

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

17 SEPTEMBER 2013

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2012/13</b>		
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</b>			
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>		
<b>Wards Affected: ALL</b>	<b>Key Decision: NO</b>		
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<b>Sponsor:</b> Cllr John White, Cabinet Member for Children's Services			
<b>Summary:</b> <p>The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children's Board (BDSCB) Annual Report (see Appendix 1) was approved by the Board on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The report covers the period April 2012 to March 2013 and provides a summary the Board's achievements, lessons learnt and through the Business Plan, what we will be focusing on in the coming year. Also included in the Annual Report is an overview of national policy and guidance that will shape the safeguarding children's agenda.</p> <p>The report has been distributed to all the Chief Officers of each organisation represented on the Board for further dissemination.</p>			
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to:			
(i) Note the Annual Report and make any comments on its content or any related issues.			
(ii) To distribute the report within their respective organisations.			

## **1. Background and Overview**

1.1 This is the 7<sup>th</sup> published Annual Report of the Barking and Dagenham Local Safeguarding Children Board (BDSCB). The report details work undertaken by the Board from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 to promote the safety of children and young people who live, are looked after or are educated within the borough.

1.2 The report focuses on:

- The effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within the borough
- Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance measures
- Partnership Working
- Key National developments
- Future BDSCB priorities

In doing so, this report draws together both the successes and challenges faced by the Board over the last 12 months. In particular the report identifies:

1. Demographic changes within the borough that have had significant impact on services and continues to do so going forward.
2. Outcomes from the 2012 Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children.
3. The steps taken to implement the findings of the Munro Review and its recommendations
4. Implementation of our Quality Assurance Strategy
5. Governance arrangements for the Board and our community engagement
6. Ways in which we have joined up working across the partnership. This continues to be a priority.
7. Our response to Government initiatives including sexual exploitation and child trafficking.

1.3 The report is designed to give a picture of the combined efforts across the partnership to keeping children in Barking and Dagenham safe.

1.4 The Board continues to enjoy excellent participation from across the partnership with very good attendance from most agencies.

## **2. Serious Case Review**

2.1 The Board's annual report each year will detail any serious cases reviews that have taken place in the preceding twelve months.

2.2 During 2012\13, police were alerted to a serious incident involving Child L. The child had not died but had suffered significant injuries at the hands of her mother

and mothers partner. A Serious Case Review Panel agreed that the criteria laid out in Working Together 2010 for a full review had not been met but did agree that an Individual Management Review (IMR) be carried out by Health partners in order for lessons to be learnt.

- 2.3 The review was formally signed off in February 2013 and the recommendations and actions are currently being implemented by NHS NELFT, the CCG and BDSCB.

### **3. Committees**

- 3.1 Each subcommittee of the board has reported on its work over the last 12 months and priorities for the following year.
- 3.2 The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a sub group of the Board and reports on child deaths that have taken place over the previous 12 months.
- 3.3 During 2012\13, 24 children died in Barking and Dagenham 8 unexpectedly. However CDOP reviewed 46 deaths over the 12 months. The details of the work of this committee are detailed on pages 27 and 28 of the report.

### **4. Priorities for 2013-14**

- 4.1 During 2013-14, the BDSCB will embed the Government's revised Working together to Safeguard Children (2013) focussing on a range of activities and initiatives to support the quality of early help available to children and young people. These activities will include:
- Roll out of E-CAF assessment tool
  - Progressing the Troubled families agenda
  - Full implementation of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
  - Strengthening joint working between Adult and Children's services
  - Embed quality assurance through learning and development from front line services through to the BDSCB.
  - Gaining greater insight into faith and cultural issues in Barking and Dagenham to support families and safeguard children
  - Working across the partnership to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation