

**BOLTON SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD**
Annual Report 2015-2016



**Bolton
Safeguarding
Children**

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This Annual Report was endorsed by Bolton Safeguarding Children Board on 25 November 2016. The report is produced by Bolton Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) in accordance with The Apprenticeships Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 which requires the LSCB to produce and publish an annual report. It report on matters relating to the preceding financial year.

The purpose of the Annual Report, as stated in Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2015, is to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.

In addition to being made available to the public, this report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well-Being Board.

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A Message from Bolton Safeguarding Children Board's Independent Chair

I am delighted to introduce the annual report of the Bolton Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) for the year ending 31 March 2016. Whilst all Safeguarding Boards are required to produce an annual report, this process does offer a further and welcome opportunity for scrutiny and challenge as well as supporting reflection of what has been achieved over the preceding 12 months.

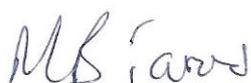
The report cannot, and is not intended to, provide a comprehensive account of everything BSCB has undertaken during the year, rather a succinct overview of progress regarding many of the complex challenges it faces including an updated and finalised Business Plan. Consequently the structure of the report is an evolving process which aims to strike an effective balance between detail and focus. It also seeks to provide a brief overview of the child population within the Borough, as well as some of the challenges faced by services and practitioners in meeting the local needs of children. The report aims to present some partially anonymised case examples illustrating the impact the Board have made in key areas.

It is hard to produce such a report without acknowledgement of the challenging environment in which we all operate. Although the pace of organisational changes and financial constraints has continued unabated, it is testament to all partners in Bolton, their staff and their volunteers that their continued commitment to children and young people in Bolton has delivered the progress outlined in this report.

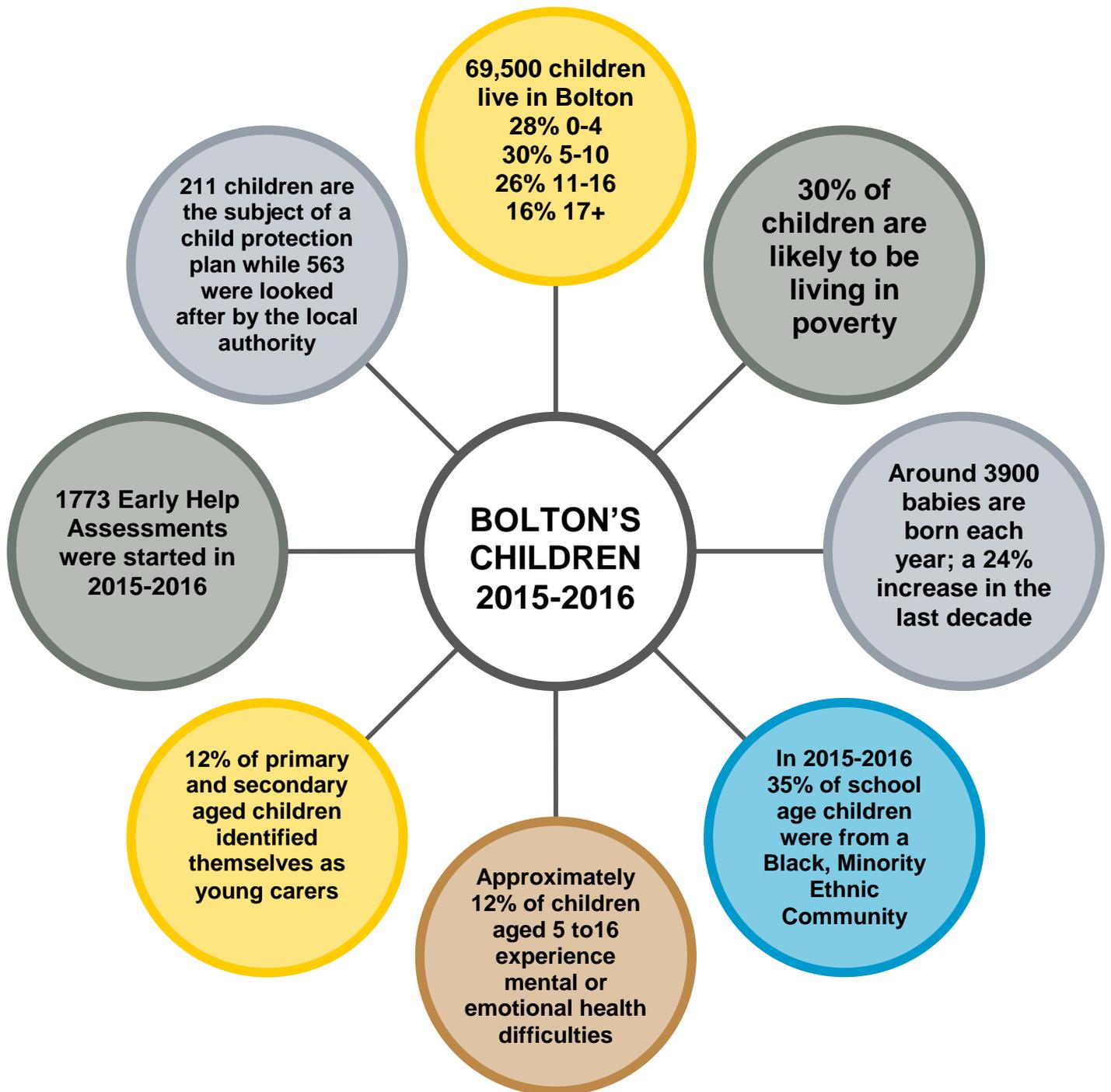
For example our Early Help processes, which BSCB relaunched in October 2014, have delivered demonstrable progress with around 20% more services engaged and a similar percentage of better quality assessments completed over the last 12 months. This represents a significant step forward in achieving timely delivery of support before children present in crisis.

The impact of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy continues to unfold and this report highlights progress made in respect of all the strategy's main elements of awareness raising, supporting young people at risk, robust diversionary tactics and prosecution. This work provides clear evidence of the benefits of a holistic approach. The recognition of an increasing number of male victims and increase in successful convictions over the last year is encouraging.

Despite these achievements the report seeks to identify further work needed to achieve our aim of successfully safeguarding all children in Bolton which is what they should expect. Whilst there is always more we can do there are also new and emerging issues which face us all. These include, for example, child trafficking and modern slavery which challenge the ability of our conventional intra familial models of intervention to respond successfully. This is but one of the themes of the Government sponsored Wood review which reported on the role and functions of LSCBs in March 23 2016. As a result the next twelve months are likely to see more significant changes in the governance and operation of all safeguarding boards.



**Independent Chair
Bolton Safeguarding Children Board**



Our Remit - Bolton Safeguarding Children Board

The Children Act 2004 required all Local Authority areas to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). LSCB's are inter-agency partnerships with statutory responsibilities to co-ordinate local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to make sure that they are working effectively. Membership of Bolton's Board includes representatives from Health Services, Probation Services, Greater Manchester Police, Children's Services, Housing Services, the voluntary and faith sector. A full list of members can be found in Appendix 1.

The functions of a Local Safeguarding Children Board are set out in the LSCB Regulations 2006, the LSCB (Amendment) Regulations 2010 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015. These documents state that Bolton Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is responsible for:-

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Raising awareness within communities and organisations of their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and support them to do this
- Co-ordinating and evaluating inter-agency training and evaluating single agency training to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Board and its partners in carrying out these legal duties
- Contributing to local planning for children and their families
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and advising the Board and its partners on lessons to be learned

In fulfilling these functions it is our aim to keep children safe in Bolton and support them to achieve their full potential.



Bolton Safeguarding Children Board meets every two months and focuses its attention on the implementation of the Business Plan, the priorities within this and the impact action is making to improve safeguarding outcomes for children in Bolton.

In order to promote and strengthen partnership work which exists in Bolton, all Board members are required to commit to a members agreement which stipulates 80% attendance at meetings across the year; this is 5 meetings out of 6. 65% of members have met the attendance threshold. Where members have not ensured consistent attendance this has been challenged by the Independent Chair. Members have been contacted and reminded of their commitments. Changes within organisational commissioning and structures have accounted for some of the deficit in attendance.

Evaluation of Safeguarding Arrangements in Key Areas

This Annual Report focuses on key areas contained within the Board's business plan. The evaluation will take account of the requirements in Working Together 2015, paragraph 2, page 67:-

