

LANCASHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Published: September 2015

1. Foreword by Independent Chair

I have been Chair of the Board since the end of March 2014 so this report reflects on activity during my first full year. It covers the period from April 2014 to the end of March 2015. As in previous years, it presents information about the safeguarding of children across the area covered by Lancashire County Council.

Lancashire is an area with a diverse population and complex organisational and governance arrangements. The County Council area encompasses 12 District Councils and six Clinical Commissioning Groups who all have key safeguarding roles. It benefits from the support of a single police force. Two unitary authorities sit within the former geographical footprint of Lancashire County, each with their own Safeguarding Children Boards but we operate collaboratively and to a single set of policies and procedures wherever possible.

The report seeks to set out what we know about children in our area and their vulnerability, what we know about the quality of services and what the continuing challenges are in keeping children and young people as safe as is possible. It remains the case that there are clear links between the prevalence of safeguarding issues and deprivation. Ensuring a clear focus on distribution of need and equitable provision of services remains a key challenge.

The report identifies a number of positive developments, including decreases in the numbers of children identified as vulnerable due to domestic abuse, going missing from home and as victims of sexual abuse. Conversely more children are being looked after by the Local Authority, and more children are of concern due to self-harm.

Child Sexual Exploitation has been a major focus for the Board in the last year with very large numbers of professionals completing mandatory training. More referrals have been received which increases the potential to protect those vulnerable to this form of sexual abuse.

The report also reflects the work of the Board and its sub-groups. Although there have been some issues with attendance at the Board's formal meetings (largely linked to organisational change) agency engagement with the Board is strong, and membership is at an appropriately senior level. The sub-groups involve a large number of professionals and these groups drive forward the business of the Board.

The Board has benefitted significantly this year from the increased involvement of children and young people so that our work has been informed directly by their views and priorities particularly around Child Sexual exploitation and E-safety.

Pressure on resources is a reality for all agencies but the Board has had assurances that front-line safeguarding services will be protected. Around 60,000 professional in Lancashire work with children and families in a variety of services and settings; their work is supported by many community initiatives. Safeguarding is at the forefront of all they do and my thanks are due to them in respect of their continuing commitment.



Jane Booth
Independent Chair,
Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board

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1. Executive Summary

Lancashire is a large and diverse county with complex demographics and significant local variation in deprivation and levels of need. This annual report has sought to provide a clear analysis of characteristics and trends in relation to the safeguarding of children on a multi-agency basis. The LSCB and its partner agencies have made significant efforts to address these issues and continue to provide generally good services in the face of difficult financial challenges and subsequent organisational re-structuring. Throughout these organisational challenges the LSCB has continually sought assurance from agencies that any re-structuring of services does not negatively impact on the safeguarding of children. This will remain a key feature of LSCB challenge. The Annual Audit (Section 11 audit) evidences good levels of compliance with safeguarding requirements across the agencies.

The qualitative and quantitative evidence from the analysis of data, audits and reviews is summarised in this annual report.

A number of positive indications are evident:

1. The percentage of children living in poverty has reduced
2. More children and young people have been identified as being privately fostered and offered support
3. A reduction in the number of incidents of domestic violence where a child is reported to live at the address
4. A decrease in the number of children going missing from home
5. A decrease in incidents of violent and sexual offences against a child
6. An increase in offers of early help - there are fewer children subject to a Child Protection Plan than in the previous two years and there is evidence of increasing numbers of children and families being provided with early help and the quality of assessments leading to early help is improving

A number of key areas for consideration emerge as follows:

7. There are high rates of children "looked after" by the Local Authority when compared to national averages and a significant number of children "looked after" by other local authorities placed in care/fostering settings in the county
8. There has been an increase in the number of concerns about possible Child Sexual Exploitation. There is however no increase in recorded crimes – the increase in concerns reported may be as the result of the increase in basic awareness as a result of mandatory training across the agencies
9. Rates of self-harm, maternal smoking, child mortality rates for children of Asian heritage and rates of hospital attendances related to alcohol use by young people are a continuing concern
10. There is increasing evidence of quality assurance of single agency training being undertaken and of the capture of evidence about the impact of training

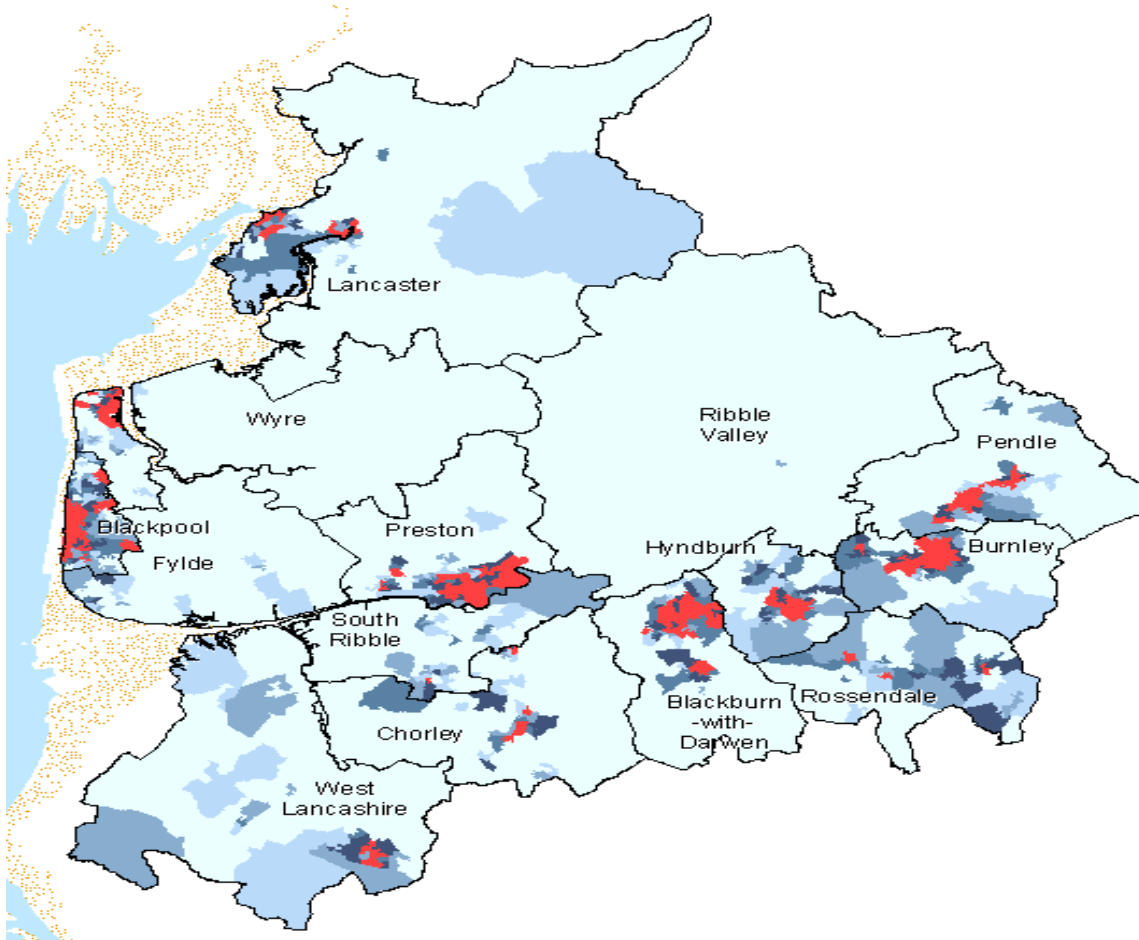
Most notable among the strengths and achievements of the Board itself are:

11. Completion of the Review of the arrangements to safeguard children from Child Sexual Exploitation (the CSE Diagnostic) which evidenced much good practice and has led to service improvements and provided an effective challenge and stock take for agencies and multi-agency strategic forums. From this challenge a review of existing strategic arrangement pan-Lancashire is proposed in December 2015
12. Engagement with private children's homes, particularly those in the private and independent sector
13. Improved working with the Corporate Parenting Board and Health and Well Being Board
14. All agencies largely compliant with Section 11 audit standards
15. Successful delivery of a Safer Sleep Campaign which is seen as a model of excellence
16. All Serious Case Review referrals considered within timescale and the development of an improved process for monitoring implementation of SCR recommendations
17. Completion of an audit of single agency completions at all levels of training completed with results encompassing 46,238 Staff and delivery of learning to 19,020 professionals through a variety of learning events
18. Implementation of an electronic sign up system for all training courses / events
19. Delivery of an 'eSafety Live' conference attended by around 200 professionals with very positive feedback
20. Delivery by the LSCB's Young Advisors project raising awareness of eSafety in primary schools
21. Implementation of a revised quality assurance and performance framework based on that recommended for the NW Region
22. Review and update of the Pan-Lancashire Missing From Home / Care protocol and regular (three times per annum) updates of multi-agency child protection procedures.
23. Delivery of a range of activities to professional and young people during CSE awareness week

2. Local Background and Context

Lancashire is a large and diverse Shire County with one County Council and 12 District Councils. Within the old county footprint there are two unitary authorities, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen who have separate administrations and separate Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The total population in the Local Authority County Council of Lancashire is approximately 1.17 million. Within Lancashire, there are pockets of severe social and economic deprivation. Four Lancashire Districts (Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Preston) are in the "top 50" most disadvantaged in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010. There are also large areas of economic prosperity such as Ribble Valley and Fylde Borough with "hidden" areas of poverty. The map below shows the 'indices of multiple deprivation' across the county with dark and red areas identifying the most deprived places (includes unitary authorities of Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen).

Figure 1 – Indices of Deprivation

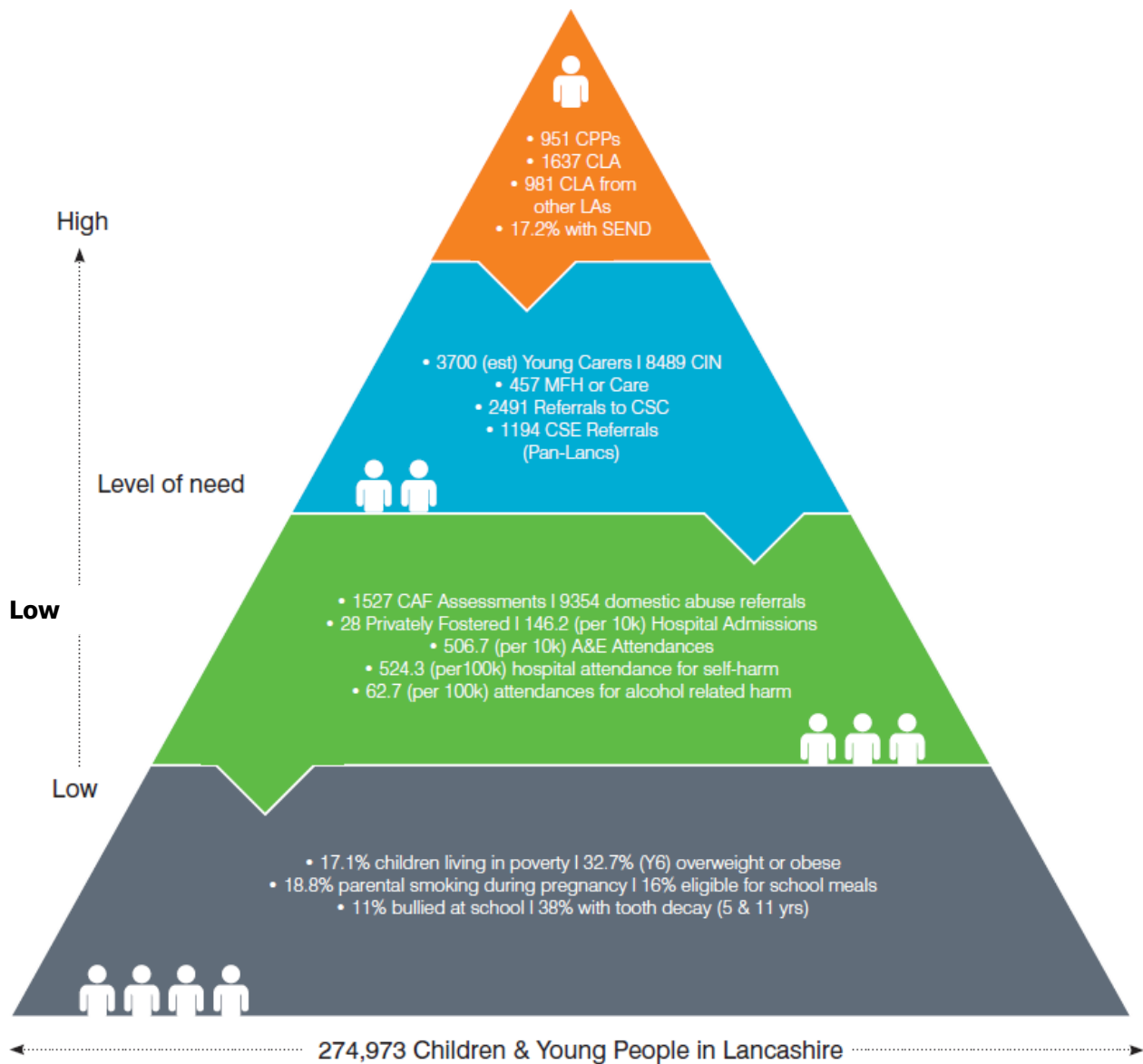


(Source – LCC JSNA 2013)

What do we know about Children in Lancashire?

Lancashire has a child population of around a quarter of a million and within this population. The diagram below summarises some of the key data for children at different levels of need from high to low.

Figure 2 –Levels of Need



Levels of need vary considerably across the county. There is a close correlation between levels of need and indices of deprivation, for example the number of children looked after or subject to a child protection plan is significantly higher in Burnley, Hyndburn, Preston and Pendle; and conversely lower in Rossendale, Ribble Valley and Fylde districts.

Comparator data between Lancashire and national and regional averages on key indicators is provided below: (red indicates where performance is significantly worse than the national average)

Indicator	2014/15	2013/14	National Avg	Regional Avg
Rate of Children Looked After (per 10k)	67.2	66.3	60	81
Rate of children subject of a Child Protection Plans (per 10k)	38.9	44.4	42.1	
Rate of Children in Need (per 10k)	346.8	371.5	346.4	365.3
Referrals to Children Social Care	102.5	121.5	N/K	N/K

(rate per 100k)				
Directly standardised rate per 100,000 (age 10-24 years) for hospital admissions for self-harm	524.3	476.3	412.1	N/K
Under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions: rate per 100,000 population	62.7	71.9	40.1	N/K
Accident and Emergency attendances for children aged 0-17 years (2010/11 – most recent data)	506.7	380.1	525.6	N/K

Children and young people in Lancashire are less ethnically diverse compared to the rest of the country with 12.7% being from black and minority ethnic groups (compared to 21% nationally). However there is wide district variation, with Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Preston populations displaying the greatest ethnic diversity.

Recognition of the diverse needs of different groups of children is central to all areas of LSCB business. Every effort is made to ensure the views of all groups are gathered to inform service developments and business planning.

Ensuring appropriate provision and equity of service access is a key challenge for all agencies providing services. The increase in the demand for Children's Social Care services evident in 2013/14 continues when compared to national averages though there appears to be a slowing down of this increase on the whole. This has been balanced by a substantial increase in CAF/early help interventions which increased from 885 to 1527 in 2014/15, and a reduction in children subject to a Child Protection Plan (from 44.4 to 38.9 rate per 10k) though this has yet to show any impact in terms of the number of children being "looked after" which has increased to 67.2 from 66.3 (rate per 10k). Early intervention and prevention is seen to be key to the effective management of current service demand and financial challenges.

Child sexual exploitation continues to be a priority for partner agencies in Lancashire with an increase in contacts from 505 to 1194 (Pan-Lancashire) in 2014-15. Lancashire continues to have challenges around the use of alcohol by young people and self-harm with high rates of hospital attendances (see table on page 7).

3. What do we know about the effectiveness of Local Services?

Services in Lancashire

All Board partners are subject to scrutiny through the section 11 audit process on an annual basis and there are currently no areas of significant non-compliance.

Key services in terms of safeguarding are provided/commissioned by the following agencies:

- a) Lancashire Constabulary – direct policing and partnership services as part of the Child Sexual Exploitation teams, Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements. The Constabulary has received very positive comments from the Royal College of Policing in 2014/15, especially in relation to its work on CSE and has been judged as 'outstanding' overall by the HMIC during 2015.

CSE Case Study

A 16 year old male with learning difficulties attended the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic, and disclosed that he had recently been meeting men following contact on the internet and having unprotected sex. The young person attended with an older male, who he said was a family friend. A referral was made to the specialist CSE team for further assessment.

A young person's worker from the team initially undertook a CSE risk assessment which identified that the young person was being paid for sex and that the 52 year old male was gaining from this by taking some of the money. This enabled the police to take immediate action with regards to arrest and further investigation. Discussions were held with social care and legal advice sought due to the presenting risks and issues about the competency of the victim.

A thorough health assessment was undertaken and a health care plan was formulated in conjunction with the young person in order to address any outstanding health needs. He had little awareness of sexual health risks with regards to unprotected sexual intercourse and poor general sexual knowledge or and understanding of risks this posed to his health, or from meeting in various remote places.

There were concerns with regards to the young person's learning difficulties and that his exact level of understanding was unknown, therefore a referral to paediatricians was made to assess his level of learning need which will result in professionals involved in his case being able to tailor the work they undertake according to his needs.

During the health assessment it was identified that the young person was displaying emotional health difficulties. The young person reported he had previously self-harmed cutting himself with a knife. As a result of this he was referred to community mental health services for a specialist assessment of his emotional health needs.

- b) Lancashire County Council – Support to vulnerable children through direct services from Children's Social Care, Early Support Services, Children's Centres and Schools Services and specific support for children involved in the criminal justice system via the Youth Offending Team (YOT). A range of other council services, including Adult Social Care also support families. There has been no recent inspection by OFSTED however in the 2012 Safeguarding and Looked After Children in February 2012 where Lancashire was judged as being 'Good with outstanding features'. Notwithstanding this, a number of recommendations for improvements were made and a detailed action plan was developed by the Local Authority in collaboration with the LSCB which was signed off as completed. The next Ofsted inspection is likely to take place in 2015/16, however the Board has completed 2 multi-agency inspections referred to elsewhere in the report. In addition to providing services, the local authority commission some of the public health services for

children such as sexual health services and school nursing; from October 2015 they will also be responsible for commissioning health visiting and family nurse partnership services.

- c) Across Lancashire there are six Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) who are responsible for commissioning most hospital and community healthcare services. From April 2015 co-commissioning arrangements are being brought in which will see CCGs getting involved in the commissioning of primary care services.
- d) NHS England is an executive non-departmental public body of the Department of Health whose general function is to promote a comprehensive health service. It does this by allocating funds to, guiding and supporting CCGs, and holding them to account. They are also responsible for commissioning primary care services, specialised health services, health care services for those in secure and detained settings and for servicing personnel and their families.
- e) Six NHS Hospital Trusts – Providing a range of community and acute services including: A&E, health visiting, school nursing, CLA nursing, neo/ante natal care, paediatric services and a range of specialist services.
The NHS hospital trusts that serve the Lancashire area as follows:
 - 1. University Hospital Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust
 - 2. Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust
 - 3. Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust
 - 4. Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 - 5. East Lancashire Hospital Trust
 - 6. Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust
- f) University Hospital Morecambe Bay (UHMB) had been subject to an improvement plan since their 2011/12 inspection found the organisation to be inadequate in a number of areas including safeguarding. The LSCB has maintained consistent oversight of these improvements and sought assurance through senior managers at the LSCB and the (then) Local Safeguarding Group in the North of the County. In 2013/14 the action plan for safeguarding was signed off as completed by the Trust and agreed by the LSCB. A further inspection of the whole Trust by CQC in 2014 placed the Trust into special measures. Since the inspection in 2014, staff and leaders from across the hospitals have worked together, with their health partners, to make important changes to the way services are run. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a re-inspection of the hospitals in July 2015 which has yet to be published. Whilst the 2014 inspection resulted in an inadequate rating the improvements within the safeguarding processes achieved since 2012 have been maintained and are monitored by the Board through reports from senior managers, quality audits of the Trust Section 11 submission and via the audit of safeguarding standards to the CCG through the contract process
- g) Ormskirk District General Hospital is one of two hospitals within the Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust. The hospital was subject to a comprehensive inspection of services by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) during November 2014. Although the hospital was rated overall as requiring improvement, with maternity services being rated as inadequate,

the services for children and young people were rated as good in all areas. The full inspection report can be accessed at: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/location/RVY02/inspection-summary#overall>

- h) East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT) underwent a CQC inspection during 2013/14. Although issues and improvements were identified there were no concerns raised in relation to safeguarding practice. There was some concerns with the fluctuating number of A&E staff trained in safeguarding which has now been addressed and is consistently monitored.
- i) Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is an acute and community provider following a merger on 1st April 2012. The Trust is situated on the west coast of Lancashire, and operates within a regional health economy catchment area that spans Lancashire and South Cumbria, supporting a population of 1.6 million. A range of acute services are provided to the 340,000 population of the Fylde Coast health economy and the estimated 11-million visitors to the seaside town of Blackpool. Since 1st April 2012, the Trust also provides a wide range of community health services to the 500,000 residents of Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and North Lancashire.
- j) The CQC published their quality report on the Trust following an announced inspection visit, a review of information from their 'Intelligent Monitoring' system and information given to them by patients, the public and other organisations. The inspection team highlighted that patient care in the hospital was recognised as being good by patients that they spoke to and that staff were praised by many who used the service.
- k) Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust operates from two sites, Royal Preston Hospital and Chorley and South Ribble Hospital. Both sites were subject to a comprehensive CQC inspection in July 2014 and although overall the trust was rated "Requires Improvement" it was rated good for children and young people's services and maternity care. It had a very positive focus around children's safeguarding practices. The full CQC report can be accessed at <http://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RXN>. Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LTHTR) along with the Local authority was the first hospital in the country to go live with Child Protection Information Sharing Project (CPIS) November 2014. LTHTR are now looking forward to other NHS Hospital Trusts, urgent care centres and Local Authorities across the country coming on board with CPIS.
- l) Lancashire Care Foundation Trust – Provider of children's (CAMHS) and adults' mental health services, Psychology Services and universal children and young people services such as health visiting and school nursing in East, Central and West Lancashire. LCFT were last inspected by the CQC as part of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection where improvements were identified around access to CAMHS as referred to above. LCFT have been recently inspected by the CQC (May 2015) which will be reported in next year's annual report

Mental Health Case Study

A single Mother with 4 children was referred to local services due to issues with depression and opiate misuse. There was also a history of Domestic Abuse with her ex-partner and the 2 eldest children often argue and fight. The mother regularly misses appointments with mental health services to support her presenting issues.

The eldest, 14 year old child, is being supported by Adolescent Support Unit due to physical and verbal aggression towards her mother and siblings. Poor school attendance is also an issue.

The youngest child has been observed to exhibit emotional distress in relation to the family relationships and unsettled home environment

This family had been involved with services sporadically for a period of time, with no real improvement. A CAF was in place but did not appear to be assisting so a decision was made to refer the case for a social care assessment. This resulted in a 'child in need plan' which included mum accessing support for her substance misuse and the eldest daughter and her mum spending time together in family therapy.

Through effective support and engagement of key services outcomes for the family started to improve:

- *Mum engaged effectively with support for her substance misuse*
- *The eldest daughter's school attendance improved*
- *The youngest child was no longer aggressive and appeared happier*
- *The family relocated to move away from unsavoury influences*
- *The father had more contact with his children and offered financial support*

- m) Lancashire Probation Trust was last inspected in 2011 and judged to be 'Good'. However, the service has now been restructured with 2 arms – the National Probation Service and a (private) Community Rehabilitation Company. Both organisations are represented on the LSCB and are subject to scrutiny via the section 11 audit process.
- n) Cafcass (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is the voice of children in the family courts and helps to ensure that their welfare is put first during proceedings. In February 2014 Cafcass was inspected by Ofsted. This was the first time that Cafcass had been inspected as a single national organisation. Ofsted found that the quality and effectiveness of Cafcass work with children and families in both private law (arrangements for children) and public law (care and adoption) was good.
- o) Private/Independent Sector Providers – community drug and alcohol services, sexual health services, domestic abuse services
- p) Housing providers – wide range of private providers, Registered Social Landlords, hospices and hostels, sheltered housing provision and local authority housing¹
- q) Voluntary Community and Faith Sector – over 100 different VCFS organisations providing a wide range of service on a commissioned and non-commissioned basis (Eg – carers support, advocacy, fostering agencies, lobbying, consultation)
- r) Schools – over 700 schools including 30 special schools and 13 short stay schools. There are currently no Schools judged to be inadequate with regard to safeguarding
- s) Over 100 children's homes with a high percentage of private providers and out of area placements (Lancashire is a net importer of CLA)² there were no judgements of inadequate during the period.

¹ A scoping exercise carried out in 2012/13 concluded that RSLs and Local Authority providers generally had good safeguarding arrangements but that private landlords often may not

² The LSCB receives notification of any provider that is judged to be inadequate by Ofsted with regard to safeguarding

t) 79 Children's Centres. All are currently judged to be good or excellent

CAF/ Early Help Case Study

Parent B was very reluctant for service involvement as a result of previous negative experiences as a child and a care leaver. This involvement was due to end shortly when parent B reached 21 years old, but following a recent incident and parent B becoming pregnant, the case was re-assessed for an offer of an early help service.

During the initial visit Parent B agreed to being supported through the early help. Family strengths were identified through the assessment process so these could be built upon, unmet needs identified and a multi-agency supported plan agreed to assist with meeting these. Parent B was fully included in all aspects of her family plan/CAF and the lead professional ensured that Parent B fully understood what would happen.

Following support with accessing a range of services Parent B achieved a number of positive outcomes as follows:

- *A healthy pregnancy and give birth to healthy baby*
- *A significant reduction in smoking and associated risks*
- *Now receiving all benefits entitled to*
- *Now has a successful tenancy in suitable housing*
- *Access to domestic violence support services*
- *Access to community volunteering and employment training*

Parent B was very positive about the 'great support' received and feels her life has improved substantially.

u) 909 child minders, 343 day nurseries and 161 pre-school play groups. 10 of which were judged to be inadequate with issues relating to safeguarding during the period

Children and families are also supported by many of the smaller private and voluntary sector organisations who work on a local basis in response to local need. The larger organisations provide or commission a range of services on a countywide basis but given the size and diversity of Lancashire service equity is a significant challenge.

The Board itself exercises challenge and scrutiny of agencies using a number of mechanisms for assessing the quality of local services and agencies commitment to safeguarding children. These include:

Multi-Agency Practice Inspections

2 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Practice Inspections have been completed in 2014/15. One was a countywide themed inspection of Multi-agency Early Help Arrangements. The other was a district based inspection using the Ofsted framework in the district of Burnley. These involved a range of activities including case audits, focus groups, data analysis, interviews with key officers and observation of practice. A multi-agency inspection team carried out these activities together with a group of 'Young Inspectors' who provided feedback from the perspective of children and young people. The inspections highlighted a number of areas of strength and areas for improvement. Some of the key findings are summarised in appendix 1.

Section 11 Audit Process:

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 sets out agencies responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children and the LSCB conducts an annual audit in all member agencies. The section 11 audit tool and quality assurance process were updated in 2013-14 to ensure all agencies are rigorously assessed with regard to having the necessary arrangements in place as specified. Compliance levels are generally high across the standards set out in the audit. The most

commonly recorded deficits are around training and supervision arrangements where not all staff have been trained to the correct level or have access to specialist safeguarding reflective supervision. Where these issues were present assurance has been provided that improvements are progressing and this has been confirmed through the quality assurance and challenge process and a further monitoring process requiring agencies to give regular updates on progress. There are no outstanding 'red' indicators for any of the agencies at present.

Themed Audits

Themed audits were completed around the understanding and application of 'thresholds' (as defined in the Continuum of Need) which was the priority for 2014/15 in the LSCB QA Framework. One of the audits looked at a sample of CAF assessments the other looked at referrals to CSC across the 3 localities of Lancashire.

CAF Audit - (September 2014)

The findings from this audit were very positive in that nearly all the CAFs were felt to be at the appropriate level of need. There were some quality issues which have informed future plans for workforce development around the use of CAF.

Referrals Audit – (October 2014)

The findings from this audit were positive in that the majority of referrals were felt to be at the appropriate level of need for a child in need of help or protection. Again there were some quality and practice issues around themes such as information sharing, analysis of information, inclusion & consideration of historical information and identification of risk.

Multi-agency Performance and Quality Framework

During 2014/15 the LSCB has adopted the regional LSCB framework which provides an extensive compendium of multi-agency performance and qualitative information relating to all aspects of safeguarding, health and wellbeing. Collating and analysing all the information in the framework has proved to be a challenging and resource intensive task which will continue into 2015/16 when it is hoped a dedicated post will be available to complete and maintain this framework. Notwithstanding this, however, a summary of the analysis to date has been developed and the key themes discussed on the LSCB's development day to inform future priorities and the business plan.

Annual Reports

The Board also receives a number of annual reports in relation to key multi-agency services as follow:

1. LADO (local authority designated officer)
2. CAF / Early Help
3. Counter Terrorism
4. Domestic Abuse
5. IRO (independent reviewing officer)
6. MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangements)
7. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
8. Secure Estate (young offenders institutes)
9. Private Fostering

A summary of key findings from each of these reports for 2014/15 is available at appendix 2.

Themes from Child Death Reviews

The Child Death Overview Panel reviews every child death in the county and analyses any factors that may have lead to the death in order to identify themes and trends for preventative measures. A summary of the key findings for 2014/15 are as follows:

- 89% of deaths reviewed during 2014/15 were completed within 12 months
- 10% of deaths were of children from an Asian Pakistani heritage, this is dis-proportionately represented compared with the child population of 6% in the 2011 census
- 61% of children were aged under 1 year old (36% under 28 days and 25% 28 – 264 days)
- 36% of deaths were due to perinatal/ neonatal events with 21% due to chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies
- 24% of death were identified to have modifiable factors*
- Of the 24% of deaths identified to have modifiable factors the most common category of death was perinatal neonatal events (26%) the second largest category was trauma and other external factors (20%) whereas for pan-Lancashire it was sudden unexpected, unexplained deaths
- The four most common modifiable factors were access to service provision, parenting capacity, alcohol/ substance misuse in a parent/carer and smoking

*Factors which could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths

Statutory and Legislative Context for LSCBs

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 sets out the statutory objectives and functions for an LSCB as follows:

1. To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
2. To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes. Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

- 1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 - (vi) cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- (b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- (c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
- (d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Regulation 5 (2) which relates to the LSCB Serious Case Reviews function and regulation 6 which relates to the LSCB Child Death functions are covered in chapter 4 of the guidance. Regulation 5 (3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

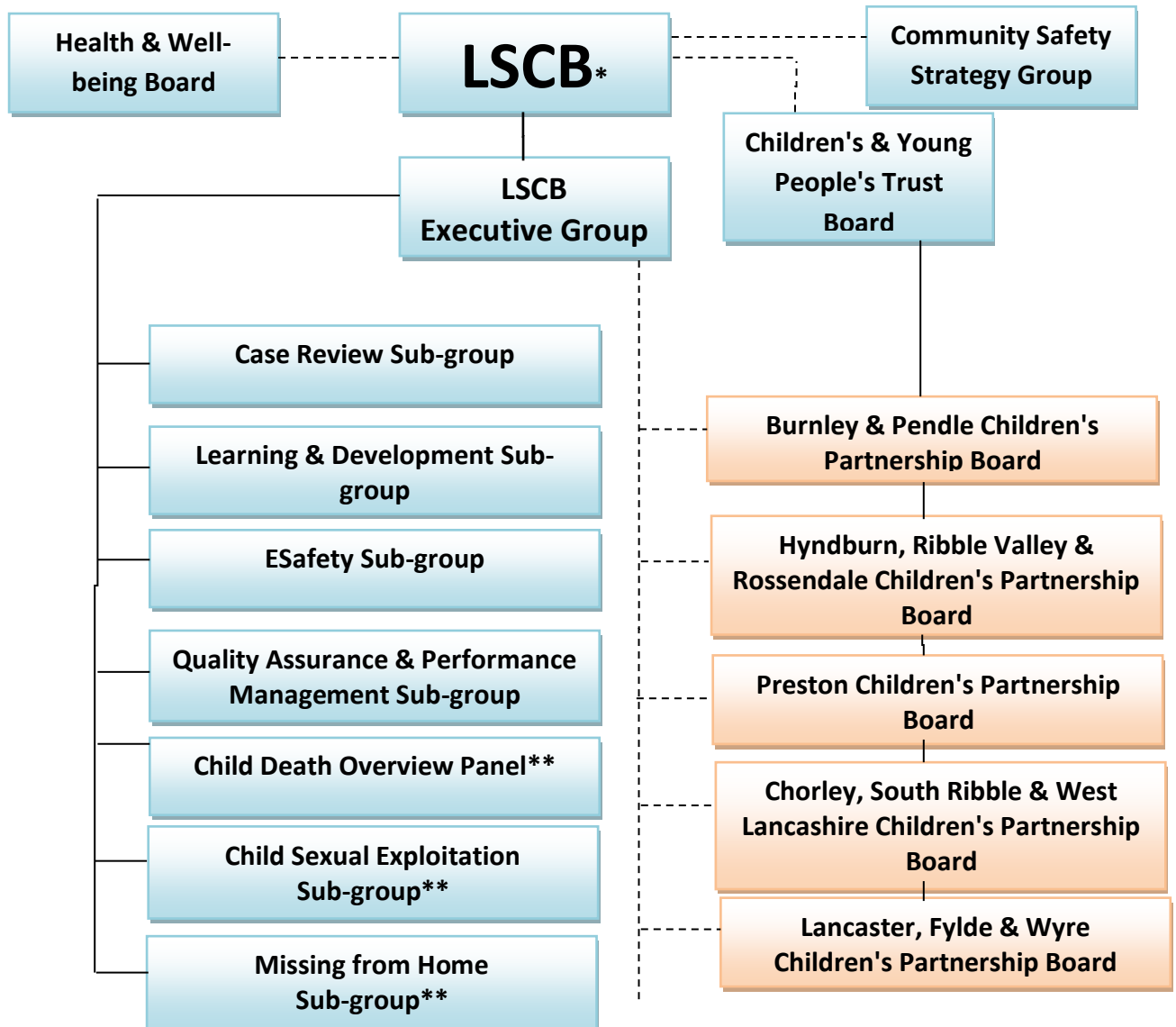
In order to fulfil its statutory function under regulation 5 an LSCB should use data and, as a minimum, should:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in chapter 2 of this guidance;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

5. Governance and accountability arrangements

The LSCB is now inspected as part of the local area Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspections carried out by Ofsted and according to the most recent guidance will receive a separate assessment and judgement. Previously it was assessed within the wider framework, as per the 2012 inspection in Lancashire where the LSCB was referred to positively. Lancashire was not inspected during 2013/14 so there is nothing to report in this respect.

The LSCB is structured as illustrated below. The chair is held to account by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority and its partners through a process of standardised appraisal. A challenge for the coming year will be embedding the new structures around the CPBs.



* Full Board membership can be seen at: <http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/about-us/board-structure.aspx>

** Pan Lancashire Groups

The LSCB Executive Group continues to carry out the executive function and deals with the general business of the Board and has oversight of the Budget, Business Plan, performance information, risk register and any themed reports or annual reports required by the LSCB. The LSCB holds the Executive to account and ratifies / challenges any decisions made by the

Executive where necessary. In 2014/15 the Local Safeguarding Groups were merged with the District Children's Trusts which resulted in 5 Children's Partnership Boards which bring partners together locally under the wider children's agenda. The LSCB holds these to account for delivering effective safeguarding services locally and ensuring safeguarding is embedded in their priorities and plans.

Strategic Priorities

Partnerships in Lancashire such as the LSCB, Children and Young people's Trust, Health and Well Being Board and Community Safety Partnership all produce detailed strategic plans setting out the key outcomes to be achieved within a 3 year timescale. These plans are based on a detailed analysis of the needs, the aspirations of the Lancashire residents and the resources available to organisations to meet these needs and aspirations. The LSCB has arrangements in place to share its annual report with these key strategic groups and join up the business planning processes so priorities can be shared and reflected accordingly.

The LSCB Chair is also a member of the Children and Young Peoples Trust and the Health & Wellbeing Board. A protocol is in place to define the relationship between the groups and their chairs.

The LSCB's broad strategic priorities are currently as follows:

The Board will *ensure* that:

1. We improve the way we work by listening to and responding to the views and experiences of children and young people.
2. We make sure that services work well together, taking and sharing responsibility, to keep children and young people safe.
3. We make sure that the way we recruit, train and supervise those who work with children and young people will keep children and young people as safe as possible.
4. We make sure that everybody who works with children and young people knows that keeping them safe is an important part of their job.

The Board will *take action* to:

5. Help children, young people, their families and communities keep themselves safe and know how to get help.
6. Monitor how well agencies safeguard and protect children and will challenge them when there are concerns about their performance.
7. Use Board resources effectively to give the best results for children and young people.
8. Implement necessary changes that come from research, serious case reviews and any national policy guidelines.

These priorities are part of a 3 year strategy, some of which have received significant attention to date and others will continue into subsequent years.

The following groups of children are recognised by the LSCB as potentially experiencing greater vulnerability:

- Children in Custody
- Children who are privately fostered

- Children who are sexually exploited
- Children with disabilities
- Children Looked After, particularly those moving out of or into Lancashire
- Children of Travellers (especially educational outcomes, immunisations)
- Children with a parent in prison
- Children missing from home or care

LSCB Business Plan

The LSCB has a well-developed business planning framework / cycle based on the strategic priorities detailed above. The business plan is written and agreed at the start of the financial year following a review of the previous year's plan to ensure continuity and carry forward of key priorities where applicable. Progress is monitored at every Executive meeting using a 'RAG' system to identify where activities are not progressing as planned and agree corrective action. The plan is a dynamic document which is regularly refreshed and amended to take account of unforeseen changes or external factors that may come to light in year. The priorities and tasks within the plan are, in the main, delivered through the work of the sub-groups. However, a number of developments are delivered directly by the LSCB Executive, the Chair and the management team. During 2014-15 the Board undertook a range of specific activities related to its priorities:

Children in Custody

At its meeting in January 2015 the Board focussed on safeguarding in secure settings. It received reports about placements of children and was provided with assurance by the Youth Offending team as to the work undertaken to ensure appropriate safeguards were in place. This included assurance that 100% of placements were compliant with national standards with regard to assessment and planning.

Children who are privately fostered

The Board receives an annual report about the work undertaken by the Local Authority to ensure this group of children are identified and that appropriate support is given. The number of such children being identified has increased, enabling support to be offered as appropriate.

Children who are sexually exploited

A comprehensive 'diagnostic' assessment of current multi-agency CSE arrangements was undertaken in Q4 of 2014/15 looking at a range of information and data from all agencies. The aim of this was to understand how effective current arrangements are and where improvements may be required. A detailed report was completed by the LSCB Chair which identified both areas of good practice and areas requiring further development. All agencies were asked to consider and respond to so the LSCB could be assured that recommendations were being taken forward. The diagnostic has been explored with key statutory leaders, in particular the Lancashire County Council Chief Executive and Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner and a number of positive changes have taken place.. Other strategic developments around improved performance monitoring and quality assurance are proposed and will be progressed in 2015/16 and will be reported in the next annual report.

Children with a parent in prison

The regional iHOP coordinator attended the January board meeting to outline the evidence of vulnerability of this group and the work they do in supporting children with a parent in prison. These children are highly vulnerable to poor outcomes but this is often not recognised by agencies as part of the wider safeguarding agenda. All agencies agreed to raise awareness of these issues and promote the supporting resources at the iHOP website and explore developing a notification process via the MASH when a vulnerable child or family was identified. A conference is planned in 2015/16 further explore this issue.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Following a number of concerns arising from Serious case Reviews, inspection and audit activity about access to, and the effectiveness of CAMHS the LSCB Chair presented a report to the Health and Well-being Board (HWBB) by way of scrutiny and challenge. Following this it was agreed a full review of current arrangements would be carried out by the HWBB and the service re-commissioned and re-structured in line with the findings to address concerns raised.

Children Looked After, particularly those moving out of or into Lancashire

a) Health Assessments of CLA

Analysis of performance data highlighted issues to the LSCB around the timeliness of health assessments for children who are "looked after" in Lancashire. Following challenge from the LSCB corrective action was agreed between the Local Authority and Health Agencies and improvement targets set. By the end of year improvements were clearly evident and these are expected to continue into 2015/16 when full compliance should be achieved.

b) Relationship with Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)

During 2014/15 the LSCB Chair has liaised closely with the Chair of the CPB (who oversee arrangements for CLA in Lancashire). This has led to much closer joint working between the 2 Boards and an agreement that the CPB Chair attends the LSCB once a year with an annual report on the effectiveness of arrangements for CLA across county. A challenge event is planned in 2015/16 which will be reported in next years report.

c) Private Children's Homes Engagement Event

Linked to the above, the LSCB held a large conference in 2014 to improve engagement with Private Children's homes, raise awareness of current safeguarding issues and provide advice and support via local agencies. This was attended by over 100 representatives from private children's homes and feedback provided was very positive.

Children missing from home or care

The LSCB (in partnership with unitary colleagues) has revised the Pan-Lancashire operational protocol for children missing from home and care and work is currently ongoing to agree and develop a set of performance measures which will be reported to the LSCB regularly. The LSCB has also considered an audit of cases completed by the Local Authority which has informed future planning and developments into 2015/16.

Other specific initiatives:

Schools Safeguarding Audit

Late in 2014/15 key Board members from the schools sector came together to discuss how the LSCB can be assured that schools have effective safeguarding arrangements in place (as defined in Section 175 of the Education Act). Currently a proposal has been drafted which will be further developed and implemented in 2015/16 to improve the efficacy of the approach.

Organisational Re-structuring

Due to the significant reductions in resources for partner agencies in recent years the LSCB Chair has asked all agencies to regularly report on their planned restructures so any impact on safeguarding can be mitigated. The County Council have provided detailed reports, correspondence and assurance in light of their significant restructuring which will continue into next year and beyond.

Innovation Fund Bid – REACH (Routine enquiry about childhood adversity)

The LSCB recently made a pan-Lancashire bid to the DFE innovation fund for support with a project looking at improving support and engagement with young people who go missing from home or care. Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful but other options are being explored with funding from the board and possible other partners including the Police and Crime Commissioner and police innovation fund.

Alignment with the Lancashire Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB)

During 2014/15, the LSAB became a statutory function with the introduction of the new Care Act. Through discussion with partner agencies and the 2 Boards it was agreed the current LSCB management team be expanded to manage the functioning of both Boards. This has required an agreement for additional financial contributions from partners, a restructure of the current team and the establishment of several new posts. This work is progressing into 2015/16 when it should be completed and the new team operational.

Domestic Abuse Commissioning Strategy

The County Community Safety Manager was invited to the September 2014 LSCB meeting to present this new commissioning strategy which seeks to ensure more responsive and equitable services for children and adults suffering the effects of domestic abuse. A number of actions were agreed to resolve some of the outstanding issues such as the longer term funding sources and governance / reporting arrangements.

National Association of LSCB Chairs

The LSCB agreed to provide a financial contribution to the National Association of LSCB Chairs to ensure its sustainability and continued support to LSCBs and their Chairs.

LSCB Performance

The LSCB also has performance indicators which relate to the effectiveness of the LSCB, with the year-end returns as follows:

Indicator		2013/14	2014/15	Target	Direction of Travel (at Q4)

Attendance at LSCB Meetings*		75%	69	80%	Worse
Percentage of Business Plan Actions completed within timescales		90%	95%	90%	Improved
SCRs referrals considered within timescale		100%	100%	100%	Same
Number of cases reviewed by CDOP		Not Available	84	N/A	N/A

*A full breakdown of attendance by agency can be viewed at appendix 3.

The LSCB also has in place; a risk management framework and risk register which is reviewed twice a year to ensure the appropriate controls are in place to mitigate against key risks to the delivery of LSCB business and the effectiveness of the partnership.

Views of Children, Young People

Within recent years the LSCB had developed robust arrangements for involving children and young people in various aspects of its work and seeking their views as appropriate. Specifically within 2014/15 the following

- a) Engagement in national 'take over day' - a young person co-chaired the LSCB meeting which proved a rewarding and useful experience and challenged LSCB members to ensure dialogue is meaningful and accessible to young people
- b) Involvement of the Young Inspectors in multi-agency practice inspections (see above)
- c) Completion of the Lancaster Young Advisors peer tutoring project (with support from the eSafety Sub-group) where a group of young advisors delivered eSafety awareness raising sessions in a number of primary schools across county. These were very well received with positive feedback from children and teachers
- d) Presentation to the LSCB of the Corporate Parenting Board annual report by looked after young people
- e) Engagement of young people in a CSE conference which informed a parallel event for adults and influenced the CSE Strategy

As part of the SCR process the LSCB routinely consults and seeks the views of family members in relation to the review and ensures their views are appropriately reflected.

6. Key Achievements from LSCB Sub-groups

The work of the Board is delivered through a range of themed sub-groups as illustrated in the Board structure. Each sub-group has its own work plan which is drawn from the LSCB Business Plan which in turn is based around the Boards strategic priorities. The work plans have been reviewed for the year and key achievements are as follows:

Case Review Group

To consider referrals for SCRs against the criteria, commission case reviews and monitor implementation of single and multi-agency learning from case reviews.

SCR Activity 2014/5

Commenced: 3 young people (1 out of area)

Published: 0 (3 reports have been published since April 2015)

On-going: 5 young people (2 out of area)

- Led on one SCR involving five other local authorities
- Developed effective working arrangements with an aligned DHR review

Key Achievements 2014/15

- Developed a clear link to SCR learning outcomes and action monitoring
- Developed and cascaded learning lessons to all partner agencies to inform future professional practice
- Full engagement in the NW Regional chairs initiative to increase the availability of local reviewers.
- Maintained performance and focus in the face of a high number of SCRs

Priorities for 2015/16

- Review action planning report format to ensure effective link a learning framework that will evidence impact and outcomes
- Develop a wider pool of external and internal reviewers
- Refresh terms of reference and membership
- Strengthen links to the CDOP panel
- Explore opportunities to further develop joint working on Domestic Homicide Reviews and links with adult Serious Case Reviews
- Consider referrals against criteria for Serious Case Reviews
- Review process document and agree new templates and associated documents
- Ensure messages from case reviews are widely disseminated within all agencies
- Align the LSCB SCR and Multi-agency Learning Review (MALR) process to the emerging LSAB board alignment

Learning & Development

The principal purpose of LSCB learning & development sub-group is to promote learning and development.

