issue to take place outside of the formal Board meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>(3c) LSCB Annual Report 2016 / 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board heard that LSCB Annual Report 2016/2017 was well received by the Council’s Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Chair encouraged members to use it whenever was appropriate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Board Business</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Key points &amp; (4a) LSCB Training Coordinator Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janine Georgias had been appointed as a Training Co-ordinator and she would be starting on 4 December 2017. The role would be funded by the Children and Young People, Community and Wellbeing and Chief Executive’s departments.</li> <li>One of the key priorities for Ms Georgias would be reviewing collaboration with Harrow’s LSCB and reviewing and improving the current training offer.</li> </ul>	
<b>(4b) Learning Event Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provisional date for the Serious Incidents Learning Event is 30 January 2018; approximately a year after the murder of a teenage boy in Brent. The person responsible for the murder was a LAC and the incident revealed significant safeguarding issues. Holding such an event had been one of the recommendations of an independent management review commissioned by the Director of Children’s Services following the murder. The first draft report following from the review had been due in September 2017 but it had been returned back to the author for revision. The final draft still had not been signed off by Nigel Chapman and Gail Tolley.</li> <li>The Board discussed that another fatal stabbing which took place in Neasden in early October 2017. It had some similarities with the January murder which allowed some of the lessons learned to be presented at the event.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The event would last half a day and the venue would be confirmed at a later stage, although most likely it would take place at The Yellow Pavilion.</li> <li>A Member of the Board welcomed the event and commented that knife crime was a major problem in London. The Board heard that the Mayor had recently launched a campaign and the Council's Community Protection Team would be working with various services to tackle the issue at a local level. In addition, three Outcome Based Reviews related to Gangs, Edge of Care, and Domestic Abuse had been launched so learning from the event could be fed back to these reviews.</li> <li>The Chair noted that all partners were invited to the event, but he emphasised that the event would not focus on specific individuals or cases and it would be aimed at professionals working with young people. Lay members would be welcome to attend and further discussion would take place at the meeting of the Serious Case Reviews Sub-Group.</li> </ul>
<b>(4c) Lay Member Recruitment Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four Lay Members have been appointed – Chris Kingham, Situl Karia, Sophie Esenwa and Lucy Elgood.</li> </ul>

<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Feedback from Chairs Away Way</b>	<b>All Sub-Group Chairs</b>
<b>Key Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair introduced the item and informed the Board that the Government had published revised Working Together Guidelines, along with a consultation document, in late October following the Alan Wood Review into the future of LSCBs. One of the key changes would be that safeguarding arrangements could be based on larger geographical areas than just a single borough. Furthermore, there would be three statutory partners – the Local Authority, the Police and the health economy, which would make the arrangements similar to the ones for Local Safeguarding Adults Boards. However, one of the major difference would be that the LSCB would not be statutory.</li> <li>The LSCB would be one of the respondents to the consultation, along with the individual statutory partners – the Police, the Local Authority, etc. Mike Howard would be responding on behalf of the LSCB and the draft response had been discussed at length at the Chairs' Group Away day on 9 November. (The final LSCB submission is attached to these minutes.)</li> <li>There would be a meeting between Brent Council's Chief Executive, Brent CCG Chief Officer and the Brent Police Borough Commander on 19 December 2017 to discuss potential ways of working together under the new arrangements.</li> <li>The consultation finishes on 31 December 2018 and individual agency responses would be welcomed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Feedback from the discussion in small groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrangements of the current LSCB were effective, but they were not utilised well enough by some partners - for example, stakeholders could take more responsibility for setting the agenda.</li> <li>Concerns were expressed in relation to independent scrutiny - scrutinising local arrangements by people who did not have local knowledge of Brent could have a negative impact on safeguarding arrangements.</li> <li>Some partners would be responsible for two or three boroughs under the new arrangements which would place a strain on their resources.</li> <li>The proposed changes were not driven by the voice of the child and it was not clear whether executives would have operational knowledge of safeguarding. They would need to create an operational group to ensure that decisions were cascaded down which posed the question how this set of arrangements would be different from the current situation. Moreover, this would lead to a situation where collective accountability meant no accountability. Officers attending safeguarding meetings had to be senior enough to be able to make decisions or escalate matters to drive the safeguarding agenda forward.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turnover of staff led to lack of continuity which had a negative impact on safeguarding.</li> <li>• Engagement should be widened to include more levels of staff and to raise awareness of the positive contribution of the Brent LSCB to safeguarding.</li> <li>• The work of sub-groups would be re-examined and this had been included in the agenda for the Chairs' Group meeting on 12 December 2017. Options for closer collaboration with Harrow's LSCB would be explored, especially in relation to training and Child Death Overview Panel, but the pace of amalgamation could not be confirmed at this stage.</li> <li>• The Chair reminded Board members that they were welcome to observe sub-group meetings.</li> <li>• The independence of the Chair was acknowledged to be a valuable resource which paralleled the arrangements of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board.</li> <li>• A key priority would be to engage schools and educational establishments.</li> <li>• The Chair encouraged members to submit any comments they wished to be included in the collective LSCB response to Wendy Proctor.</li> </ul>
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The meeting was adjourned for a comfort break between 11:01 am and 11:17 am.

