



CHILD Q and CHILD S SERIOUS CASE REVIEW

KSCB RESPONSE – WHAT WE HAVE DONE

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) accepts the findings of the review and is committed to learn the lessons, which are identified in the report.

The report covers a time period from 2013 to 2015. Since the Ofsted inspection in 2014 there have been real improvements in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Knowsley. Ofsted acknowledged the progress we have made in recent monitoring visits.

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) has developed an effective multi-agency partnership. The partnership is wide ranging and includes large organisations such as the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Merseyside Police. It also includes probation services, health organisations such as Whiston Hospital and Health visiting services, Schools and the Youth Offending Service. Of equal importance we have contributions from the local community through a representative of the faith community and two local lay members.

All KSCB members are accountable for their agencies making a full contribution to services to meet the needs of vulnerable children and their families in Knowsley.

Learning from the serious case reviews, practice reviews, audits of multi-agency work and listening to staff working every day with vulnerable children, has improved KSCB's understanding of the need to focus on specific areas of work.

We have identified a number of priorities and actions, which are reflected in the business plan for 2016/2018. These include ensuring children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse, neglect and exploitation.

To reflect the Board's commitment to listen to the voices of children, a focus group has been commissioned to explore how we can engage and respond to children's concerns.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) continues to be a priority for the board, alongside child exploitation and children who are missing from home or care.

A working group has been established, chaired by a senior manager within the local authority. The group will drive and strengthen our strategic and operational response to dealing with this important issue.

As part of our operational response, a multi-agency 'Shield team' was set up for children at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation, trafficking, and missing from home or care placed in and out of the borough. The team comprises of: Children Services' Social Workers, Police and Commissioned Services: Catch 22 (missing service) and Change Grow Live (child sexual exploitation therapeutic service).

The Shield Team provides a coordinated and proactive response to dealing with child exploitation and missing.

Children who are reported missing are subject to a thorough investigation in order to find them. Merseyside Police have developed a graded response based on the risk to the child. All missing person are risk assessed, which is subject to continuous review.

There is significant engagement between the police and the M.A.S.H to find the missing child and when he/she has been found, there is the appropriate mechanism in place to support the child.

The recommendations from serious case reviews are collated by KSCB, who manage the resulting improvement plans, through a working group, which is chaired by a senior manager.

The board has demonstrated a commitment to working together to develop and support a skilled workforce. They encourage a learning ethos for practitioners to equip them with the knowledge required for their respective roles.

To achieve this objective, a training needs analysis is commissioned each year, consulting staff and taking cognisance of emerging priorities. This analysis forms the bedrock of a training plan, which has been developed.

Targeted training has continued to be delivered to a wide range of professionals across the agencies. The focus of the training has been aimed at the priorities of the Board and reflects the lessons that are identified within serious case reviews.

The training has been delivered through a number of mediums, including personal briefings, 'e-learning' and seminars. In excess of 2,000 allocated places have been filled.

In respect of CSE we have delivered a number bespoke training events, including called 'CSE for Practitioners.' This is aimed at raising awareness of the associated risks.

A number of briefings have been given by Catch 22 to practitioners concerning Missing Children and the Risks of Exploitation.

Community Briefings for Parents/Carers and young people, regarding CSE are to be held in the new year, within Youth Centres across the Borough.

Online course Safeguarding Children from Abuse and Exploitation is available on the KSCB web site.

In response to local and national findings within recent serious case reviews, a workforce conference 'CSE - What have we learnt?' was held in July 2016.

To ensure that our training is relevant and effective, KSCB have developed an evaluation process. All delegates attending training events are invited to give feedback. Their comments are collated and considered.

Further impact evaluation is carried out to measure the effectiveness and impact of training, which will enable us to improve our knowledge.

In summary KSCB is determined to deliver our strategic priorities and ensure that children in Knowsley are able to grow up safely, be healthy, feel listened to and are given the right opportunities to achieve their potential.