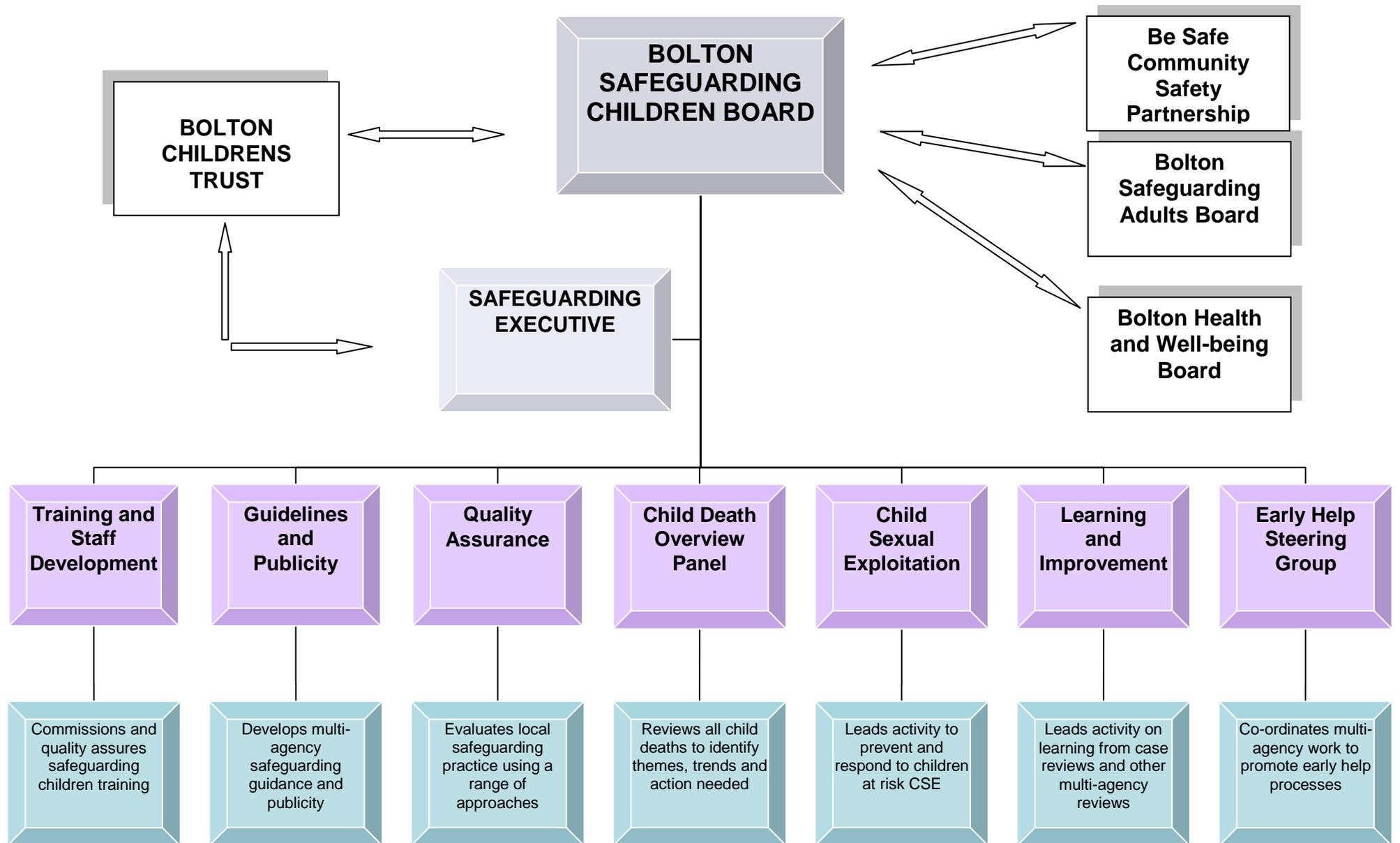
- Assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help
- Assess whether BSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations
- Quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

BSCB Resources

To function effectively BSCB needs to be supported by member organisations with adequate and reliable resources. As there was no national guidance or requirements on funding for LSCB's, despite their statutory functions, Bolton developed a local formula a number of years ago. The budget is made up of contributions by member organisations and while members continue to contribute, the lack of any statutory funding requirements leaves the Board vulnerable to unilateral reductions by members at a time of ongoing financial challenge.

BSCB Income	
Organisation	Income(£)
Bolton Children's Services Dept. (Inc. Schools)	232,079.00
Greater Manchester Police	17,995.00
Bolton Community Housing	5,000
National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company	3,468.00
Bolton CCG	87,456.00
CAFCASS	550.00
Supervision, Support and Cover for CDOP	3,000.00
Total Income	349,548.00
BSCB Expenditure	
Item	Expenditure
Staff Costs:- Safeguarding Officer Safeguarding Administration Safeguarding Administration Safeguarding Trainer Safeguarding Training Administration Local Authority Designated Officer	194,248.00
Independent Chair	13250.00
Operational Costs:- Room Hire Refreshments Books / Leaflets / Publications Transport IT Costs / Website Training / Conferences Contribution to GMSP On-line Policies Advocacy Pilot Scheme Case Reviews Legal Costs Operational Expenses Contribution to CSE Contribution to IRO Conferences Contribution to Multi-agency Training	101,810.00 (Includes 6551.00 for SCR)
Total Expenditure 2015-2016	309308.00
Year End Balance 2015-2016	39240.00
Spend per Child	4.45

BOARD STRUCTURE 2015-2016



**The Child's Journey
Early Help to Looked After
Children**

What is Early Help?

Early Help describes the co-ordinated support that is offered to children and their families at the earliest opportunity. The aim is to improve outcomes for the child and reduce the need for specialist services including children's social work. Help can be provided by one service or by a number of different services.

Where more than one service is needed to help a child, BSCB requires an Early Help Assessment to be undertaken and a multi-agency action plan developed.

How will we know we're making a difference in Bolton?

More Early Help Assessments are being completed; more services using the Early Help Assessment process

The majority Of Early Help Assessments are closed because outcomes are achieved

Early Help Assessments evidence involvement of child and parents

Early Help assessments are of good quality and supported by SMART action plans

Early Help is used to refer to Children's Social Care when this is required

Using Early Help will reduce the number of referrals to Children's Social Care where the outcome is No Further Action as well reducing overall referrals in the longer term

Early Help is used to support children when Children's Social Care involvement ends

Since the relaunch of local early help processes in October 2014 there has been a significant increase in the number and rate of Early Help Assessments and plans being started; from 495 started in 2014 (71 per 10000 children) to 1773 in 2016 (255 per 10000)

129 services initiated the Early Help process in 2015-2016 compared to 108 the previous year. The number of reviews has more than doubled in 2015-2016, with 2151 reviews undertaken compared to 1015 in 2014-2015

Three Early Help multi-agency quality audits took place; the findings evidence assessment quality is improving as is SMART action planning; however quality remains too variable and this will continue as a focus area

Referral rates to Children's Social Care are on a downward trend since the relaunch of Early Help processes in October 2014 and indicates that where Early Help is used it is effective in reducing the need for specialist assessments

Data also evidences that the overall number of Early Help Assessments is increasing as there were 2882 open Early Help cases at the end of March 2016 compared with 1935 on the same day in March 2015; a 49% increase

In 2015-2016 recording of reasons for Early Help were improved and showed:-

- 23% for speech and language therapy
- 20% for behaviour issues
- 15% for education reasons
- 14% for health issues

At the end of 2015-2016 58% of Early Help assessments were closed as outcomes achieved; 28% were closed for other reasons while 7% were closed as they stepped-up to specialist assessments

Support is offered from the Integrated Working Team to organisations to integrate Early Help; in 2015-2016 this included Health Visiting, Pupil Referral Units and the Local Authority's 5 – 19 service; advice was provided to Bolton at Home to support them integrate Early Help processes within their IT system

CASE STUDY

Integrating Early Help with Domestic Abuse Services

An Early Help Workshop was held early in January 2015 with Adult Domestic Abuse services to explore and further develop their Early Help offer. The session was facilitated by the Integrated Working Team and supported by Bolton Safeguarding Children Board and Bolton Community Safety Partnership. The workshop challenged the services to consider:

- 1) Are we doing the best for children whilst we are addressing the needs of the adult at risk?
- 2) Are we compliant to the Early Help requirements and is the work that's being delivered, having an impact?

Specialist providers (Fortalice, Endeavour and Victim Support) attended the workshop. They asked to map their current contribution to Level 1 and Level 2 of Bolton's Framework for Action and to complete the Early Help strategic self-assessment. These activities supported the providers in identifying their strengths in delivering early help as well as gaps. As a consequence of this workshop, providers have committed to specific actions to integrate and promote the use of Early Help processes in their service. Progress on the impact of this will be tracked by Bolton's Domestic Abuse and Violence Partnership. Work is on-going in 2016-2017 to support and work with our specialist providers so that they are mindful of Early Help requirements and work towards this being incorporated into their everyday delivery. This can ensure that:-

- Children we work with have the best early help offer
- Commissioned DA services are fully compliant with EH processes and we can evidence impact on children
- Reduce the impact of DA on children who are experiencing this
- Reduce the likelihood of children becoming future victims or perpetrators of DA

Effectiveness of Early Help Arrangements

Local Early Help arrangements are effective. There is clear evidence from the data that Early Help processes are embedded across a diverse range of services and integrated within their delivery models. This includes universal and adult services. Early Help is being delivered to more children across Bolton than ever before and is contributing to an overall downward trend in referrals to Children's social care. Organisations are clear about their roles and responsibilities in contributing to Early Help processes. This needs to be sustained.

The quality of Early Help assessments and plans continues to improve as evidenced from a programme of multi-agency audits in the year. There is strong evidence in Early Help plans of agencies working well together to improve children's outcomes.

Where we can improve

There is little evidence that individual agencies undertake any additional internal Early Help Quality Audits to support the Boards priority to improve assessment and planning quality; despite tools being available. This needs to be addressed by BSCB partner agencies and tracked by the Boards Early Help Steering Group. At the beginning of the year the vast majority of Early Help assessments, 79%, were closed as the outcomes had been achieved. However this has not been maintained and there has been a significant rise in cases being closed and categorised as '*Other, reasons not collected in report*' this suggests that closure processes and reasons may need to be scrutinised further to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

There continues to be a lack of consistency in applying Early Help transition processes ('Step Up' and 'Step Down'), despite the guidance being in place for almost 18 months and awareness raising taking place. All partners in Bolton should ensure practitioners are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the transition guidance within the Framework for Action.

What is Child Protection?

This is the action that is taken to stop children from suffering abuse or neglect. In 2015, the most recent published data, over 49,000 children in England were identified as needing protection from abuse; this equates to 45 children per 10000. Across England since 2010 to March 2015 there has been 27% increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan. Neglect accounts for 47% of all child protection plans in England.

How will we know we're making a difference in Bolton?

Child protection strategy meetings will be multi-agency and effective in assessing and responding to risk

Rate of child protection plans in Bolton will be consistent with, or below, the England rate

Child protection plans are Specific Measureable Achievable Relevant and Timely (SMART) and effective in keeping children safe

Children's experiences and voices will be reflected within the child protection process

Of the 4422 referrals made to Children's Social Care 1306 led to a multi-agency strategy discussion (30%) with 875 (67%) progressing to a Child Protection (S47) Assessment. This means that 133 in 10000 children in Bolton were the subject of enquires about abuse/neglect

Overall 73% of ICPC's were held within the 15 day timescale; August and October were the worst performing months with only 21% and 56% of meetings held within time. The Board challenged this in Quarter 3; in Quarter 4 91% of ICPC's were held in timescale

Over the last four years there has been a significant downward trend in children aged 1-4 being made subject to a plan, from 41% in 2013 to 25% in 2016. At the same time there has been an increase in children aged 10-15 from 22% in 2013 to 31% in 2016

Improving the quality of child protection plans has been a key priority; SMART action planning has been promoted across the partnership. A recent audit of plans indicated 68% of plans met the SMART criteria; improvements will be measure against this baseline

In 2015-2016 226 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held; at year end 211 children were the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) this represents 0.3% of **all** children in Bolton

32 children per 10000 are the subject to a plan in Bolton; this is lower than the England average for 2015. Ethnicity of children subject to a plan continues to fluctuate however the current profile represents a truer reflection of Bolton's wider population

259 plans ended in the period. 74% ended as risks had been managed and reduced. 22% stepped up to become looked after while the remaining 4% ended as the child transferred to another Local Authority area

In December 2015 BSCB took a snapshot of use of the BSCB 'My Views' Conference Pack. It was evident that this is not used consistently – of the 13 conferences only 5 packs were completed – 38%

CASE STUDY

Improving the Quality of Child Protection Plans

In 2015-2016 BSCB worked with Senior Managers in Children's Social Care to improve the quality of Child Protection Plans. Between July and October 2015 seven three hour training sessions were delivered to 80 social workers, team managers, independent reviewing officers and family support workers. This represented a 91% attendance rate and reflected the strong message given by senior managers within social care about the importance of these sessions. To evaluate the impact of the training it was agreed that all delegates would identify one case that would be audited six to eight weeks after the training sessions were completed. The aim of this audit was to provide evidence that the learning from the training was being put into practice. 41% of the plans identified were audited.

From the audit it was evident that training was making a difference to social work practice as plans were:-

- more child focused and improved identification the specific needs or risks to the child in some of the plans audited
- included measureable and specific actions
- defining clearer timescales for review and check on progress and impact of actions to safeguard the child
- using plain English in the plan and avoiding jargon in the majority of plans

One delegate emailed this feedback after training
'Thank you for the training today, I found it useful and conversations with the team on our return unanimously agreed that it was beneficial, well presented and encouraged active participation making the training applicable...A particular light bulb moment for me was the loss of valuable information from good quality assessments through to the plan'

Effectiveness of Arrangements

The number of children in need in Bolton has fallen by 9% in 2015-2016 when compared to the same period last year; this is a greater decrease than the 2% reported nationally and may indicate further impact of Early Help processes. One of the challenges identified in previous annual reports has been to ensure child protection strategy meetings are multi-agency and effective in assessing and responding to risk. Audits have been undertaken and evidence that agencies are invited to attend and where they are not able to attend their information is provided within the meeting. This leads to an improved understanding of risk to the child at the outset of an enquiry.

Bolton has the lowest rate of children subject to a plan when compared regional neighbours; Bolton also has one of the lowest rates of children becoming the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time. This indicates that the multi-agency interventions that are delivered while a child is on a plan are effective at reducing risk.

Where we can improve

One area for development is improving the way in which the child's experiences are reflected and increasing their direct contribution to the child protection process. BSCB are working with Manchester Metropolitan University to research and evaluate current practice in Bolton and identify ways in which this can be strengthened.

What is a Looked After Child (LAC)?

Care is a vital part of our child protection system. A child who is being looked after by their local authority is known as a child in care. They might be living:-

- With foster parents
- At home with their parents under the supervision of the local authority
- In residential children's homes
- Residential settings like schools or secure units

Children can become looked after for a number of reasons but in the main it is because parents struggling to cope and placed their child in care voluntarily. Or, children's services may have intervened because a child was at significant risk of harm.

How will we know we're making a difference in Bolton?

The number of children who need to be looked after will reduce

Children have stability in their placements

Children's care plans will be reviewed on time and their experiences will be reflected within the process

Children are supported to access effective education and their attainment is comparable with that of all children

Adoptions are progressed within the agreed timescales

There has been a 1.5% decrease in Looked After Children at March 2016 when compared with March 2015. However since 2014 the overall trend has been increasing based on midpoint and year end data

While Bolton has some of the highest percentages in the North West for children looked after placed at home with parents -15%; it is the 5th lowest when it comes to placing children out of area - 24%. The vast majority of children in Bolton are cared for by Foster Carers

The percentage of children in a stable placement has been steadily increasing through 2015-2016. 78% of children had lived in the same placement for at least two years, this is an 8% increase on the same period last year

Every looked after child from the age of three should have a Personal Education Plan (PEP). This plan helps track and promote educational achievements. In Bolton 509 children were identified as requiring a 'PEP' with 46% recorded to have such a plan in place

The biggest proportion of children who are looked after are aged between 5 and 15 years as would be expected. The proportion of children looked after; following their 16th birthday is increasing locally; however it remains 7% below the most recently published national data

70% of children have their future secured with a full care order while 10% are subject to an Interim Care Order. Only 12% of children are voluntarily looked after. This compares well with national data where 49% have a full care order, 11% an interim and 22% voluntary

Every child who is looked after should have their care plan reviewed every six months. In 2015-2016 92.5% of reviews were held on time. 79% of children contributed their wishes and feelings to the review, while 38% of children choose to attend their review

An average of 29% of children left care in Bolton to be adopted annually since March 2013. This is significantly better than the England average of 16%. On average it takes 390 days for a child to move to their adoptive family; compared to the England average of 490 days

Case study

Evie and her mum had a difficult relationship throughout her childhood and efforts to improve this had little long-term impact. Over early 2015 Evie started to go missing frequently and this placed her at risk of sexual exploitation. Because of the level of risk it was agreed that Evie would become looked after; in her own words Evie says

THEN

I would get up in the morning, get dressed, climb out of the window and go and meet up with my friends...I would get myself into trouble...I'd go missing overnight knowing my mum and siblings would be worried. Quite often I'd go out drinking or smoking weed thinking I was clever

NOW

I don't go missing anymore, it's not worth it...I don't smoke, drink, smoke weed; I don't steal. I actually get along with my mum a lot better now. I don't speak to strangers or weird men! Everything is going well for me at the moment ...I am like a totally different person and I like the new me!!

Effectiveness of Arrangements

In the last year the number of looked after children has fallen by 1.5% in Bolton. However looking at the trend over the last five years the numbers of looked after children have been steadily increasing with an almost 9% increase when compared to March 2012. The complexity of family issues and larger sibling groups are identified as two of the factors influencing the overall increasing trend.

In accordance with national data the vast majority of Bolton children live with foster carers, however Bolton differs from the national picture with a higher number of Looked After Children living at home and work is underway to review these arrangements to ensure they are effective in keeping children safe.

In 2015-2016 174 children ceased to be looked after and the primary reason for this was successful rehabilitation with their parents; moving on to a permanent adoptive home was the next closest reason. Both of these outcomes evidence the impact of multi-agency work to secure permanence for children in Bolton.

Where we can improve

Research over the years has highlighted gaps in educational attainment and progress between looked after children and their peers. Developing effective PEP's for all looked after children are essential to narrowing this gap. It is concerning that 46% of eligible children have a PEP in Bolton, however it is important to recognise that the data reported for PEPs relates only to PEPs recorded on Bolton's social care records and that PEPs recorded in other formats will not be included in this data. It is therefore important that in 2016-2017 this gap is addressed and we can be confident that all looked after children are being effectively supported to achieve good educational outcomes.

RESPONDING TO SAFEGUARDING RISKS

What is CSE?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Children are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

BSCB takes this issue very seriously and over the last decade and a half has worked with partners to safeguard children from this threat.

How will we know we're making a difference in Bolton?

Reduce the number of high risk victims of CSE

Improve recognition of males as victims of CSE

Increase the number of CSE related prosecutions and continue to disrupt offenders

Interventions to manage and reduce risk are effective

Events are effective in increasing awareness of CSE to the children, parents, practitioners and the wider public

Ensure capacity within Bolton's specialist CSE team - Phoenix Exit

There has been a 58% increase in referrals to Phoenix Exit when compared with 2014-2015. High risk cases account for 11% of all new referrals and this is comparable with 2014-2015. 204 children have received a CSE service this year

48 abduction notices have been served on individuals to prevent offences being committed against children. There have been 6 CSE related convictions

75 CSE cases were closed in the year, with 51 of these having received an assessment. 58% evidenced risk reduction, 23% showed no change in risk while 22% remained low. It should be noted that all assessments will score low even where all CSE risks are addressed

2 CSE weeks of action have been held to increase awareness across the community. BSCB hosted a multi-agency CSE summit attended by 98 practitioners; 224 practitioners have accessed the CSE e-learning training while 46 practitioners attended the one day targeted training

Efforts to improve recognition of male CSE victims are proving effective with 16% of all new referrals in 2016 relating to boys. This represents a 13 percentage point increase from the 2014 baseline

Weekly multi-agency disruption activity takes place and this often provides the intelligence to support more punitive responses. Routine offender visits and visits to those on bail for CSE related offences have been integrated within the work of neighbourhood police teams

19 Bolton secondary schools contributed to a CSE survey. All schools confirmed they deliver CSE awareness sessions to staff, while 16 also include it within their induction programme. All schools reported that links to local government resources were highly effective

Use of the CSE web resources increased in 2015-2016 and by year end there were 591 views of CSE resources; a 12.5% increase on the previous year

Case Study

Sophie was 15 and being sexually exploited. Initially it was hard for her to see this as her view was she was just having fun. However through her work with Bolton's CSE team, Phoenix Exit, Sophie began to recognise that what was happening was abuse. In Sophie's own words

'When I was told I was getting referred to the EXIT team. I didn't really see the point. But all I was getting told from people was that I was vulnerable. I then met my worker from EXIT called Noshaba. We started to talk I didn't really know what to say at first because I thought I was doing something wrong. We began to meet weekly and I started to open up and tell her things I hadn't told anyone before. She was able to describe some of the things that happened as grooming but at the time I didn't notice it like that.

I started college and realised the people I was hanging around with wasn't healthy and I was hardly taking drugs or running away. I then was sexually assaulted then all the things me and Noshaba spoke about sunk in. I finally told Michelle from the Police at EXIT team, she was so understanding and I had so much trust in her. Then we got our justice!!! She made me feel like people actually believed me and I finally got my story out. They helped me with my confidence and then got me justice.

Effectiveness of Arrangements

Tackling CSE in Bolton remains a high priority and the evidence indicates that agencies are alert to risk and take action when required. This can be seen in the increased number of new referrals to Phoenix Exit, up 58% on the previous year. Increased publicity and training is likely to be a contributing factor to this overall increase. A number of awareness raising activities were supported by BSCB including distributing over 1,000 promotional stickers for display in taxis, takeaways and shops, a Bolton News front page lead highlighting a parent's experience of CSE during the autumn week of action and using outdoor media advertising at CSE hotspots. In addition to this BSCB has supported the roll out of an education package 'Real Love Rocks' to local primary and secondary schools; 37 primary and 11 secondary schools in Bolton with 84 school staff attending the training sessions (69 primary and 15 secondary). Efforts to ensure effective CSE communications should be sustained in 2016-2017. Bolton has been effective in achieving a 1% reduction in High Risk cases at year end when compared to the same period last year. There is improved recognition of boys as potential victims of CSE with a year on year increase in them being referred to Phoenix Exit for support.

Agencies work well together to undertake weekly disruption activity and in 2015-2016 this work has been enhanced. The neighbourhood policing teams support Phoenix Exit by undertaking routine offender and bail visits to CSE offenders this has provided Phoenix Exit with capacity to develop a revised brief for disruption which is focussed on specific time critical objectives based on new and recent intelligence. Prosecuting offenders continues to be a high priority despite the challenge in securing convictions and prosecutions have increased by 16% when compared to the previous year.

Where we can improve

One recognised area for local development is the availability of post-abuse therapeutic help for children who have experienced CSE. This challenge has been raised by BSCB with Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health. It has also been flagged with Greater Manchester Phoenix Project.

What is 'Missing' from Home and Care?

A missing child is one whose whereabouts cannot be established; where the circumstances are out of character, or the context suggests the child may be the subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another.

How will we know we're making a difference in Bolton?

Track and reduce the number of children who are reported as missing from home or care in Bolton

Reduce the number of children going missing on repeat occasions

Be assured that action is taken to help children reduce the risks to children when they are missing

Be assured that when children are missing and return they receive the right help and support

454 children were reported as missing in 2015-2016 accounting for 1274 missing episodes. This is a 2% increase in children reported as missing and a 27% increase in missing episodes when compared with 2014-2015

There is an almost even split of boys to girls reported as missing; 51% to 49%. 75% of children are reported missing from home with the remaining 25% missing from care. 90% of children returned within 24 hours; 55% of these the same day

All children were offered a return interview with 61% being completed. This is a 20% increase on 2014-2015. A standard template for return interview was implemented in the year to improve consistency and enable better analysis of any themes or issues

A multi-agency approach has been developed to identify children with high risk missing incidents. Strategy meetings are held when the criteria are met and Early Help processes are being used more effectively to address lower risk missing concerns

38% of children reported missing had 2 or more missing episodes this represents a reduction of 7% compared to 2014-2015. The majority of children who were reported missing were in their teenage years, with 75% being aged 13-17 years old

340 children were reported missing from home, 100 from care, and 14 from young people's housing projects. 10% of children reported missing were looked after by another authority but living in the area in Bolton

Sexual Exploitation And Missing (SEAM) arrangements are well established in Bolton. In 2015-2016 SEAM ensured co-ordinated responses and action plans were in place for 104 children at risk of missing and CSE; 69 girls and 35 boys

Case information is analysed to understand the 'pushes and pulls' that influence children who go missing. Awareness raising workshops are being rolled out to staff to ensure that roles and responsibilities are consistent and clear.

Rob

Rob was initially reluctant to engage in the return interview process. He was aware that the interview was to take place. On meeting with the worker completing the return interview Rob said immediately that he would only have five minutes and no more. However, due to the engagement skills of the worker, she managed involve Rob more fully by explaining in a way he would understand, taking into account his learning difficulties.

In total 20 minutes was spent with Rob and he agreed to see the worker again. On the second occasion Rob was more receptive towards the worker and the support being offered. He engaged well and spent over an hour talking about his life and what made him go missing. This enabled the worker to help Rob put in place his own strategies to reduce the likelihood of him going missing again.

Suzy

Suzy was nearly 18, a Looked After Child and living in a placement outside of Bolton. She was at risk of CSE and experiencing mental health issues. Following multi-agency discussion at SEAM it was agreed it was safer for Suzy to return to Bolton when she became 18. As part of the support package, Bolton Community Housing Services offered temporary accommodation.

As part of their commitment to safeguard Suzy, Community Housing Services have regularly attended strategy meetings to ensure Suzy's housing needs are being met, especially on those occasions when she has been admitted for mental health in-patient treatment. On every discharge Suzy has been offered temporary accommodation. Housing Services have worked very closely with mental health and Children's services to support a smooth transition to adulthood for Suzy and reduce her vulnerability while in the community.

Effectiveness of Arrangements

Since 2013-2014 there have been significant developments in collating, tracking and analysing the profile of children missing from home or care in Bolton. Reporting mechanisms have been developed and strengthened to the point where there is a much better understanding about the numbers of children who go missing and how many episodes. There is better identification of high risk missing children and an improved understanding of the issues through the increase in completed return interviews. There is evidence of challenge in individual cases between agencies via SEAM processes and of situations where levels of risk to children have been better recognised in response to improved information sharing across a wider range of partners. This has led to improved outcomes for those children and provides assurances that work in this area makes a difference for children. Routine reporting to BSCB and to local elected members has improved the levels of scrutiny and challenge, as well as increasing senior leaders understanding of the issues and challenges faced by practitioners in working with some of the most vulnerable young people in Bolton. This has led to the recognition that further development of the local strategic approach is needed and as such in 2016 the work of BSCB's CSE group will be extended to formally include Missing from Home, Care or Education. This group will also be responsible for extending data collection to include reasons children go missing, ethnicity, tracking when return interviews were undertaken and who they have been shared with.

Where we can improve

It is positive that there has been a 20% increase in return interviews being completed, that these are shared with Lead Professionals and inform case level decisions. This needs to be maintained and improved for 2016-2017. There remains a challenge for the partnership to routinely analyse and identify strategic themes from return interviews. This will be a challenge for the newly constituted CSE and Missing Group to consider. Further evaluation is needed to ensure the experiences of missing children are accurately reflected in case recordings and there is evidence of children's involvement at all points. A better understanding and improved response to when children go missing from education establishments also needs to be considered.

Domestic Abuse and Violence

In Bolton Domestic Abuse and Violence (DAV) is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. For a child living and growing up with domestic abuse can have a devastating impact on their daily life and last into adulthood. Therefore it is important that children in Bolton who experience domestic abuse get the right help to keep them safe. Since 2012 there have been an increasing number of DAV incidents reported to the police. This is an outcome of local efforts to encourage individuals to seek help. 47% of all reported incidents in 2015-2016 involved children; this is a decrease of 4% when compared with 2014-2015. However there has been a concerning increase in the number of incidents involving children assessed as 'High Risk'; 63% increase when compared with the previous 12 months.

To be assured that this potentially vulnerable group of children are safe BSCB will undertake a multi-agency audit of MARAC cases involving children. There will be a particular focus on those high risk cases where children's social care is not involved. This will be a joint piece of work with Bolton's Domestic Abuse Partnership. In addition to this the Board will be reviewing and updating the contents of the local Domestic Abuse handbook to include agency responses to domestic abuse and ensure that Early Help is well integrated. It is expected that as an outcome from this work and on-going work with the Domestic Abuse Partnership there will be an increase in Early Help Assessments for Domestic Abuse.

BSCB and Bolton's Community Safety Partnership have worked with primary schools and Greater Manchester Police to put in place a process where schools are told the next day when a child has been present at a DAV incident. The school is then ready to offer silent or more direct support to the child. A successful pilot was carried out with 10 primary schools between October 2015 and January 2016; the model will be rolled out to all Bolton primary schools in 2016-2017 and its impact assessed.

What is FGM?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), also known as cutting or female circumcision occurs when a female's genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but where there's no medical reason for this to be done. FGM is usually carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15, most commonly before puberty starts. It is illegal in the UK and is recognised as a form of child abuse. It is a criminal offence to:

- Perform FGM (including taking a child abroad for FGM)
- Help a girl perform FGM on herself in or outside the UK
- Help anyone perform FGM in the UK
- Help anyone perform FGM outside the UK on a UK national or resident
- Fail to protect a girl for whom you are responsible from FGM

Anyone who performs FGM can face up to 14 years in prison. Anyone found guilty of failing to protect a girl from FGM can face up to seven years in prison.