Item 6	Section 11 Audit Update	Trisha Sharma
<p><b>Key Points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trisha Sharma opened the discussion by asking members to share their observations of the recent Section 11 Audit. She informed the Board that there had been some themes that had stood out across the overall responses. For instance, due the fact that the audit was conducted via an online survey, participants had been able to skip questions. 20% of responses received did not contain any additional information apart from the respondent filling their personal details and designation.</li> <li>• Ms Sharma said that one of the aims of the survey had been to provide assurance of safeguarding processes at a strategic level and to ensure a good balance between the quality and the quantity of safeguarding.</li> <li>• Some of the feedback received pointed out that organisations often had to respond to multiple questionnaires so response time could have been impacted. However, the audit had allowed partners to identify gaps in knowledge and define training needs.</li> <li>• The percentage of completed surveys was 30%. Ms Sharma emphasised the importance of having fully completed surveys because these provided accurate representations of individual organisations, with useful feedback for both the LSCB and partners.</li> <li>• A key strength identified had been the fact that people had been open and honest in their responses and admitted gaps in understanding of their role.</li> <li>• There had been logistical issues as staff at some organisations had limited access to IT facilities, e.g. one computer was shared between a few members of staff. Therefore, it could be helpful to have a paper version of the survey.</li> <li>• The survey provided a foundation for important conversations about safeguarding within organisations – for instance, how often it was discussed at supervision meetings, different ways of identifying training needs, coaching, procedures for raising concerns and sharing best practices.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Feedback from the discussion in small groups</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The training offer by the LSCB needed to be well-shared across partner organisations. A key responsibility of the Training Coordinator would be to raise awareness about important issues related to safeguarding.</li> <li>• Section 11 Audit could be used as an educational tool so people who completed the survey would have more knowledge about safeguarding, the Board and its priorities.</li> <li>• It was noted that the language of the survey could be clarified to reflect the wide nature of the roles of partners. It was suggested that various practitioners could get a different set of questions depending on their designation.</li> <li>• The Chair clarified that whilst partner organisations were subject to Section 11 Audit, some of them completed it on a London-wide level.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the groups discussed what constituted a good referral. It was noted that delivering the right training could help improve the accuracy of referrals.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the role of the LSCB in monitoring action plans and key actions in terms how individual agencies were responding to common topics was discussed at the next meeting of the Board in February 2018.</li> <li>• Ms Sharma said that the survey had highlighted cases where staff did not understand when to contact the local safeguarding lead. However, she noted that it would be for individual agencies to conduct an in-depth analysis of the results and identify issues they wished to focus on.</li> <li>• A positive correlation between training and staff confidence level of their ability to carry out safeguarding responsibilities had been identified – for example, staff who had completed comprehensive induction training, were more confident to perform their responsibilities and were aware of who they had to contact if necessary.</li> <li>• The number of responses had significantly increased compared to two years ago.</li> <li>• The Chair encouraged Board members to submit their action plans to Ms Sharma.</li> </ul>
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Item 7	Performance Dataset Update	Trisha Sharma
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trisha Sharma informed the Board that work on the Performance Dashboard was still ongoing. She expected the product to be finalised in the end of December 2017 and it would be presented at the next meeting of the Board in February 2018.</li> <li>• Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 data for the Youth Offending Service, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference and Children and Young People had already been added to the Dashboard and Ms Sharma would be contacting health organisations to request data.</li> <li>• The Chair and Mr Sharma stressed the importance of organisations providing data on a regular basis so performance could be monitored. It was clarified that this would be the same information that had already been shared with other parties so there would not be duplication of effort, requiring no additional resources.</li> </ul>	

Item 8	Any Other Business	Chair
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Arlene Boroda informed the Board that the Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had been successful in a bid for funding to develop a safeguarding hub focused on improving services for child sexual abuse. It was expected that the hub would raise the number of referrals for child sexual abuse and facilitate the access to mental health support services.</li> <li>• Dr Boroda referred to the Child House in Camden and commented that it would be beneficial for children in North London to have a similar resource.</li> </ul>	

### **Agreed Actions**

Action	Action Owner	Deadline
Circulate the terms of reference of the learning event	Wendy Proctor	January 2018
Circulate the final response to the Working Together consultation to all members.	Wendy Proctor	December 2017
Present the completed Performance Dashboard	Trisha Sharma	1 February 2018
Confirm the venue of the next LSCB meeting	Wendy Proctor	18 January 2018

### **Brent LSCB meetings will be held on:**

DATE	Time	Venue
Thursday 1 February 2018	09:30 – 12:30	Brent Civic Centre