Key Achievements for 2014/15

- 1669 places were provided to professionals who attended LSCB face-to-face training events, and 17351 places were provided and completed for e-learning, making a total of 19020 places provided via the LSCB learning programme

- In 2013-14, L&D sub planned 84 training events. Of those, 8 were cancelled. An additional 8 events were added through the year. In total, 84 courses/seminars/conferences were delivered
- Held SCR briefings, with a joint programme with Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool LSCBs, which were evaluated and found to provide excellent learning
- Provided advice/consultancy to 64 organisations which approached the LSCB Training Unit
- Recruited new members to the training pool to replace the members who left
- Implemented on-line sign up system for all courses
- Expanded the programme to include more ways of learning to ensure we offer a diversity of learning opportunities which make learning and development accessible for the workforce across agencies in Lancashire. Shorter workshops have proved to be in demand
- Brought new learning and research into SCR learning seminars
- Met six times in the year, sub-group membership healthy and works well
- Contributed to the regional learning by membership and contributions to North West Inter Agency Trainers group
- Provided a course on 'creating safer organisations' aimed at voluntary sector organisations
- Development and publication of 'seven minute briefings' on a monthly basis

Priorities for 2015/16

- Develop robust arrangements for assessing the impact of training on practice and outcomes for children and families
- Continue to develop a high quality learning and development programme for 2015-16
- Continue to manage the allocated financial and other resources effectively to ensure the continued delivery of a high quality learning and development programme, recognising the financial constraints that may be applied
- Manage the alignment with the LSAB to ensure the maintenance of performance whilst assisting in the development of the adult board learning and development function
- Continue to invest in the practitioner-trainers who deliver the bulk of LSCB training
- Continue to streamline the course administration process and to automate as many processes as possible
- Fully understand the gaps in respect to safeguarding learning and development amongst Lancashire's workforce
- Respond to the learning and development needs identified within safeguarding practice, Serious Case Reviews, Child Death Reviews and Multi Agency Learning Reviews
- Continue to communicate and ensure the participation of young people in the work of the L&D sub
- Develop a process for determining that learning and development has had improved outcomes for children and families

ESafeguarding

To raise awareness and support agencies in protecting young people from the risks associated with the use of the internet and social media.

Key Achievements for 2014/15

- Lancaster Young Advisors transition project delivered in selected Primary schools across Lancashire. Useful evidence-base established of views of Y5 & Y6 children on what would make the Internet a better place
- Esafety Live 2015, Conferences delivered successfully with large attendance from colleagues across the children's workforce. Associated events also held in Blackpool and Liverpool on consecutive days as part of regional approach. Important evidence-base established on issues arising and areas colleagues would like to see more support with
- Continued engagement across related safeguarding areas in spite of challenging organisational and financial circumstances
- Engagement with locality/borough colleagues to raise awareness of online safety in support of Parental/Community Engagement priority
- Liaison with CSE Focus Group to establish views around Online CSE and suggested improvements
- Increased engagement at National level with Central Government agencies to support aspects of online safety (e.g. advice given re: online radicalisation/school engagement)
- Invitation to join Safer Internet Day Stakeholder Group informing priorities, themes and activities for annual (International) Safer Internet Day
- Successful progression of eSafeguarding Strategy Action Plan priorities and identification of new and emerging threats facing C&YP

Priorities for 2015/16

- Secure and host ESL 2016 across region as part of collaborative approach and repeat survey of children's workforce to establish requirements
- Review current Action Plan for currency and reflect findings of ESL 2015/16 to inform future progression
- Secure high-level commitment from partner agencies to allow longer-term strategic approach in addressing eSafeguarding agenda
- Further develop partnership activities to support aims and co-ordinate approach
- Populate online presence with selected recommended resources and good practice
- Identify and develop response to emerging risk areas
- Review and re-focus on Safer Learning objective to support teaching and learning practices across the region
- Review national developments (e.g. Ofsted Inspection Criteria) and develop effective approach to support positive outcomes (e.g. recommended good practice)
- Continuation and development of Pan-Lancashire eSafeguarding Group as central resource of expertise and co-ordinating group for agency activity across partners
- Continued representation on National groups and associated agendas to highlight Lancashire issues and inform national progression
- Reflect national developments (e.g. Ofsted) and embed as good practice where applicable
- Develop engagement with regional and national partners to further collective priorities and share expertise/good practice

Continued support for member agencies in developing provision and supporting best practice

Quality Assurance

To provide the LSCB with a qualitative and quantitative evidence base to demonstrate how effective multi-agency safeguarding practices and arrangements are.

Key Achievements for 2014/15

1. Completed 2 multi-agency safeguarding practice inspections – a themed countywide inspection of Early Help and a local inspection in Burnley
2. Obtained section 11 audits from all statutory agencies in Lancashire with no areas of non-compliance
3. Completed peer reviews on 6 agencies with regard to their section 11 audit returns and agreed a number of improvements
4. Completed multi-agency audits of CAFs and referrals to CSC across the County to determine whether thresholds are well understood and applied consistently
5. Presented Lancashire's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Practice Inspections as an example of good practice at the regional LSCB Quality Assurance and Performance Seminar
6. Made significant progress in implementing the regional LSCB Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework
7. Developed an Audit Monitoring Log to ensure recommendations from audits are implemented and reported back to the LSCB
8. Established regular QA reporting of Early Help and CAF arrangements
9. Developed a combined CCG / S11 audit tool to prevent duplication for Health Agencies
10. Completed Multi-Agency workshops outlining Lancashire's Assessment and Planning Framework

Priorities for 2015/16

- Completion of 2 further multi-agency safeguarding practice inspections
- Completion of a practitioner survey across all agencies to ensure their views are understood and inform service planning
- Further development and analysis of the regional framework via a dedicated resource
- Continued QA of section 11 audits through multi-agency site visits
- Establish better connectivity and reporting with the CSE and MFH sub-groups so QA activities are joined up
- Continue to monitor progress with recommendations and actions from audits and MASPIs
- Establish a standing multi-agency audit group
- Complete an audit of the safeguarding arrangement for CLA placed in Lancashire from other areas via the audit group
- Complete a focus group with practitioners on the response to non-accidental injuries
- Audit of CSE cases in relation to the MASH to assess how effective it is and identify any barriers to further development

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Reviews all child deaths in Lancashire to identify themes and trends to inform preventative developments

Key Achievements 2014/15

Safer Sleep Campaign: The Campaign has continued to supply professionals with materials to support them in providing consistent messages to parents/ carers across pan-Lancashire. There are plans to: develop the materials with a risk assessment tool, commission a pharmacy campaign with Public Health and commission training from the Lullaby Trust for front line professionals. There has also been Regional interest in the materials which is very positive and will help in providing regionally consistent messages and reduce cross-border differences

particularly for acute trusts. During the forthcoming year we will look to place a bulk order of materials with Merseyside and Cheshire East which will benefit pan-Lancashire by reducing the unit price of materials, we will try to promote the materials with other LSCBs in the Region too. The Safer Sleep Guidance has been updated and ratified by Professor Helen Ball (Professor of Anthropology at Durham University, specialising in infant sleep)

CDOP Newsletter: The Panel produced its first CDOP newsletter to raise awareness to particular issues and dangers in December 2013. The feedback received was very positive and more are planned for 2015/16.

CDOP Development Day: A half day development day was held in March 2015 which a discussion regarding the effectiveness of the sub-groups and what priorities they should have, panel member responsibilities, identification of the Panel's 2015/16 priorities and a review of how consistent the CDOP is. This involved a number of cases which were selected at random being re-anonymised and put to the Panel for a second review without their knowledge (during the 2014/15 reporting year). The cases were given a full discussion and a form C documenting the Panel decisions and identification of issues was also completed. The cases were presented to the development day delegates to review and compare the original decisions with the second decisions. Overall it was concluded the Panel are relatively consistent in their decision making, they are improving in identifying modifiable factors and how these are recorded. However, it was noted there still appears to be similar issues across agencies particularly in relation to information sharing that are still relevant.

SUDC Protocol Launch: CDOP have successfully overseen the review and update of the pan-Lancashire SUDC Protocol, a multi-agency document to inform professionals of their responsibilities following the unexpected death of a child/ young person. The three Boards ratified this document in March 2014 and it was widely disseminated. The protocol multi-agency training will be available throughout 2014/15.

Self-Assessment Tool: The Panel completed a self-assessment tool based on Working Together (2013), the Terms of Reference and additional factors that provide extra value to the CDOP. All items are green with the exception of 3 which are amber and ongoing.

Priorities for 2015/16:

- Identify a new chair for January 2016
- Establish a CDOP database
- Review and update the Safer Sleep Guidance
- Review of SUDC Service
- Thematic review around unascertained and SUDI deaths

Child Sexual Exploitation

Strategic multi-agency group to ensure a coordinated multi agency response to CSE.

Key Achievements for 2014/15

- *College of Policing Peer Review deemed the response to CSE as “good” in Lancashire.* The review team found sound partnership working taking place and that the LSCB diagnostic tool is a positive step.