How are we making a difference in Bolton?

In 2015-2016 Bolton has worked hard to take a stance against FGM and this is particularly important in the context of Bolton's changing population. Activity to increase awareness has taken place across Bolton with a particular focus on education and health practitioners, as well as the wider public. BSCB encourages workers to complete the Home Office e-learning package and to date 218 clicks have been made to the site. As a consequence of this work 11 FGM strategy meetings and 8 reviews were held in 2015-2016. This is the highest number recorded since data reporting began in 2013-2014. FGM referrals were equally spread across education, health, the police and specialist services. In addition to this 4 FGM prevention orders were successfully applied from between July 2015 (their introduction) and March 2016.

Family A had requested a term time holiday for medical attention. However the school suspected that FGM was main motive as just one child in the family was travelling with dad. A strategy meeting resulted in passport restrictions to prevent the child leaving the UK. Following this, an application for an FGMPO was successful.

Safeguarding in Education

Schools and colleges and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. All school and college staff have a responsibility to identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

All staff have a responsibility to take appropriate action, working with other services as needed.

In Bolton this work is provided via the Safeguarding in Education Team (SET). This consists of, one Safeguarding Education Officer and one Safeguarding in Education Social Worker (SESW).

How will we know we're making a difference in Bolton?

The SET provides a package of advice and support to all schools and colleges, for example:

Provide advice and support the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead

Provide level one child protection training to all teaching and non-teaching staff to help them identify the sign and indicators of child abuse.

Provide level three child protection training to all Designated Safeguarding Leads to help them understand their roles and responsibly and identify significant harm thresholds to help the decision making around making referrals to children's social care.

Quality assure all schools safeguarding systems to monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding in schools and offer an improvement plan if required

Between April 2015 and March 2016, there have been 995 delegates trained at Level 1. This is a significant rise in the numbers trained compared to 2014-15 which were 815

One Head Teacher induction session was attended by 8 Head Teachers. 2 Roles and Responsibilities training sessions were attended by 33 senior leaders. The overall data collated from 2015-16 highlights a growth of sessions delivered by the SET

During 2015/2016 the SET assisted and developed 13 Safety Plans with schools around sexualised behaviour, in comparison this figure was 7 in 2014/15, this was an 86% increase in safety plans undertaken

Increasing number of schools requesting advice and support around pupil/students inappropriate sexualised behaviour, sexting, online grooming and self-harm

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) training was attended by 176 staff, which is a decrease from last year as the training is required every two years, so next year should see an increase again

100% of the feedback received from schools using the Bolton SET service during 2015/2016 was positive; examples of this feedback include:
'Very good course, well explained and helped to refresh my knowledge and understanding'

A growth in the amount of meetings and schools visits the SET have undertaken. In 2014/15 this figure was 58 this has increased to 81, which is a 39.65% increase on last year

The SET recognises this is an area of future development to provide schools with the skills and knowledge to manage the risk by providing guidance and training

Improving Safeguarding Systems

The school was brought to the attention of the SET via a manager from the Referral and Assessment Team. The Head Teacher contacted Social Care regarding a concern about a parent. Referral and Assessment advised the school to complete an Early Help Assessment however it was felt that the school Safeguarding Lead may not follow this advice. The manager reported this was not the first time the Safeguarding Lead had been reluctant to follow BSCB's procedures.

The SET team had a discussion with the School Improvement Professional (SIP) and with the agreement of the Head Teacher, the SET arranged to carry out a full safeguarding audit.

From the audit, several recommendations were made, which the Head Teacher responded well to. The school implemented CPOMS (database for recording safeguarding and welfare concerns) and adopted the Local Authority Safeguarding and Child Protection policy. The school have embedded the Early Help Assessment within CPOMS thus ensuring BSCB Early Help Processes are integrated within the school.

The SET reviewed the action plan with the school the following term. In addition the SET delivered whole school training, Level 3 training was arranged with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and a bespoke training session was carried out with lunch time supervisors.

As a result of the work that the SET carried out with the school, safeguarding systems are now robust.

Relationships between the school and social care are much improved and the SLT will seek out guidance and support from the SET when required. The school recently had an Ofsted inspection and the school was judged as being good within Safeguarding.

Effectiveness of Arrangements

The SET offer a full audit and review of their safeguarding system and process. In 2015-2016 the SET undertook 5 safeguarding audits; these audits were primarily requested by school improvement professionals (SIP). In 2015-16 this increased to 12; a 140% increase from the previous year. At the end of the audit the SET will develop a safeguarding school improvement action plan based on the findings and recommendations of the audit. Progress of this is reviewed termly and can take up to a full academic year to complete.

Head Teacher's have found the audits beneficial.

The SET has further developed its relationship and contribution to the work of BSCB. The SET takes on a link role with education settings and supports schools to contribute to BSCB's safeguarding priorities and local learning reviews. For example a member of the team regularly attends SEAM and supports schools to contribute to CSE priorities; FGM awareness has been integrated within schools training packages and work is ongoing for 2016-2017 to develop a schools online safety policy with supporting resources.

An outcome of working with BSCB on local learning reviews has been the development of a core safeguarding document set for schools to adopt. This includes:

- An audit checklist
- An exemplar Child Protection & Safeguarding policy – this was published in September 2015
- A child protection and looked after child file checklist
- An exemplar chronology

What is LADO?

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is responsible for ensuring that any allegations made against those working with children are responded to and investigated appropriately. The criteria for referral to the LADO are applied when information indicates that a person who works with children may have:-

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child
- Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates s/he may pose a risk of harm, if they worked regularly and closely with children

The LADO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to its conclusion.

How will we know we're making a difference in Bolton?

LADO referrals will remain constant year on year

Evidence that organisations seek LADO advice and support

Investigations will be carried out proportionately and completed in a timely manner - 80% of cases should be resolved within one month, 90% within three months

Meetings will be well attended; Police and Children's Services will ensure 100% attendance when invited

In 2015-2016 the total number of referrals to LADO was 209 a small decrease on the previous year's figure of 213. 52 professional strategy meetings, in respect of 53 subjects were held a 28% decrease on the previous year's figure of 72.

Education continues to make the most referrals; this is in line with regional and national data. 98 referrals were made to LADO, a 36% increase on 2014-2015. Requests for advice have increased from 44 in 2014-2015 to 80 in 2015-2016.

155 cases were dealt with at initial consideration stages and required only a single agency response following LADO assessment. This is an increase of 16% on the previous year's figure of 134.

Where invited to attend, police have attended 91% of meetings while children's services have attended 83% of meetings. 73% of cases were resolved within one month and a total of 84% within three months.

Effectiveness of Arrangements

Referrals from Health services and the voluntary sector remain low and work continues to increase awareness with these partners. The LADO has developed a 'tracking form' for schools to record and monitor the progress of recommendations. This has been adapted for use by other agencies and has been well received. Delays in police enquiries, mainly due to complex forensic analysis of computers has impacted on the timeliness of LADO case resolutions.

This issue has been flagged to BSCB's Independent Chair. LADO continues to contribute to the BSCB training programme and to the Local Authority workforce development programme for Schools. These courses focus on increasing knowledge about the LADO process and safe recruitment. The LADO has also undertaken briefings for Children's Services Looked After Children and Fostering Teams. The LADO is keen to ensure that local processes and practice is thorough and robust. In addition to regular LADO case audits, learning from relevant Serious Case Reviews is reviewed. One such review led to 'Professional abuse – Can it happen here' training being delivered to Bolton Fostering teams. This full days training was well attended and well received by the teams

What is Safeguarding Children Training?

BSCB deliver an annual multi-agency training programme. The aim of the programme is to develop the workforce's skills and knowledge in recognising and responding to a range of safeguarding and child protection issues.

How are we making a difference in Bolton?

It is our aim in Bolton that 95% of delegates attend their session and 95% of sessions are delivered. In 2015-2016 949 training places were available with 772 delegates attending their session; this equates to an 88% attendance rate. It is important to understand the reasons as to why practitioners do not attend as this helps to inform future delivery. In 2015-2016 31% of delegates who did not attend cited workload or staffing issues as the primary reason; while a further 26% stated annual leave or sickness prevented their attendance.

86% of planned training sessions were delivered. The lower attendance rate was reported to BSCB in Quarter 2 when average attendance over the first six months of 2015-2016 was 84.5%. In Quarter 3 and 4 this increased to 90.5%. While lower than our expected target it does evidence that BSCB members responded when the issue was identified. It also indicates a need for the Training Group to revisit and refresh training needs analysis.

The Keeping Children Safe: Level 1 e-learning package continues to be well used. 2636 practitioners registered and completed the package this year. A proportion of the practitioners have completed the package have done so after face to face training to consolidate their learning. This is good practice and promoted within the training. The education sector are the biggest users of the e-learning resource with 61%, the next biggest is early years with 17%. Use by the health economy, community and voluntary sector and adult services is surprisingly low. In 2016-2017 it will be important to promote this resource to provide additional support to single agency training. There are also plans in the coming year to add e-learning modules on Private Fostering and Child Death Overview Panel.

Delegate evaluations are positive with the majority of delegates agreeing or strongly agreeing that courses meet their objectives. In 2016-2017 the Training Group are introducing a scoring matrix to further improve reporting on training experiences and inform service development. One of the on-going challenges is to capture and evidence the long term impact and influence of training on practice. Due to the inconsistency in administrators in 2015-2016, the 3 month training impact questionnaires have either not been sent out or recorded, consequently for 2015-2016 there is limited data. This will be addressed in 2016-2017.

