

Annual Report 2016 – 2017

Fran Pearson, Independent Chair of the Board

December 2017

Chair's introduction

The Annual Report of the Luton Safeguarding Children Board is a report on the Board's effectiveness from April 2016 to March 2017. The starting point for the Board's work programme is that as a body, we want to make the children and young people of Luton safer by improving the way agencies work together. The Board's priorities are based on local need. As well as focussing on two major priorities the Board also conducts a lot of 'usual business' because we also have to be consistent in following through on a broader programme of work to coordinate local efforts to keep children safe. Looking back is also an opportunity to look forward to the future, so in addition, this report shows how the safeguarding needs identified during the year led to the Board going through a process of testing these out against the data to reach agreement on what our current priorities should be as well.

I started as Chair of the Board in September 2015. This is my second Annual Report. I see the annual report as the place for me as Chair to analyse and question whether or not the Board has made a difference to children and young people in Luton who need safeguarding. It is the place where I assess and report on the effectiveness of the Board. Looking back at the year I can see examples throughout the twelve months where the members who make up the Board have collectively given leadership and influenced practice and strategy to keep children in Luton safer. There are some really good pieces of work going on in Luton, so it is a pleasure to include examples of good practice to support the analysis.

Holding myself and the Luton Safeguarding Children Board to account

I hope you will look at our plans for 2017-2018 and use these to question me about how effective the Board is in leading and driving improvements in safeguarding children in Luton. I want to bring the annual report to as many organisations and groups in Luton as possible, as part of our work to engage faith and community groups.

Fran Pearson

Independent Chair

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Section 1 Luton

1.1 Children living in this area

Approximately 54,700 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Luton. This is 26% of the total population in the area.

A significantly higher proportion of the local authority's children are living in poverty, compared with regional and national averages. Luton is in the top quartile of England authorities for child poverty and is the 47th most deprived local authority in the country. One in four (14,769) children in Luton live in poverty, using the national definitions. The levels of deprivation affecting children in Luton are high, with several electoral wards in the top 10% most deprived areas in the country.

The proportion of children entitled to free school meals:

- in primary schools = 18% (the national average is 16%)
- in secondary schools = 20% (the national average is 14%).

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 61% of all children living in the area, compared with 22% in the country as a whole. The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Asian and Asian British and Black and Black British. More than 120 languages are spoken in Luton. Half of all school children do not speak English as their first language.

The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language:

- in primary schools = 52% (the national average is 19%)
- in secondary schools = 48% (the national average is 15%).

1.2 Child protection in this area

- There were 2,158 children in need at 31st March 2017, which is an increase of 9.9% when compared to last year at 1,964.
- In 2016/17 there was a 30% increase in the number of Section 47 enquiries started (1112) compared to the previous year (855).
- 346 children were subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) during the year ending 31st March 2017.
- There were 222 children who were subject of a Child Protection Plan at 31st March 2017, a 17.5% increase on the same period last year. The rate per 10,000 is 39.03, which remains below our statistical neighbours at 43.83 and the England average at 43.10 last year.
- Emotional Abuse (46.8%) and Neglect (41.9%) are the most common reasons for a child being the subject of a Child Protection Plan.

1.3 Local context

A year of consolidation and clear focus

In 2015, Ofsted inspectors commented on the striking context of the Board's work '... a very busy year, which has included four serious case reviews and a 50% turnover of Board members'. 2016 to 2017, by contrast, saw greater stability and continuity in

the Board membership, and although two Serious Case Reviews commissioned in the previous year were nearing completion during 2016-2017, the year brought a welcome opportunity to focus on priorities.

Two priority areas of work - Neglect and Children who go missing, agreed by the Board, and based on data about local need, gave us a sharp focus. A third priority for the Board was to improve the way we do our business, as opposed to the issues we focus on. Progress is analysed in the report.

The voice of young people

The Board's work was informed by the views of young people, this report tests out whether that work was as effective as in the previous year when we held up our engagement of young people as good practice that clearly informed our work.

Working with the other Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Boards

Luton's needs are different from Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough in many ways, with its size, closeness to London, the deprivation in some parts of the town, its ethnic mix with new communities moving in, and the population that is young and changing rapidly, as well as the advantages that its good transport links give to those who want to exploit children, including via Luton airport. However, there are many issues that are common to child safeguarding across the county, such as sexual exploitation, how we respond to child neglect, and Serious Case Reviews for each of the three Boards have examined similar issues in recent years - and certainly issues that we can all learn from. Many families from Luton use services in other parts of Bedfordshire. For example, just over 50% of the students at Central Bedfordshire College in Dunstable, are from Luton. A number of significant organisations cover the whole county or areas that are larger than Luton. The Bedfordshire Police Force, the Probation and Community Rehabilitation Company are county-wide; and East London Foundation Trust and Cambridgeshire Community Services also operate beyond Luton and in other parts of Bedfordshire. The Board built on this work and the progress is included and assessed later in the report.

