

SOLIHULL LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

SOLIHULL LSCB LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

Introduction

This framework explains how the LSCB, and so its members and practitioners, learn from experience to improve outcomes for children.

Evidence

The LSCB gathers evidence to inform learning from the following sources;

- Feedback from **practitioners**, through learning events and via their LSCB representatives,
- Feedback from **young people** and their **families**.
- Leaders and managers identifying **operational challenge**.
- Multi-agency **case audit**.
- **Performance data**
- **“Section 11 audits”** This is about calling partners to account to members on their internal organisational responsibilities.
- **Case review**.
- **National policy** and research evidence.

Practitioners

The LSCB learns about the views of practitioners through the evaluation of training programmes, consultation on the safeguarding learning curriculum and through listening to their experience represented by their representative on the LSCB. The LSCB will also consult with practitioners on emerging policy and practice developments to develop sound local evidence informed arrangements.

The views of children, young people and their families

Each partner agency will have strategies to engage young people in their operational developments. This provides a rich source of material to inform the board on the child's views. Where appropriate the LSCB will work directly with young people so long as that involvement benefits them and is directly linked to positive impact.

Leaders and managers

Members of the LSCB are responsible for ensuring that the views of practitioners and managers in their organisation are appropriately and accurately represented on the LSCB. Members identifying emerging issues and concern will address them in the appropriate forum as advised by the business manager and chair and will provide challenge where appropriate. This ensures that the LSCB is learning from practice experience as these concerns can give rise to new policies and/or the identification of new training needs or audit requirements.

Multi-agency case audit

Each year the LSCB will carry out multi-agency case audit, the purpose of which to establish the effectiveness of local multi-agency working. The LSCB will identify key lines of enquiry which are directly linked to its key strategic priorities and objectives. Multi-agency case audit is about multi-agency working and is not an internal operational assessment of in-house performance. The LSCB will revise models used annually to ensure the most efficient means of learning is being used.

Performance data

Performance data relates to the LSCB priorities and objectives as follows;

Each of these areas will have a data set, reporting to the executive group on progress made. The executive group will analyse the data to understand trajectories and respond appropriately to performance challenges and highlight areas for the attention of the LSCB. A draft performance dashboard is proposed.

To protect children and young people from sexual exploitation

The CSE data set is owned by the local authority, police and health and performance is related to the key agreed objectives of the CSE strategy via the CSE steering group.

To promote positive practice on neglect

Key performance indicators around training and communications are measured to assess the impact of the neglect strategy.

The core data set, around child protection is owned by the Local Authority. The full data set is available to members at any time. As the LSCB prioritises neglect, and the evidence points to the importance of monitoring drift and delay at strategic level, one key performance indicator helps to identify performance in this area. The numbers of children with child protection plans for 2 years or more is therefore highlighted for the attention of each LSCB. If performance or trajectory on this KPI is at risk, then further enquiry on other performance indicators will be made.

Collaboration is measured through the monitoring of attendance at child protection conferences.

To support the delivery of Early Help services

The impact of the early help strategy is measured through assessment of patterns of workflow volume. The Hypothesis is that increased workflow volume generated by partnership working and early help assessments results in decreased workflow volume to social care in terms of inappropriate referrals. Long term, this will impact on the timeliness of assessments for children in need, as the system is de-cluttered of inappropriate referrals. This also means that the proportion of referrals proceeding to conference will be reduced in comparison to today's figures. Overall, this impacts on referral and re-referral rates which should reduce over time.

Ultimately, after five to ten years, the early help strategy should reduce the numbers of children with child protection plans and Children Looked After.

The quality of early help assessments in terms of outcomes for children will also be assessed using retrospective analysis of parents, family and children's views.

The LSCB executive group will co-ordinate this process to ensure efficient management highlighting areas of performance needing the attending at LSCB level.

Case review

The LSCB will instigate multi-agency case reviews as required. These reviews are on two levels.

- A multi-agency case review can be carried out to establish lessons learned, but this review does not meet the criteria in Working Together Guidance.
- A Serious Case review held under Working Together guidance involves formal arrangements including chronologies, multi-agency analysis and a multi-agency overview report. It also requires notification to Ofsted and the National Serious Case Review Panel. (More on serious case reviews can be found in Working together to safeguarding children DFE 2013).

In both cases, an action plan summarises lessons learned and impact on practice delivered through training, awareness raising, and/or policy change. Impact will be assessed through multi-agency case audit.

Section 11 audits

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on Local Authorities, NHS organisations, the police, probation service and Youth offending teams to ensure that their operational work always has regard for the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Working together 2013 spells out the key arrangements that reflect the importance of this. A list of arrangements applicable to all organisations in addition to specific expectations of individual agencies is provided in Working together to safeguard children 2013 Chapter 2. Para 4.

The LSCB will request each of the above organisations to account for those arrangements, identifying strengths and weaknesses and why they exist and what organisations are doing about them. The LSCB will carry out a "Section 11" audit every two years, subject to capacity issues, such as its obligations to carry out serious case reviews. The LSCB executive group will co-ordinate this work.

National policy and research

The LSCB receives information on a regular basis, informing local policy and training developments. This can result in a change in direction for some elements of the LSCB's work and result in changes to training and policy development.

National research will be used to inform local developments.

The LSCB learning log

The LSCB will maintain a learning log. Each of the above strands will have lessons learned and these will be placed in this learning log which acts as an evidence repository for leaders, managers, practitioners, trainers and commissioners to use to inform developments.

The LSCB annual report

The annual report gathers the work carried out and provides an analysis of performance in relation to the LSCB core priorities. This is used as evidence to inform the priorities for the following year.

Approved LSCB May 2015

This framework will be reviewed in April 2016.

Approved LSCB May 2015