I was made to feel at ease and what is a very sensitive subject was delivered in a way that was understandable but very informative

Improved my understanding of the levels on the framework for action

This was a fun informative training session with a good range of tools used

We currently commission Bolton Safeguarding Board to deliver a variety of Safeguarding training to the Children's workforce. This training complements the existing multi agency training available via the boards own training programme. All sessions are well organised and delivered in a professional manner whilst maintaining a friendly approach to delivery. Each course is delivered to suit the audience and feedback from all our participants is complimentary.
Workforce Development Manager, Bolton Council

Elective Home Education

The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England education is compulsory, but attending school is not. Parents chose to electively home educate (EHE) for a range of reasons including dissatisfaction with the mainstream system, ideological beliefs or concerns that their children are not safe within a school environment. On occasion a few parents opt out of education to avoid the involvement of statutory childcare services. BSCB wished to understand the underlying reasons for EHE in Bolton and to be assured that any potentially vulnerable children are safeguarded.

From the report provided by Bolton's EHE officer it identified that 177 children in Bolton were electively home education with 59% of those children being of secondary age. The biggest proportions of children were recorded as White British; however in 18% of cases ethnicity had either not been recorded or obtained. The top three reasons for opting to electively home educate were religious or cultural (40), dissatisfaction with the education system (34) and philosophical or ideological (37). 13.6% of EHE children were receiving additional multi-agency help either through Early Help or from statutory social work. Like many Local Authorities' Bolton offers at least one home visit per year to parents to discuss their child's education. While parents are not legally required to give access to their home nor are they compelled to respond to such requests it is encouraging that in Bolton 91% of parents take up this offer. The EHE officer has attended relevant safeguarding children training courses and should it become apparent that the child or family is in need of additional support or there are concerns about the safety or welfare of the child action will be taken. Following on from this report it has been agreed that quarterly EHE data will be provided to BSCB to support their scrutiny and challenge role.

What is Private Fostering?

Many people don't realise that if a child is under 16 and cared for by friends, neighbours or extended family for more than 28 days the law requires that the local authority be notified. When parents make plans for their child to be cared for like this it is called a Private Fostering Arrangement. While it is not an arrangement that is made or paid for by the local authority, the local authority does have a duty to assess such arrangements to make sure children are safe.

Private Fostering happens for lots of different reasons some of which include teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend, children living with a friend's family as a result of separation, divorce or problems at home and children sent to this country for education or health care by birth parents living overseas.

How are we making a difference in Bolton?

In 2015-2016 there were 11 privately fostered children in Bolton. It is likely, as it is across England, that this figure is does not truly reflect the full picture in Bolton. At the end of March 2015 there were 1560 privately fostered in England. This is equivalent to 1.4 in every 10000; in Bolton the rate is slightly higher at 1.6 per 10000. BSCB has developed and utilised a range of publicity and training materials to increase workers and the general public's knowledge of Private Fostering. This has included web articles and poster campaigns. The responses to these have been good however it is an area that requires continual emphasis. New materials were made available from February 2016 with the expectation that organisations will display and promote them. Looking over time at the profile of private fostering arrangements there appear to be no discernible patterns in terms of age of the child or the number at any given time.

In 2016-2017 BSCB will complete an audit of current private fostering arrangement which will also seek the views of children and carers. In addition to this an e-learning training package will be available by the end of March 2017.

What is Learning and Improvement?

Working Together 2015 encourages LSCBs to take opportunities to reflect on local practice by reviewing a range of childcare cases and not simply focusing on those that meet the threshold for a Serious Case Review. In Bolton we do this through the work of the Learning and Improvement Group. The Learning and Improvement group is well attended by all members and provides an open and secure environment to promote discussion and constructive challenge in respect of local practice to keep children safe.

How are we making a difference in Bolton?

In 2015-2016 the group reviewed 5 cases, one of which met the threshold for a Serious Case Review; this will be addressed in the 2016-2017 annual report. The cases ranged in age from 6 weeks to 15 years and all cases bar one related to females. While each case is unique there is an emergence of some common themes, in particular:-

- Resistance and non-engagement from parents and children
- Understanding and evaluating the significance of missed appointments
- Where there are a number of significant transitions happening in families, practitioners need to ensure information about the family history and its significance to the child's current and future welfare is well summarised and shared with colleagues
- Where children are not cared for by their birth parents but by other family members - the circumstances leading to such arrangements should be fully explored and assessed; and the following considered:-
 - What led to the arrangement?
 - What were the experiences of the children when being cared for by the birth parents?
 - How does this compare to the capacity of parents to care and meet the needs of the child currently in their care?
- Understanding the vulnerability of adolescents

To ensure these learning points are shared BSCB has produced a series of learning briefs which practitioners are encouraged to read, reflect on and implement within their practice – the themes identified from the reviews will also inform the scope and standards for future multi-agency audits.

CASE STUDY Learning into Practice

Julie, one of Bolton's Independent Reviewing Officer's shares how she has implemented learning from a recent review into her practice.

I was sent the learning brief by my manager and as is sometimes the case put it in my development folder. It was some weeks later when I was able to return to the briefing and reflect on the learning from the case. A particular area that I felt was pertinent to my role and actually was a tip I felt I could use in practice was the terminology especially in the use of the term 'Child not Brought' as opposed to 'Did Not Attend.'
Using Child Not Brought for me switched the emphasis in safeguarding on the responsible adult rather than the child, who in all cases would need to be brought by an adult. As a consequence I have started to use this terminology within Child Protection conferences I chair and remind health and social care staff of the need to use this within reports they write.

What is CDOP?

The Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) is a multi-disciplinary group of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The CDOP reviews the deaths of all children under the age of 18 years old who normally reside within the geographical boundaries of that CDOP. There are four CDOP's across Greater Manchester, three of which are 'tri-partite' such as Bolton, Salford and Wigan (BSW) with one CDOP covering the area of Manchester City Council. This summary provides information on the child deaths which have occurred in 2015-2016 known as 'notifications' but the main focus is on cases concluded by the CDOP during 2015-2016 referred to as 'closed' and any trends which can be identified during that period or through analysis of cases from previous years. It is important to recognise that not all notifications received in 2014/15 are dealt with in that 12 month period. Notifications received later in the year require information to be gathered which means they will be considered in the next 12 month period. Equally some cases may result in coroner inquests, police investigations and in some cases Serious Case Reviews. The timescales of these investigations mean there will inevitably be significant periods between the notification to CDOP and the case being discussed and closed by CDOP. This explains why there were 72 notifications to the Bolton Salford and Wigan CDOP but 56 cases closed. Please note that the data reported in the following section relates to all child deaths across Bolton, Salford and Wigan unless otherwise stated.

Key Learning Points

- Of the 72 notified child deaths which occurred in the period the panel concluded 27 (27.5%) of those cases; a further 23 cases were concluded which were less than 12 months since the date of notification thus the panel closed 50 (69.4%) of cases within 12 months of notification while only 6 cases took over 12 months to conclude
- 21 (37.5%) of the 56 concluded cases were identified as having modifiable factors; this is an increase on the previous year's figures from 17% in 2014 and 26% in 2015- there is no definitive explanation for this rise in modifiable cases however a possible explanation may be that as the CDOP process continues to improve, a higher level of information is collected from a wider range of agencies, thus providing more detail for panels to consider
- 66% of concluded cases were children under 1; this is a lower percentage than the previous 2 years but remains slightly higher than the Greater Manchester average of 64.4% - this continuing theme initiated a sector led improvement plan across the North West targeting infant mortality rates and while this work is at an early stage of development it is intended that it will support benchmarking and more importantly facilitate the sharing of good practice across the region
- There were 6 Sudden and Unexpected Deaths of Infants (SUDI) across Bolton, Salford and Wigan and 24 cases across Greater Manchester; the common features in these cases were that parents smoked and/or had been co-sleeping with their child in bed or on a settee - a joint campaign has been in place since 2011 in Bolton, Salford and Wigan to safe sleeping practice and while there is no doubt that parents are aware of the advice provided there remain incidents where the advice does not appear to be followed
- A National Network of CDOPs (NNCDOP) has been created with a view to co-ordinating the work of CDOPs and establishing consistent standards across England. This effectively replicates the work already in place across GM and the North West. BSW CDOP has joined the NNCDOP and the BSW CDOP chair is a member of the national committee
- Early in 2016 the government commissioned Alan Wood to look at the work of CDOPs and their effectiveness. The main conclusion was that CDOPs should sit under the Department of Health rather than the Department for Education. However, it is not expected that any changes will take place before 2018

AGENCY SAFEGUARDING SNAPSHOTS

Each year BSCB request that members complete and submit a report for their service or organisation outlining how they have supported the development of local safeguarding practice in the last year. Here is a snapshot of some of the work undertaken to ensure that safeguarding processes are integrated within their core business:-

Access and Inclusion Services – this service works with children and their families to promote children’s welfare, attendance and behaviour at school; it includes the Early Intervention Team (EIT), Behaviour Support Service (BSS) and the Achievement Cohesions and Integration Service (ACIS)

- All referrals for support from EIT to address pupil’s attendance are made using the Early Help Assessment – this supports the service to have a holistic picture of the child and family circumstances and ensure the right response; the service provides challenge where they have concerns about the quality of the Early Help information and this leads to further discussions with the referrer about consent, SMART action planning and voice of the child/parental views and perspective
- All pupils who need to attend a Pupil Referral Unit are required to have an Early Help Assessment in place
- ACIS support families who are new to the UK and speak English as an additional language to apply for school places in Bolton; the service ensure that at initial interview stage rigorous document checks are carried out to ensure all adults are the parents/official carers of the children.