Housing in Luton - pressures on the town, and the implications for families

Last year's report concluded, based on data from local agencies and views around the Board, that in the past three years, Luton has faced a significant level of demand for housing - and from a new direction. A number of London councils as well as near neighbours, unable to afford to accommodate families at London prices, began to buy and rent more affordable property in Luton. The trend continued during 2016-2017. The volume of new families placed here by other local authorities was high and meant an increased pressure on services. This year Milton Keynes council was the most substantial placing authority with the placement of nearly 100 families in a converted office block in the centre of town. There was no education, health or social care provision provided for these families and this has placed a significant pressure on local services in Luton. Of the 400 homeless families accommodated by Luton Council this year 90% are placed in temporary accommodation within the town boundary.

Resources

Throughout the year, board members were evaluating the impact of greater demand and either static or shrinking resources to meet this demand. The paragraph below is an update on the demand for housing in Luton and pressure this creates. Further on in the report there is commentary about the work of the police teams dealing with missing persons and child sexual exploitation, and of the Children Missing Education Service - all dealing with increased demand due to better awareness of the issues they set out to address, which a safeguarding board can only welcome in terms of addressing risks to children - but without additional resources to meet these needs. The Innovation grant from central government that is funding the Family Social Work programme is an unusual and welcome injection of money in the current climate of austerity for public services. Resource constraints play out in additional ways. In the 2015 to 2016 year, the government made far reaching changes to probation services, separating off 80% of the work into Community Rehabilitation Companies which were gradually tendered out to private companies. Nationally this has resulted in a statement to all safeguarding boards by the CRC, saying they can no longer attend and be part of the discussions as they simply do not have enough managers any more. In Luton we have found a way around this and retained as close a link as possible with our local senior colleague- but this example illustrates another of the ways that resourcing problems are affecting the partnership.

Innovation and joined up working such as the MASH, the Family Safeguarding Model and working closely across Bedfordshire, are all referenced in this report. We also aspire as a board to the highest quality safeguarding response to Luton's children. All these improvements have their impact, but austerity places risk in other parts of the safeguarding system.

1.4 National Context

Our local arrangements ahead of national changes

In December 2015, the Prime Minister announced a large-scale review of safeguarding partnership arrangements. During the course of 2016 - 2017 consultation on these changes took place and the Children and Social Work Bill began its progress to being an Act of Parliament. The Act will phase out Local Safeguarding Children Boards and replace them with a partnership arrangement that puts the local council, the police and the local NHS commissioning body, equally and firmly in a position of leadership and responsibility for keeping children safe - but with independent scrutiny of their leadership. What we want to do locally is retain the leadership and partnerships that currently work. Next year's annual report will contain information about what we propose to do in Luton, and this will not weaken the strong work by the three Safeguarding Boards across the county, but equally any changes will need to reflect what it is that makes Luton different from the rest of Bedfordshire.

Changes to the way health services are organised – Sustainability Transformation Plans (STPs)

During the course of the year, Luton LSCB along with the two other Boards in Bedfordshire, began to look at opportunities for working more closely with Milton Keynes. This is because NHS arrangements based on the Sustainability and

Transformation Plan, link Luton and the rest of Bedfordshire with Milton Keynes. From a child safeguarding point of view, the new legislation affects our current arrangements for a Child Death Overview Panel, currently part of LSCB arrangements. The suggested changes recognise, a CDOP panel could gather more effective learning if it covers a wider geographical area - allowing the analysis of a statistically more robust number of cases, and one that links better to local health and wellbeing arrangements. Next year's annual report will give an update on these arrangements.

Abuse in football

During the year, the risks to young people involved in football and other sports, were highlighted by prominent media stories about the culture of abuse and lack of reporting that had allowed perpetrators of child abuse to go unchallenged and with children left at risk. We worked with the rest of the safeguarding children Boards in the east of England region to send out material to all relevant local organisations and be a point of contact for children or professionals needing help and advice. No cases were brought to our attention as a result of this work, which raises a question about how we can encourage reporting of abuse in sports and community organisations.

