



Bristol Safeguarding  
Children Board

making safeguarding everybody's business

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Everybody's  
Business

2017

Strategic Plan 2016-2019

## Vision

The BSCB is committed to a vision of Bristol where safeguarding children effectively is “Everybody’s Business”.

Understanding the needs and day-to-day lives of children is at the centre of all we do. We recognise that children are only truly safeguarded when everyone understands and enacts their safeguarding responsibilities.

We are committed to working in partnership to ensure that professionals and public alike safeguard children from harm.

## Our Values

Our values guide everything we do. They apply to members of the board and all those who work for our partners.

### Putting children first

We act in the interests of individual children of all ages and with a particular focus on outcomes for the vulnerable and disadvantaged. The voice of children at all ages is implicit in the work of the Board and is supported by the Shadow Safeguarding Children Board <sup>1</sup> and other representative groups in agencies across Bristol.

#### ***‘No-one could describe a day in her life’<sup>2</sup>***

The **Voice of the child** is a phrase used to describe the real involvement of children in any work with children or that concerns them individually. It is much more than seeking their views, which could mean the child saying only what they want, rather than being really involved in what happens and the decisions made about them.

- Children should always have the opportunity to describe things from their point of view.
- They should be continually and actively involved in work that concerns them.
- Information should be fed back and communicated to them in a way that they can understand.
- Evidence that the child’s voice has influenced the decisions that professionals have made about them should always be clear.

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<sup>1</sup> The Shadow Safeguarding Children Board comprises 4 member from the BCC Youth Select Committee and 4 Members from the Children in Care Council

<sup>2</sup> Lord Laming commenting on Victoria Climbié.

### **Achieving excellence**

We focus on how standards can be raised and outcomes improved. We always try to 'do good as we go', and have high expectations of ourselves and of those who provide the services we inspect and regulate.

### **Behaving with integrity**

We work without fear or favour as board members, responding to the challenges raised openly. We listen and respond to what people tell us about the services provided for children across Bristol and about the way we work as a Board.

### **Valuing people and their differences**

We promote equal opportunities and take action to ensure that improvement is made where it is most needed.

## **Resources**

We will continue to take action to achieve better value for money. BSCB are supported by partners through financial contributions to the Boards' budget. Support in kind through the time, knowledge and expertise of those who are members of the various subgroups and working groups that report to the board is also provided. All such contributions enable the board to undertake its statutory functions and implement the boards' business plan effectively.

## **Our plans for 2017-2018**

Over the next year we will focus on the following **priorities**:

- **Better outcomes**
  - "We will set expectations so that partners focus on delivering best outcomes for children"
- **Better ways of working**
  - "We will deploy resources in an effective way, providing value for money"
- **Better public involvement**
  - "We will do more to ensure that the views and experiences of children and the wider community inform and contribute to effective safeguarding."
- **Better quality assurance and adherence to regulatory framework**
  - "We will continue to drive improvement in safeguarding practices for all children."

In addressing these priorities we will:

### **Better outcomes**

**“We will set expectations so that partners focus on delivering best outcomes for children”**

- Develop new policies and update existing policies including Perinatal Mental Health; Female Genital Mutilation; Joint Working with Adult Services; and Safeguarding Disabled Children
- Improve multi-agency safeguarding of missing children by implementing a system for schools to receive Missing Person reports and raise public awareness of reporting processes
- Work with faith organisations to ensure that faith leaders, supplementary schools and youth workers are equipped to best safeguard children
- Improve use of child protection processes for Disabled Children to ensure their safeguarding needs are not missed because of care and support needs

### **Better ways of working**

**“We will deploy resources in an effective way, providing value for money”**

- Deliver flexible, high quality accessible multi-agency training to more professionals in the city
- Provide training to improve the quality of communication of safeguarding issues in referrals
- Audit the effectiveness of new models of working in CSE, Modern Slavery and Trafficking such as CSE Network meetings and Operation Topaz, to assure that these developments improve the safeguarding of children through greater conviction of perpetrators and prevention abuse
- Increase the number of boys who are identified at risk of CSE who are currently ‘hidden’
- Ensure that the new peri-natal mental health team is effective at supporting women with peri-natal mental health needs
- Oversee the implementation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Improve cross-working with adult services and the Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board

## Better public involvement

**“We will do more to ensure that the views and experiences of children and the wider community inform and contribute to effective safeguarding.”**

- Increase diversity and number of children, young people, families and lay members participating and engaging with the Board
- Launch a new public BSCB website
- Develop online engagement with the public through social media
- Increase number of licenced premise staff receiving safeguarding training

## Better quality assurance and adherence to regulatory framework

**“We will continue to drive improvement in safeguarding practices for all children.”**

- Build on culture of professional challenge through challenge events to respond to Section 11 audits
- Develop data reports to understand the impact of organisations in the Board restructuring on the experiences of children and families
- Implement a Board Risk Register
- Undertake multi-agency audits to ensure practice is robust including considering effectiveness of professionals’ work in the fields of neglect and child sexual abuse and radicalisation
- Work more closely with the Bristol City Partnerships to ensure their work is effective at improving arrangements for safeguarding children and families
- Deliver a wide-ranging dissemination plan to ensure that findings from Serious Case Reviews are understood and effect tangible change across the city