Bolton Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service (BiDAS) - Bolton has number of services that help support individuals or concerned others with drug or alcohol problems; while each service has a specialist remit they work together and are collectively they make up the service known as BIDAS

- Training in Child Sexual Exploitation has been delivered to all ARCH staff in 2015-2016; this covers identification of concerns and how to respond accordingly
- All BiDAS Managers, safeguarding lead Case Managers and the Clinical Lead have attended level 3 training during the year
- All new employees and volunteers have completed the level 1 online safeguarding training as part of their induction
- In response to learning from a Bolton Serious Case Review a full review of the way in which the BIDAS services are presented to clients at initial assessment and review appointments was completed; this has led to the development of an Engagement Policy, providing BiDAS staff with clear guidance in responding to service users who do not engage fully in all aspects of their recovery plan

Bolton Community Safety - work with partners to improve the quality of life for everyone in the borough working across four key themes one of which is young people

- Worked with BSCB to develop new domestic abuse resources including Bolton’s Domestic Abuse Handbook and to pilot a Bolton Encompass Programme; Encompass is a model which enables schools to be notified the next working day where a child has been present at a domestic abuse incident and the police have attended
- Commissioned the Healthy Relationships School-based Education Programme – this is an early intervention programme delivered to Year 5 and Year 6 school children to raise their awareness and recognition of Domestic Abuse and its impact on children;

to date 1,478 Primary School children across 40 schools and 716 Secondary School Pupils across 5 Schools have received the input; 61 children have made direct disclosures about Domestic Abuse during sessions and have been supported

Positive Activities – co-ordinates and facilitates a range of free and low cost child centred play provision across the borough offering activities within local communities for children and young people

- Safeguarding training has been provided for all Positive Activities Staff via bespoke and online courses
- To evaluate the impact of safeguarding training worked with early years colleagues to undertake simulated regulatory inspections; one of the learning points identified was the need to ensure all casual staff accessed the most up to date training around safeguarding
- Integrated for 'Disqualification by association' requirements by adding the check to our staff supervision sheets used during one to ones
- Revised and updated guidance on the use of mobile phones within childcare settings to ensure compliance with statutory guidance
- Service has actively promoted and engaged young people in key campaigns around child sexual exploitation including "it's not okay" and the more recent 'week of action'; the service attends and contributes to local SEAM arrangements to share information and provide safeguards for those children who may be at risk of CSE and attending youth services

Bolton Community Homes – strategic housing partnership that brings together social housing providers

- Provided safeguarding and domestic violence briefing sessions to new and emerging refugee communities
- Promoted awareness of safe sleeping in particular awareness in relation to lodger and other overcrowding presentations – these in particular highlighted for overcrowding and lodger exclusion casework
- Level 1 safeguarding training rolled out to technical staff and processes implemented to ensure concerns identified are responded to
- Worked with staff to ensure that children's details are recorded when they are present on interview or at home visit for future reference
- Bolton Council and BCH allocations policy retains additional preference for households experiencing relevant 'safeguarding' children issues
- Commission and fund a parent/child mediation service – Time 2 Talk; this has been developed provide mediation interventions with a wider range of children at risk of homelessness, younger children who could potentially be at risk of becoming frequent 'missing's' and CSE cases where the parent/child relationships is at risk of breaking down

Youth Offending Team (YOT) – provide specialist assessment and interventions when children are in trouble with the police and prevent them getting in trouble again

- Level 1 and 2 training is mandatory for all YOT staff and all staff have taken part in refresher training on Early Help
- YOT management team developed and implemented a vulnerability matrix checklist to be used in all assessments to ensure that the safeguarding needs of the child

were fully consider this is now embedded and in the most recent HMIP Inspection (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation) gave Bolton's YOT a score of 88% in terms of protecting the child – well above the national average

Children Social Work – provide specialist assessments and interventions to ensure children are safe from abuse and their welfare is promoted

- Internal case transfer protocol between frontline teams has been reviewed and strengthened to ensure effective transfer of cases and avoid delay in allocations and decision making; similarly the Supervision Policy has been updated to ensure it complies and compliments regional policy guidance
- Internal audit framework has been revised and re-developed; an annual audit schedule has been introduced and learning from the audits is shared with teams to inform and further develop practice and inform service development
- Lessons learned from local case reviews are discussed in team meetings and discussed with staff within the service
- An integrated police and social work team created to respond to all referrals regarding concerns for children; this service aims to provide a more efficient and consistent response to child protection referrals as well align of practice across the service
- Worked with foster carers to further develop their understanding of Managing Allegations Processes and the Local Authority Designated Officer role and also their roles and responsibilities when Looked After Children are missing

Clinical Commissioning Group – commission health services for children and adults in Bolton

- Learning from local and national serious case reviews has led to the development of a communication pathway for GPs and health visiting to improve relationships and information sharing relating to children; Recommendations and action plans from local reviews are monitored through the CCG Integrated Safeguarding Committee and Quality and Safety Committee
- Private fostering is included in the requirements within GP Practices safeguarding policy and was included in a GP practice bulletin and has been incorporated into the GP Practice Resource Pack
- CCG has in place a safeguarding training framework which reflects both local and national requirements. A recent audit of training identified that only 63% of the CCG workforce were trained in accordance with the Intercollegiate Document. Work is now on-going to ensure full compliance, including data cleansing
- A section on CSE was incorporated into the GP Practice Resource Pack; CCG Safeguarding team has identified CSE as a key priority area for 2016/2017
- During 2015/2016 Bolton CCG & partners delivered Building health partnerships events with young people and Local authority, NHS and voluntary sector providers to obtain views on mental health services for young people; the action plans from these events informed the CAMHS transformation plan - <http://www.boltonccg.nhs.uk/news-events/local-news/camhs-transformation-plan>
- CCG consulted the parent/carer consortium regarding the Children's Continuing Care Policy and have invited members of the consortium to be involved in the development of projects such as the review of communication and speech and language therapy services and review of acute paediatrics

**BSCB BUSINESS
PLAN PROGRESS
2015-2016**

BP Ref	Core Objective	Evidence To Support RAG Rating and Outcomes Met	RAG Rate
1.1	Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolton Encompass pilot went live on 5 October 2015 with 11 schools in Cluster 4 – this has been supported by the development of a local Encompass handbook; the pilot will be evaluated in January 2016 and reported to BSCB in March 2016 • The news section of BSCB Website has provided information about changes to FGM legislation and the mandatory duty to report known cases of FGM • BSCB is supporting a local voluntary group to develop their training offer and deliver awareness raising and interventions where FGM is suspected to be a risk to children • As part of BSCB’s performance report the number of FGM strategy meetings and referrals has been reported to BSCB and is included in the annual report. • Bolton Salford and Wigan’s Sleep Safe Guidance has been developed and launched; • Following learning from extensive audits in respect of Child Protection Initial Conferences, Child Protection Plans and Core Groups BSCB with the support of practitioners have developed a core group agenda and recording template – the introduction of these tools are to promote consistency and the effective use of Child Protection plans to evaluate risk – the use and impact of the tools will be evaluated in May 2017 • BSCB and Be Safe Community Safety Partnership worked together to develop the Domestic Abuse Handbook; since launch in January 2015 to March 2016 the handbook has been accessed 563 times • Greater Manchester Safeguarding Policies have been accessed on 865 occasions from BSCB’s website since their launch in Bolton in November 2014; 341 times in the last year • An initial meeting with key commissioners in Health and the Local Authority was held in June 2015 to agree in principle that a set of safeguarding children standards for Bolton were required and could be developed for inclusion within future tenders etc. – however this has not been progressed • It is requested that BSCB agree that the completion date for this piece of work is revised to March 2016 	G
1.2	Promote and support the on-going development of a safe and effective multi-agency workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At year end 2014-2015 BSCB training courses had a 93% attendance rate; in 2015-2016 this has decreased to 88% with 89% of courses taking place • In addition BSCB has supported the delivery of seven three hour training SMART Action Planning sessions between July and October 2015; 80 social workers, team managers, independent reviewing officers and family support workers attended the sessions from the 88 delegates who initially booked on; this equates to a 91% attendance rate • Quarterly reports are provided to BSCB by the LADO; over the last 3 years the number of allegations referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) has remained reasonably static at just under 200 per year • The vast majority of allegations were referrals from Education, Social Care and the Police; referrals from Health services and the voluntary sector remain low; work continues to increase awareness with these partners • An issue was raised with the LADO relating to the timeliness of criminal investigations; this was subsequently discussed with the BSCB Independent Chair and action is underway to address this matter with the police • Section 11 tool has been re-developed and views sought from Safeguarding Executive on 19 October 2015; this will be further reviewed by the Executive and completed in 2016-2017 • Work is underway with partner LSCBs in Greater Manchester to explore the opportunities for an on-line version 	G