Section 2 Luton Safeguarding Children Board Priorities for 2016-2017

Priority One: Tackling Child Neglect in Luton and as a Board

Understanding the impact of the decision to use the Graded Care Profile to assess neglect;

Understanding and responding to the neglect of adolescents in Luton, when many tools and approaches are focused on young children;

Priority Two: Children who are missing from

- Education
- Trafficked children
- Looked After Children
- Children at risk of or experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation
- Children in private fostering arrangements

Priority Three: Developing an effective Board where

New Board members are clear about their role, the priorities of LSCB and are actively engaged

Practitioners know about the LSCB, are able to identify how to find information and training

Board finances support the focus on priority themes

2.1 A timeline for our year

April 2016	The Board's multi-agency safeguarding training is delivered through a new contract, as Luton signs up to do this with the other two safeguarding Boards in the county. From the outset, professionals working with children in Luton tell us this new training programme is helping them improve their practice with children.
April 2016	Pan beds CSE group (CSEG) meets for first time - its focus is on bringing all partners together to identify risks and actions to protect, prevent and disrupt.
June 2016	Publication of Serious Case Review for Child E
July 2016	Launch of FACES (Faiths against Child Sexual Exploitation in Luton), and an opportunity to start the conversation with faith leaders about working together to co-produce a Safeguarding in Faith and Community Groups Strategy.

September 2016	Publication of Serious Case Review for Child F
Oct-Nov 2016	LSCB workshops on understanding thresholds
October 2016	The Chief Social Worker for England visits the University and then meets social workers and other children's social care staff and comments on the positive improvements to work to protect children in Luton.
November 2016	Safeguarding Board Conference
December 2016	Report by National Working Group positively evaluating progress across Bedfordshire in the way that agencies in Luton work to support children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation
December 2016	Safeguarding and Faiths event, Bury Park Baptist Church
January 2017	Spotlight event on disabled children
March 2017	Pan Beds LSCB conference on Neglect
May 2017	The Board begins to recruit for new lay members, resulting in three new members from the local community joining the Board in Sept 2017
April 2017	The government's Innovation Fund makes its largest award for any new project to Family Safeguarding - a tested model that will change the way safeguarding services are delivered.
April 2017	The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub opens in specially fitted out space in Luton police station.
May 2017	Board Chair visits Missing Persons and Child Sexual Exploitation Teams, Bedfordshire Police.

2.2 What makes an effective safeguarding Board?

Work done by the National Association for Independent LSCB Chairs says that effective Boards:

- Have an informed understanding of safeguarding arrangements and performance in single agencies
- Have an authoritative oversight of the quality of front-line multi agency practice
- Have effective governance arrangements and operating structure

- Have clear lines of accountability with other strategic partnerships and be able to demonstrate its influence on the work of those partnerships
- Operate a robust business planning approach to its work and routinely use feedback from children, young people and their families to evaluate its impact as well as service provision
- Have a strong culture of challenge that is the responsibility of all Board members
- Have a coherent strategy and deliver an action plan to address CSE and missing
- Ensure learning from audits, case reviews, Serious Case Reviews and child death reviews reaches frontline practitioners and is used to develop practice and service provision
- Ensure the provision of high quality multi agency safeguarding training and evaluate the impact on practice of such training
- Set out the expectations of safeguarding training for all through its training strategy
- Be able to evidence the impact of its work on improving practice and outcomes
- Be visible to all stakeholders; including by publishing an evaluative and analytical annual report.

Below is a summary of the Board's progress in meeting its priorities.

2.3 Priority 1: Tackling Child Neglect in Luton and as a Board

Using data from child protection processes and also from processes that are voluntary, we formed a picture of child and adolescent neglect in Luton. Over the two years before 2016-2017, Luton LSCB had sadly commissioned three Serious Case Reviews about the deaths of very young children where neglect was a factor in their death. In 2016/17 41.9 % of children were on a CP plan due to neglect. This meant that we had considerable data and insight into why things went wrong and what the Board needed to do to lead change. 2016-2017 was a year where we set out to embed this work by improving and being able to show we were improving professional practice to identify neglect and respond to it more effectively by:

1. Understanding the impact of the decision to use a nationally recognised and recently developed tool called the Graded Care Profile 2 to assess neglect - were we preventing any cases of neglect as a result? Were professionals becoming more confident and competent in identifying child neglect?;
2. Understanding and responding to the neglect of adolescents in Luton, when many tools and approaches are focused on young children - this includes the Graded Care Profile 2.

The Board was influential in:

Commissioning a report on adolescent neglect by the Children's Society - the Board received the report at its final meeting of the 2016/2017 year. Our decision to commission a report on best practice with adolescents was the direct result of our work with young people last year. The Children's Society produced a briefing sheet as well to help alert practitioners to the often overlooked ways that neglect affects

adolescents. Nationally there is considerable interest in the Luton LSCB report and it has been shared in a planned way with relevant research organisations, other safeguarding Boards and local authorities and via the Children's Society.

Supporting and shaping the Family Safeguarding bid - during the year, Children's Services in Luton were awarded the largest national grant from the government's Children's Innovation Fund to implement a new model for delivering safeguarding across families, tested and evaluated in Hertfordshire. The model works because it looks at the needs of the whole family and brings domestic abuse professionals, drug and alcohol, and other workers into the team who can focus on the adults' difficulties, which have such an impact on the children in the family. As a result, it tackles child neglect. The successful bid and the direction of the Family Safeguarding Model, was an example of the LSCB being influential in a major new development to tackle child neglect.

Scrutinising and supporting the set up of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) - Luton tested out a partnership model for assessing and responding to new cases of child abuse and neglect. A "MASH" responds effectively to new referrals because it is a way of working that seats police, social care, health and education professionals together, each able to check their organisation's database and share certain types of appropriate information. This in turn allows them to assess risk about a child, their siblings, and family, and make a shared plan about what is needed. By the end of the year, the MASH processes and professional procedures had become increasingly effective and well understood. Both Serious Case Reviews carried out during the year identified that previous "front door" arrangements could be improved - and the new safeguarding hub has addressed these. The MASH was scrutinised by the Safeguarding Board and its continued development reported. The Luton MASH moved to space in Luton Police Station in April 2017 - which all agreed was a benefit for partnership working. The linked piece of work for the safeguarding children Board was to promote and test out the LSCB's Thresholds documents, because it is through shared understanding of where to refer concerns about a child, and dialogue between MASH professionals and the wider group of those working with children, that neglect can be addressed. The LSCB ran 4 events in the autumn of 2016 with 180 practitioners attending from the range of service providers (statutory, voluntary, private and community).

The roll out and subsequent praise for our introduction of Graded Care Profile 2 - this work began in early 2016 with a pilot and then full roll out starting in Nov 2016. It saw Luton Safeguarding Children Board endorsing GCP2 as the tool which we would support professionals to use. This was because it gave, in our view, the best and most structured questionnaire and measurement technique for working with children at risk of neglect and motivating families to change. Every local area using Graded Care Profile 2 belong to a national network, so we were able to measure our progress against that of others. Two things were of note. Firstly Luton inducted a wider range of professionals (300) into how to use the tool than in any other place, increasing the chance of reaching more children. Secondly training was also provided for managers to ensure effective support and supervision could be provided to practitioners. Alongside that briefing events were held for professionals such as the police in order to ensure they had an understanding of the tool. A clear implementation plan meant that by April 2017, the Board was able to give a clear message to partners that the tool should be used with any family where there was a concern about neglect.

Our Board has a belief in the value of holding learning events that bring professionals together to reflect on their own response to a child at risk of harm. The two learning events in the year were about children who had been neglected, and prompted very open discussion about what professionals might do differently in the future. The learning events identified positive changes in practice especially in relation to infants.

Our conference - the safeguarding children Board organised a conference in November 2016, attended by around 150 delegates from 19 organisations in Luton that work with children and young people in the town. As well as notable speakers from outside Luton, Bedfordshire Police and local authority social work colleagues presented their good practice, as did many local projects that tackle neglect.

Early Intervention and Prevention: going from strength to strength - one of the consistently strong stories reported to the Board during the year was the ongoing development of services in Luton to prevent neglect by offering help as early as possible to families who were willing to work with professionals and take up support. The Board's work around thresholds linked very closely to this because it helped promote the range of prevention services available for professionals to refer to, and it encouraged a debate about the difficulties in some cases of neglect, of knowing where to go with such cases.

2.4 Priority Two: Children who are missing from:

- Education
- Trafficked children
- Looked After Children
- Children at risk of or experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation
- Children in private fostering arrangements

The Board was influential in:

Leading a Serious Case Review - Child J - that spanned multiple boroughs and creating national discussion about innovation in approaches to domestic abuse and mobile families. Child J was a thirteen-month-old boy who had moved with his mother and her new partner to Luton after spending his early life in two London boroughs. From the Board, I wrote to the Minister with responsibility for child safeguarding, asking that government change current requirements for children who are not on a Child Protection Plan, but are instead categorised as being "Child in Need" which is a lower level of risk. I asked the minister to set out guidance so that there is no room for variation between authorities and complete clarity about what should happen when a "Child in Need" moves into an area. This continues to be a huge issue for Luton. The changes we asked for have been incorporated into the draft version of new national guidance that will replace all existing guidance in 2019. Luton immediately updated and changed practice following Child J's death, so that our local response addresses risk consistently for children moving in to Luton.

Steady Progress on Child Sexual Exploitation, validated by the National Working Group (NWG) - NWG came back to Bedfordshire to do a follow up review on a piece of work first carried out in 2015. This was to assess the quality of the operational and strategic response to an area that safeguarding Boards, local political leaders and all the senior leaders in each organisation, have been focused on for several years, and remain focused on - Child Sexual Exploitation. In November 2016, NWG found

- a positive change in culture across organisations and across levels. In such a short space of time since joint working started this is a considerable achievement.
- a shared sense of ownership and commitment to tackle CSE together.
- evidence of an increase in information sharing and utilising information in the monthly CSE Group to understand key areas of risk and disruption opportunities.
- communication campaigns have used the problem profile to inform direction, target audience and outcomes it is seeking .
- CSE Single Points of Contact and those working to tackle CSE had built strong relationships and communicated effectively and regularly.
- there had been an investment of CSE resources made by organisations.

Understanding and supporting the work of the Children Missing Education Team - the Board has set a priority for 2017-2018 to get a full understanding of, and reduce the risks to children in such situations, a risk area that is particular to Luton - that of children who are missing or invisible in education. There are several strands to this, and the Board received a report in September 2017 which demonstrated the quality of work that goes on in one of these strands - Children Missing Education. It was the 2016-2017 year that saw the development of this work so it feels right to note it in this annual report. Children may be removed from education or prevented from attending as a result or symptom of them suffering from abuse, including Child Sexual Exploitation or neglect. Whatever the reasons may be for children not being in education, research shows that their outcomes are worse in the longer term, so prevention is important in this work as well. In all circumstances where this may be the case, services working with children follow Local Safeguarding Board procedures and a referral is made to Local Authority Children's Social Care via the MASH.

There has been an increase in Children Missing Education (CME) referrals over recent years, due to procedures becoming more embedded and due to increasing links with CME officers in other areas as well as the growth in numbers of children affected. For all the reasons to do with families moving into the town, set out at the start of this report, the CME work is continually challenged with the availability of school places across the town - and there are very limited options for families moving into Luton outside the normal intake points at Reception class and Year 7. It is particularly difficult to place sibling groups at the same school. Despite these difficulties the Board members were assured at our September meeting this year of the quality of the work that goes on in this area by the CME team.

Leading the development of the Bedfordshire Against Trafficking protocol - the trafficking protocol began life in 2015 as an agreement with Luton Airport and the Borders Agency about how to recognise and give a high standard of multi agency response to children and young people being trafficked through the airport. During 2016-2017 this expanded into a wider agreement about adults and children who may have been trafficked in the county. The final launch of the agreement came in November 2017.

"Authorities in Bedfordshire have joined forces to help support adults and children who have been trafficked through the county. Any child or adult who has been transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim."

This work is supported by the development of a Police-led Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Partnership Development Group, set up to foster partnership working across Bedfordshire in order to:

- raise awareness of Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking;
- improve the identification of potential victims;
- improve victim care; increase identification of and prosecutions of offenders, and;
- prevent instances of Modern Slavery & Trafficking.

The safeguarding children Board and safeguarding adults Board in Luton are both closely participating in this work at the same time as monitoring its progress.

Developing "Children Missing" procedures for Bedfordshire - in May 2017 I visited the Police Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation Teams. The skill and commitment of the officers in those teams was impressive, as was their evident commitment to children who go missing and the time and skill needed to build up a relationship of trust with those children. Throughout the year, Bedfordshire Police colleagues have been regularly inspected by their regulator - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). Police colleagues have repeatedly flagged up to the safeguarding Board and each inspection has noted a lack of resources in this work and the risk that goes with this. At our Board we try to do two things in relation to risk that affects safeguarding work - to be transparent and open about it, and to agree as a Board what we can do as partners from a wide range of organisations involved in child safeguarding, to try and manage that risk. This discussion has happened throughout the year, but the risk remains. During the course of the year, Bedfordshire procedures were agreed for children who go missing, which should help with consistency and clarity in an area of child protection that is known for working with some of the children and young people who are at most risk, and as a result, puts some of the greatest pressures on professionals.

An issue about the quality and consistency of "Return Home" interviews had been identified. LBC were working with providers on improving this and this will be reported on in the 2017/18 report.

2.5 Priority Three: Developing an effective Board

- New Board members are clear about their role, the priorities of LSCB and are actively engaged
- Practitioners know about the LSCB, are able to identify how to find information and training
- Board finances support the focus on priority themes

The Board was influential in:

Developing a strong Executive Group - the senior leaders from around the Board got to grips with difficult issues and began to drive Board business in a more timely way. This included shaping Board papers and having a regular teleconference to check that work was progressing between meetings. It also included being alert to any early problems with the Board's sub groups, which are essential to keep business

moving along. One example of a problem that I took to the Executive for shared problem solving was the recognition that there were difficulties with multi agency audit, which is one of the Board's most important processes for analysing the quality of safeguarding practice. This was addressed by the Director of Children's Services at Luton Council, and the Assistant Chief Constable from Bedfordshire Police giving their time and leadership to a planned audit day and being very clear that the preparation of material for the event was a requirement. As a result a valuable day of analysis on children's case files from families where there was domestic abuse, took place which is feeding into partners agencies practice and policies and procedures.

Developing a community and faith engagement strategy including on 1st December 2016 being part of Safeguarding in faiths event - in last year's annual report I identified that the Board needed to make more progress in developing our approach to faith groups and also community organisations that are not faith-based, but who have a role in working with Luton's children. Over the year a strategy was drafted, and as we made increasing numbers of contacts in the town, the input into the draft included more voices and perspectives. The Safeguarding in Faiths event at Bury Park was an opportunity to begin the discussion about our approach. There is still much more to do in this area and next year's annual report will include an update on progress. The recruitment of lay members which I referred to in the introduction, will add to this work through local residents who are able to give advice and challenge in terms of our approach.

Identifying gaps in schools' representation, and our reach to them - and resolving - during the year Board members became aware that voices from schools were missing at the Board. This was for a variety of reasons, which we explored. Following a meeting with the secondary heads to agree how to fill the gap left by a very longstanding and committed headteacher, we ended the year with agreed arrangements that saw one very experienced secondary headteacher, one who was new to Luton, and one from the alternative learning sector, which it is essential for the Board to engage with, joining the Board. This complements our membership from the primary, sixth form, and college sector and moving into 2017-2018, the voices of school and college leaders have made a valuable addition to debates at the Board. All new members were given our updated induction pack in line with our commitment to provide better support to new members and give clarity about expectations of what Board members need to contribute.

Working much more closely and tactically with the adult safeguarding Board in Luton - the national consultation currently under way on new national child protection guidance rightly identifies the lack of 'join up' around transition - the period when a child who is vulnerable or at risk, moves into adult services which may be quite different. Along with leaders of the organisations involved in safeguarding, this and other areas for joined up working, are ones I have wanted to address more effectively in Luton across adult and child services. This work has progressed at pace during the year. I now Chair both adults and children's safeguarding Boards and resources to support the two Boards are increasingly well organised and fairly allocated with a plan for next year to take this further. Actions and learning are better connected and we share some workstreams which our partners appreciate - especially around workforce development and community engagement.

Section 3: Reports to the Board and what they tell us about impact

3.1 Training Report

The Board finalised the transfer of the training contract to the Pan Beds LSCB training unit and with it we saw a significant increase in provision of training both face to face and e-learning, alongside briefing events and county wide conferences.

811 places were taken up on face to face courses and 2000 on e-learning courses during the year with a spread of attendees from across statutory services, including from schools, and from the private and voluntary sector. The new training arrangements meant that in 2016-2017 it became possible to begin to measure what impact the multi-agency training programme is having on safeguarding practice.

3.2 Private Fostering

The Annual Report on private fostering came to the Board in Sept 2016. Private fostering refers to an arrangement involving children or young people, aged under 16 years (18 if they have a disability) living with a person who is not a close relative. Action was taken to promote understanding of private fostering to partners.

3.3 Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2015-2016

Child Death Overview Panels were set up following a 2004 report: "Sudden unexpected death in infancy.

During the period April 2016 until March 2017 there were 54 deaths reported across Bedfordshire. This was made up of 12 in Bedford; 28 in Luton and 14 in Central Bedfordshire. There was a decrease in the number of deaths, in all boroughs, in comparison to the previous year 54 compared to 60.

Unexpected deaths accounted for 31% of the total deaths reported in 2016-17, which is a decrease from the previous year where 53% of the deaths were unexpected. 61% of the reported deaths were of children less than 1 year of age. Of the total reported deaths 54% were female and 46% were male. Looking at the female deaths 67% were expected deaths compared to 68% of expected male deaths and 33% were unexpected deaths compared to 32% of male deaths so there does not seem to be a significant difference.

During 2016-17 Bedfordshire CDOP reviewed and closed 54 cases at panel meetings. Modifiable factors were identified in 57% of these cases, this is higher than last year which is in line with National Data which shows that the percentage of reviews with modifiable factors has increased. Similarly to previous years, the modifiable factors identified included Maternal BMI, Consanguinity, Neglect and Service Provision.

Key Areas of Note:

- The number of deaths from chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies appears to have decreased this year. However work is still ongoing to ensure that where consanguinity has been identified as a modifiable factor CDOP will contact the family's GP to request that genetic counselling is offered to

parents. There is an ongoing action plan in place around consanguinity in Luton.