BP Ref	Core Objective	Evidence To Support RAG Rating and Outcomes Met	RAG Rate
1.3	Ensure the voice of children and their families develops local safeguarding priorities, processes and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held with Local Authority Complaints team on 16 November 2015 and agreed first Highlight report will be provided on 30 November 2015 to share service developments and learning from complaints and compliments • 'Growing up in Bolton' survey completed and findings shared with the Safeguarding Executive on 7 December 2015 – the information from this report is used to inform local Board developments • Developing a model of seeking children's and parents views and experience of our local Child Protection Processes in partnership with a senior lecturer from Manchester Metropolitan University and Action for Children – the development of this work is later than planned and will be completed in 2016-2017 • Use of the Bolton's Children's Views pack is inconsistent and this will be tracked in 2016-2017 • Work has not started on seeking the views of Privately Fostered Children; this will be completed in 2016-2017 	A
1.4	Communicate to the public and partners the need to keep children safe and promote their welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worried about a Child Leaflets in process of being updated – delayed owing to re-configuration of Referral and Assessment Teams and creation of Multi-agency Screening and Safeguarding Service - new items have been uploaded to the website to promote the new service and re-enforce the referral pathway • Monthly articles are posted on the BSCB website highlighting research, new developments and resources from BSCB • Private Fostering resources are finalised and are being distributed • Button Cell campaign live and rolled out across Bolton • Barnardos Real Love Rocks materials have been rolled out across Bolton; evaluation of these materials and impact will be led by Salford University in 2016-2017 • CSE summit held on 3 November 2015 with over 90 delegates in attendance; range of presentations and inputs delivered to increase knowledge and awareness • Three CSE weeks of action have been supported by BSCB • Requirements for Mandatory Reporting of FGM are now available 	G
1.5	Participate in the planning of services for children in Bolton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSCB agendas and minutes reflect discussions and safeguarding children implications of organisational changes, e.g. Probation Service, Changes to Safeguarding arrangements across NHS England and CCG's, development of MASS etc. • Protocol between BSCB and Health and Well-being Board has been endorsed by BSCB on 27.11.2015 • BSCB chair has met with working group Chairs to review membership and effectiveness of current sub-groups on 15.06.2015; issues identified by the sub-group chairs are being progressed by the independent chair • A further meeting will be held in 2016-2017 to review progress • BSCB officer chairs and regularly attends the Greater Manchester LSCB Business Managers quarterly meeting • Statutory Director of Children Services and BSCB officer both attend the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership and minutes and issues arising are discussed at BSCB meetings • Bolton is also represented on a number of other regional forums and designated professional networks 	G

BP Ref	Core Objective	Evidence To Support RAG Rating and Outcomes Met	RAG Rate
1.6	Operate effective arrangements to review all child deaths, including those where abuse or neglect may be a factor and to respond to the learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from reviews has been shared with BSCB and the wider public via the website • The action plan for Child R has been reviewed by BSCB Safeguarding Executive and signed off as complete • One serious case review has been commissioned during the course of 2015-2016 and was completed in November 2015; the final report will be considered for endorsement on 27.11.2015; reviewers commented on the commitment and dedication of both the practitioners and review team members to the process and their openness to reflective practice • CDOP annual report presented to BSCB on 25.09.2015 and the findings endorsed; there is a programme of updates on action to respond to the findings 	G
1.7	Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSCB routinely receive the quarterly report and this has been further developed to include a supporting narrative document which includes identification of action required – this captures and reports on both quantitative and qualitative data • Work is under way with GMP Bolton Division and Children Services to further develop routine reporting on Domestic Abuse • Greater Manchester Phoenix Peer review for Phoenix Exit is taking place in December 2015; this found that overall practice in the team was of a high standard and made a positive contribution to managing CSE risks • BSCB has fully responded to the Learning from the last Ofsted Inspection and continue to develop its quality assurance function – to support this BSCB has agreed to time limited funding for an additional post for quality assurance purposes • Work with Children's Services has been implemented to improve the quality of planning 	G
2.1	Evaluate the impact of re-launched Early Help Processes in promoting the welfare of children and keeping them safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Integrated Working Team have worked with parents and carers to develop a new resource to help families understand the early help process – this will be available and circulated to members of the Early Help Steering Group • Parents have contributed and agreed to their views being recorded and used to support training for the workforce in Early Help • BSCB reviewed the impact of the relaunch for Early Help there is evidence of increased use across a range of services; evidence that Early Help assessment and planning quality is improving; areas for development have been identified in particular Early Help and the Health Economy and promoting single agency quality audits • Workers who use the Early Help process have been interviewed and recorded by the Integrated Working Team – this is for use in training and sharing best practice • Current Early Help processes are assessed as compliant with Working Together 2015 	G

BP Ref	Core Objective	Evidence To Support RAG Rating and Outcomes Met	RAG Rate
2.2	Understand current responses to children's emotional health needs and assess their effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSCB has provided posters and other resources to secondary schools to promote young people's access to external support if they have worries about suicide and self-harm; these resources will be re-circulated in September 2016 • BSCB have attended and contributed to the Building Health Partnerships sessions which have a focus on improving multi-agency responses to young people's emotional health • CAMHS service has attended the Safeguarding Executive on 20 July 2015 to present the current offer • Work is underway with Adult Mental Health Services to develop an engagement pathway for children and young people who may be reluctant to access services • Papyrus, a national suicide prevention charity were commissioned by CCG to deliver training to Bolton's workforce; training is being rolled out to provide workers with the skills and knowledge to respond to young people who be thinking about suicide • BSCB continue to deliver STORM training twice a year – this promotes techniques and interventions where young people may be self-harming or suicidal • This work will continue into 2016-2017 	A
2.3	Review and revise current responses to neglect in Bolton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect Task and Finish group has been established to develop a neglect strategy and action plan – a draft strategy has been developed • Audit tool in development and audit planned for completion in 2016-2017 • A Neglect practitioner survey has been completed to understand workforce challenges in tackling neglect • Training reviewed and updated; however further work is required on completion of the Neglect Strategy with a particular emphasis on prevention • This work will continue into 2016-2017 	A
2.4	Further strengthen the partnership arrangements between BSCB and key partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol between BSCB and Health and Well-being Board endorsed by BSCB on 27.11.2015 • BSCB agendas and minutes reflect discussions and safeguarding children implications of organisational changes, e.g. Probation Service, Changes to Safeguarding arrangements across NHS England and CCG's, development of MASS etc. • Be Safe presented to BSCB on the topic of Modern Slavery, OCG and Trafficking, inviting member to comment on the plan • BSCB chair has met with working group Chairs to review membership and effectiveness of current sub-group issues identified by the sub-group chairs are being progressed by the independent chair • BSCB's Early Help Steering Group working with Domestic Abuse and Violence Steering group to support integration of Early Help processes within their commissioned services 	G
2.5	Identify and respond to current E-Safety issues in Bolton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task and finish group established with membership from a range of schools and other organisations • Online safety policy and supporting resources developed and will be launched in 2016-2017 	G

Appendix 2 – BSCB Members

SAFEGUARDING BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2016	
CHAIR	DEPUTY
Mike Tarver Independent Chair Bolton Safeguarding Children Board Westhoughton Town Hall Market Street Bolton BL5 3AW 01204 337479 mike.tarver@bolton.gov.uk	Head of Community Housing Services Bolton Council 1 Silverwell Lane Bolton BL1 1QN
COUNCILLOR	
EXECUTIVE MEMBER	DEPUTY
Councillor Ann Cunliffe c/o Members Secretariat Town Hall Bolton BL1 1RU	N/a
HEALTH ECONOMY	
NHS FOUNDATION TRUST	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Deputy Director of Nursing, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust Minerva Road Farnworth Bolton BL4 0JR	tbc
MENTAL HEALTH TRUST	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Consultant Adolescent Forensic Psychiatrist FACTS Team Greater Manchester West Mental Health Trust Bury New Road Prestwich Manchester M25 3BL	Named Nurse Greater Manchester West Mental Health Trust Trust Headquarters Bury New Road Prestwich M25 3BL
PUBLIC HEALTH	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Public Health Consultant Le Mans Crescent Bolton BL1 1UA	N/a

HEALTH ECONOMY	
CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Executive Board Nurse Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group St Peters House, Silverwell Street Bolton BL1 1PP	n/a
GP WITH SAFEGUARDING SPECIAL INTEREST	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
GP Safeguarding Lead C/o St Peters House Silverwell Street Bolton BL1 1PP	n/a
NHS England Greater Manchester Area Team 4th Floor 3 Piccadilly Place London Road Manchester M1 3BN	n/a

LOCAL AUTHORITY	
DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Head of Community Housing Services Bolton Council 1 Silverwell Lane Bolton BL1 1QN	Manager Housing Options & Advice Services Group Manager Bolton Council Silverwell Street Bolton BL1 1QN
CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS SERVICES	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Director of Children and Adults Services Bolton Council Strategy Division 5th Floor, Paderborn House Bolton BL1 1UA	Assistant Director Staying Safe Childrens Services Bolton Council 5 th Floor Paderborn House Civic Centre Bolton BL1 1UA

EDUCATION REPRESENTATION	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Special Schools Head Teacher - Ladywood Special School Masefield Road Little Lever Bolton BL3 1NG	n/a
Secondary Schools April 15 to December 2015 Head Teacher Ladybridge High School New York Junction Road Bolton BL3 4NG January 2016 to present Head Teacher Sharples School Hill Cot Road Astley Bridge Bolton BL1 8SN	n/a
Primary Schools Head Teacher St John's Kearsley Church Road Kearsley Bolton BL4 8AP	n/a
GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Bolton Divisional Superintendent Bolton Divisional Headquarters Greater Manchester Police 10 Scholey Street Bolton BL2 1HX	Detective Chief Inspector Bolton Divisional Headquarters Greater Manchester Police 10 Scholey Street Bolton BL2 1HX

GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Community Safety Manager Bolton Borough HQ GM Fire Service Moor Lane, Bolton BL3 5DB	n/a
CAFCASS	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Service Manager 7th floor, Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD	

PROBATION SERVICES	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Assistant Chief Executive National Probation Service St Helena Mill St Helena Road, Bolton BL1 2JS	N/a
Assistant Chief Executive Community Rehabilitation Company St Helena Mill St Helena Road, Bolton BL1 2JS	N/a

VOLUNTARY SECTOR	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Chair Bolton Together	N/a

FAITH GROUPS	
MEMBER	DEPUTY
Chair Bolton Council of Mosques 1 Vicarage Street Bolton BL3 5LE	N/a

LAY MEMBERS

Mrs Elsie Rigby c/o Bolton Safeguarding Children Board Westhoughton Town Hall Market Street Bolton BL5 3AW 01204 337479	Mrs Carol Burrows c/o Bolton Safeguarding Children Board Westhoughton Town Hall Market Street Bolton BL5 3AW 01204 337479
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