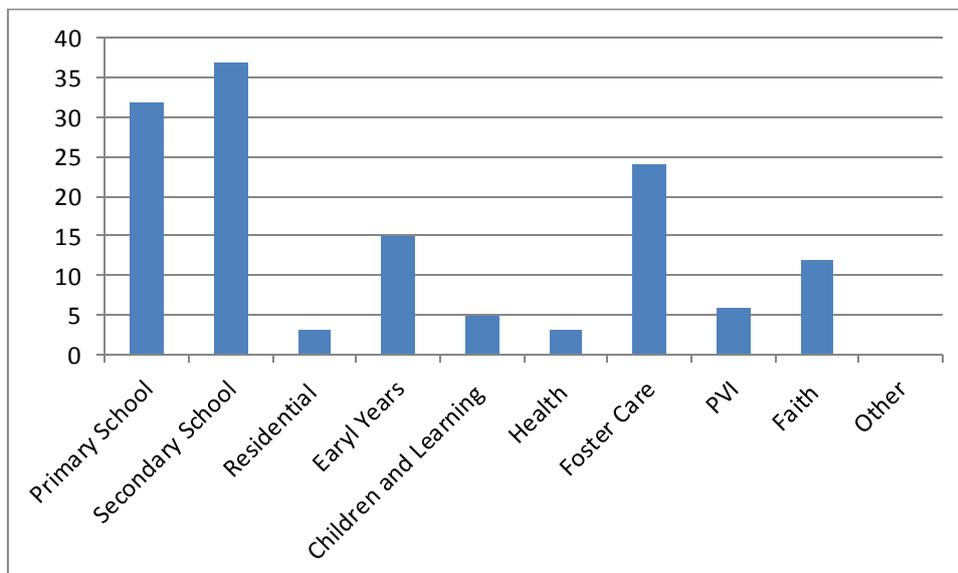
- The CDOP panel have slightly increased the number of cases reviewed throughout the year.
- Bedfordshire CDOP had an increase in the number of Modifiable Factors being identified and have a much higher percentage of modifiable factors (57%) than National Data (27%).
- In Bedfordshire the proportion of cases reviewed and closed under the perinatal/neonatal category (26%) was lower than the national percentage (43%).
- 62% of child deaths reviewed in the year were completed within 12 months of the child's death which is lower than the national percentage of 76%. However reviews often take longer if modifiable factors have been identified and there has been an increase in the percentage of deaths reviewed with modifiable factors both locally and nationally.
- Compared to the previous year Bedfordshire CDOP closed 9% more cases in 6-12 months than the previous year.
- In Luton there were 28 deaths, this is a decrease on the previous year and there was also a decrease in unexpected deaths. Due to low numbers ward level data cannot be fully reported, however more deaths occurred in Biscot and Farley wards than any other.

3.4 The Local Authority Designated Officer's (LADO) Report

The "LADO" follows up referrals and contacts where there are concerns, or allegations made, about professionals working with children. The LADO Report came to the Board in September 2017. During this period we have seen an increase in the total number of referrals to LADO however there was a slight reduction in those cases recorded as Tier 1. There were also a higher number of referrals we considered do not meet threshold. This may be due to a more robust definition for cases accepted under 'may pose a risk'

For the second consecutive year we have received more allegations from secondary schools than primary school. In previous years there have been more referrals from primary schools. The majority of our In Safe Hands training has been delivered in primary schools which may have had an impact on this.

Allegations by sector



Developing safer organisational cultures for children – progress update:

During this period we have delivered *In Safe Hands* to a further 15 settings in Luton (14 settings last year). The training encourages the whole staff group to reflect on the organisations safeguarding culture and consider the features which serve to make the setting safer for children. As a result of learning from local cases there is now an increased focus on reminding staff of the circumstances in which physical intervention is not justified.. Inappropriate physical intervention continues to be the most common category of referral to the LADO.

Engaging with unregulated settings: 12% of active cases during this period related to unregulated settings. In line with previous years these concerns most often come to light from a third party. In the past the LADO service has sent information to a range of unregulated settings with the aim of heightening their awareness of the procedures. Unfortunately this appears to have had little impact. When we are informed of specific concerns we write to the organisation and invite them to engage with us. In a couple of cases this has been a very positive process resulting in the organisation developing appropriate policies and procedures. . At the time of writing the LSCB are developing a safeguarding strategy for faith and community based organisations which the LADO service is contributing to.

Section 4: Our plans for 2017 - 2018

The Board's priorities for the next year, based on what we learnt as a Board during 2016-2017, are:

Priority One: Tackling Child Neglect in Luton with the aim that:

- Graded Care Profile 2 assessments of neglect are carried out earlier with children at risk by the universal services
- There is a measurable increase in the confidence of practitioners in working with neglect
- All relevant professionals are licensed to use Graded Care Profile 2
- Feedback from young people influences safeguarding policy and practice

a) **Priority Two: Missing Children** - Working within the regulated and unregulated education/learning settings(including elective home education) as well as those families are mobile and move across authorities to ensure children are safeguarded with the aim that:

- Increased numbers of schools in Luton that are currently unregistered become registered as providers
- We have a clear grasp of the data and by the end of the year can identify those children in Luton who are most at risk

Priority Three: Mental Health with the aim that:

Children will report that they know where to get help with mental health concerns and are more confident about doing this

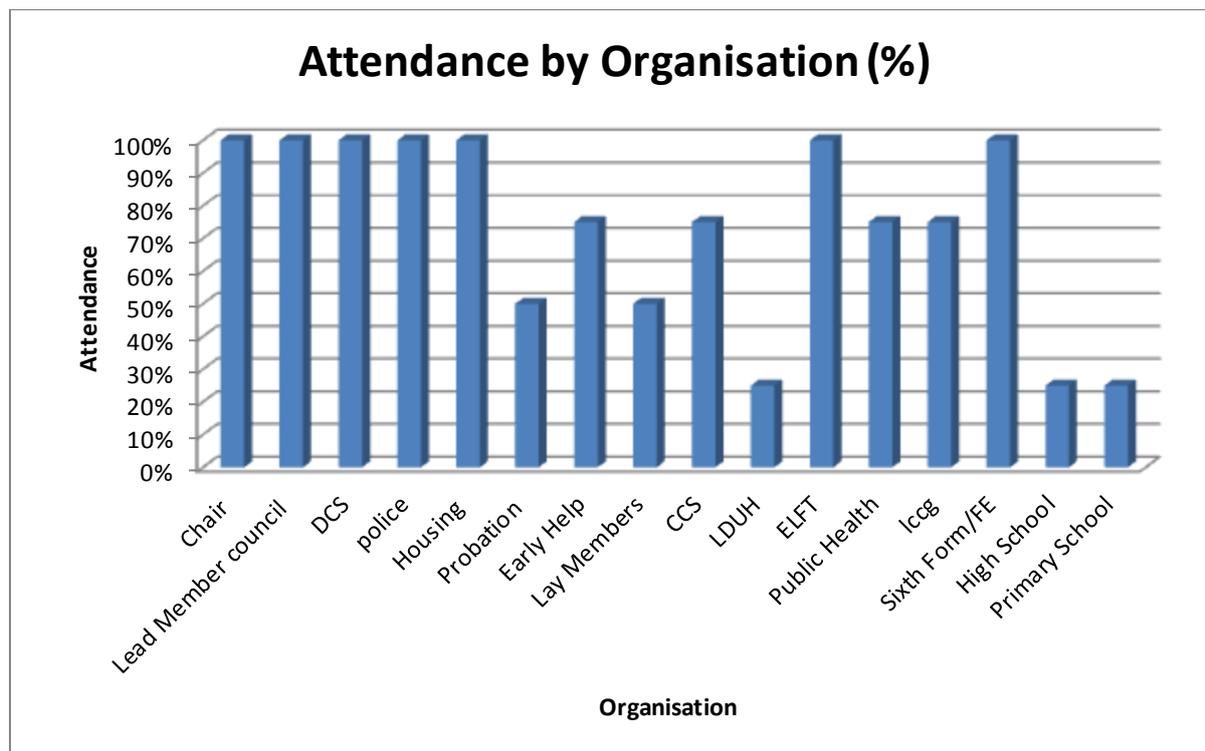
Practitioners feel more confident in their ability to support young people

Colleagues in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services can report more supportive and appropriate joint working with the child or young person ahead of the point when specialist services are asked to take a referral

Next year's annual report will assess our effectiveness in delivering these priorities.

4.1 Agency attendance at Board 2016-2017.

There were four meetings during the year.



4.2 The Board's budget

The budget was agreed before this year and all agencies are signed up to it for a longer period. It is of note that some national research about police force funding to LSCBs showed that Bedfordshire Police are, based on population size, the most generous police force funders of Safeguarding Children's Boards in the country. (Miller 2015/16).

Although the financial contribution from the Probation Service was relatively small, this is set to go down to about 1/10 of its 2015-2016 size as the service has become the Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service.

LSCB Partner Agency	Total
Children & Learning	£141,544.00
Health agencies: (CCS/L&D Hospital/NHS Luton CCG & ELHF)	£87,068.08
National Probation Services	£800.00
Bench Community Rehabilitation	£800.00
The Police & Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire	£24,359.60
CAFCASS	£550.00
Public Health(In Year Contribution)	£6,900.00
Total	£262,021.68

4.3 The Independent Chair and accountability

As Independent Chair of the Luton Safeguarding Children Board, I am, like all independent Chairs, accountable to the Local Authority Chief Executive. In Luton, this is Trevor Holden. I told the Ofsted inspectors what a good start Trevor and I had made to meeting and holding each other to account, with our first formal meeting in January 2016 having taken place shortly before the inspection started. Since I took up my post in September 2015, my relationship with the Director of Children's Services, Sally Rowe, has been an absolutely essential one, and we meet monthly.

Section 5 - Having your say on this report

We know as a Board that we are not as good as we want to be at using the voices of local children and residents to influence our work. This particularly applies to community groups and other local organisations. If you are part of a community group or organisation and would like me to come and talk about this report and the work of the Board, then please do invite me - I want to make better links between the Board and local organisations in Luton. If you would like to comment on any of the issues in this report, your views are important to us. You can contact the Board via our website - it's been rebuilt just as we go to publication so we'd like your views on the site as well as any comments about this Report.