- *Record numbers of referrals to the CSE teams 2014-2015= 1515.* An increase can be seen as a positive step as more victims are identified and able to engage with the CSE teams for means of support.
- *CSE Awareness week (Operation Toledo) – Conference with highlights from CPS; a victim from Rotherham and the Awaken CSE team.* The week was highlighted in terms of success in delivering awareness raising across the County; supporting operational activity and providing the communities with advice on all aspects of CSE
- *CSE Awareness Day in February 2015.* All agencies undertook activities promoting awareness of CSE
- *Taxi Licensing Boards across Lancashire agree to consistent approach in raising awareness of CSE and improving application process to safeguard vulnerable people.* The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Public Protection Unit (PPU) HQ have held briefings to gain the support of the licensing departments in introducing a robust application and renewal process to protect those most vulnerable
- *Childrens Partnership Boards adopting the delivery of local initiatives to evidence the CSE Strategy and Action Plan.* The CSE strategy and Action Plan have been delivered to all Boards across the County who will now undertake activity specific within their area in line with the objectives of the Pan-Lancashire plan
- *Creation of Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT) team in Lancashire Constabulary.* A specialist team of Detectives has now been created to deal with Online Child Abuse investigations. The team work closely with the National Crime Agency and regional operations as well as those reported within Lancashire
- *Expansion of specialist resources within the CSE teams, notably in the North and South of the County.* Satellite teams have been established in both Lancaster and Skelmersdale as demand has been identified and reported
- *Briefing on CSE delivered to all Cabinet members and county councillors*
- *Lancashire Constabulary has promoted the work of the multi-agency teams in London following national work undertaken to determine the threat of CSE*
- *LSCB Online training on CSE undertaken by 8488 staff members.* LSCB face to face training delivered to 43 delegates

Priorities for 2015/16

- *Engagement with Education establishments.* Challenges still exist in ensuring all children and school staff receive the right level of training and support.
- *Greater awareness raising in BME and harder to reach communities; Leisure and Hotel industries.* Methods and means of engagement with these members of the community are being canvassed in order to tailor the correct and most effective approach.
- *Pan-Lancashire training to greater numbers of professionals through larger and more concise sessions.* 3 events have been organised so far to 100 + professionals
- *Continued engagement with Children and Young people to deliver services by, and for, them.* Participation leads within Authorities to be encouraged to provide cohort and Young Peoples conference work to continue
- *Collaborative work with licensing departments to ensure safeguarding of vulnerable people.* Enhanced training and application and renewal process to take effect for Taxi drivers.

- *Continued collaborative Pan-Lancashire approach to achieving strategic objectives.* The Group will ensure the approach to CSE continues to be as a result of collaborative work across the whole of Lancashire.
- *Continue to undertake reviews of national and regional research and publications in the field and make recommendations and share best practices*
- *Ensure Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings are delivering a multi-agency Pan-Lancashire response to the needs of children and young people in their respective areas*
- *Childrens Society commission to deliver CSE training in Lancashire's schools.* The commission of work will deliver CSE training to all Lancashire maintained secondary school pupils and their families until August 2016
- *Development of bespoke Problem Profile for each Authority area.* Work is underway to update the problem profile to ensure it is relevant for all areas.
- Working with commissioners to ensure appropriate therapeutic services are available to Children and Young People in Lancashire

Missing From Home (MFH)

Strategic multi-agency group to ensure a coordinated multi agency response to MFH.

Key Achievements for 2014/15

- Completion of 6 month report by Children's Society of RHI's (return home interviews) and continued provision of service commissioned. 183 were completed – 80% of those commissioned and a total of 179 were able to access further support as a result
- Missing children conference to be arranged for early 2016. LSCB is arranging a multi-agency conference aimed at young people and professionals to assist in recognising the stages of the journey and where and how to access support and policies to assist
- Effective data provision of Missing episodes shared with Local Authority area. The sub group has a standing item to provide Community Safety Partnership information relation to those children and young people who go missing from home

Priorities for 2015/16

- Effective Return Home Interviews are providing relevant information and Intelligence to agencies and assisting in delivering a reduction in repeat episodes. A task and finish group has been set up to deliver this priority
- Further resourcing for Missing Persons as it continues to be a priority area for all agencies. Demand in certain areas is particularly high and the vulnerabilities identified require further research and analysis in order to deliver preventative work; resource demand and deliver training where identified
- Ensuring children with identifiable risks are categorised correctly within the Missing or absent definition to provide the most relevant response. Absent and Missing reports continue to be scrutinised by agencies and highlighted where concerns are made and reports delivered to evidence the response is appropriate
- Continued relevant information sharing between partners to provide effective support for those children regularly missing
- The link between missing and radicalisation to be highlighted via an awareness raising initiative on vulnerability and warning signs to consider. Prevent and Channel continue to deliver training and their work delivered to members of this group for awareness raising

- Pan-Lancashire Action plan for Missing Children to deliver priorities. Members of this group to deliver a plan that is evidence based and relevant to deliver their priorities
- LSCB Conference on “Missing “ to be run in conjunction with Young People to deliver awareness of missing journey; risks associated and policies and procedures required
- Problem Profile of Missing Persons to be undertaken. Analysis and mapping of the missing picture to be undertaken to inform agencies of the scale of the problem and identify where actions need to be taken
- Continue to work closely with the CSE Strategic Group identifying links between missing from home and CSE
- Link to REACH bid

Children's Partnership Boards

In 2014/15 as part of a wider review of partnerships across county, the LSCB agreed to work with the Children's Trust Partnership Board to rationalise the number of partnership groups in light of reduced resources and the need for efficiency savings in all partner agencies. To this end it was agreed, through a process of consultation and planning to merge the functions of the Local Safeguarding Groups (LSCGs) and the District Children's Trusts (DCTs). This resulted in the 12 DCTs and 3 LSCGs combining into 5 Children's Partnership Boards covering the following districts:

1. Burnley & Pendle
2. Hyndburn, Rossendale and Ribble Valley
3. Lancaster Fylde & Wyre
4. Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire
5. Preston

During the latter part of 2014/15 the LSCB worked closely with the new groups to ensure safeguarding is effectively embedded in their priorities and group membership is representative of local safeguarding agency leads. The LSCB has also agreed to share a number of its reports such as this Annual Report, the Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report, Serious Case Review Learning and other reports as and when necessary to ensure the key messages are considered locally in the wider context of children's services.

The LSCB has now established clear reporting arrangements and regular update reports are received from the CPBs which are considered by the LSCB. During 2015/16 the LSCB will look to further develop its relationship with the CPBs to ensure they are held to account effectively with regard to safeguarding within their plans and activities. A review of key discussions within the LSCB is reported on a bi-monthly basis to CPB's

9. LSCB Budget

INCOME	Annual Budget
Contributions to Board	
North Lancashire CCG	18,917
Fylde & Wyre CCG	18,918
Greater Preston CCG	16,000
West Lancashire CCG	8,535
Chorley & South Ribble CCG	13,300
East Lancashire CCG	37,835
Police	43,938
Probation Service	13,488
Cafcass	550
Lancashire County Council	112,000
	267,100
Child Death Overview Panel	
Lancashire County Council	73,500
Blackpool	8,820
Blackburn with Darwen	15,680
	98,000
TOTAL LSCB INCOME 14/15	381,481
EXPENDITURE	Annual Budget
<u>Central</u>	
Staffing Costs	100,400
Transport	1,700
Printing and Stationery	1,000
Telephones	600
Staff Subsistence	1,000
Panel/Professional Fees	20,000
Venues (Meetings/Room Bookings & Hospitality)	1,500
Other Expenses	2,000
	128,200
<u>Child Death Overview</u>	
Staffing Costs	60,000
Transport	1,000
Printing and Stationery	500
Telephones	100
Staff Subsistence	200
Venues (Meetings/Room Bookings & Hospitality)	1,000
Other Expenses	35,200
	98,000
<u>Serious Case Review</u>	

Staffing Costs	24,400
Professional Fees	45,000
Venues (Meetings/Room Bookings & Hospitality)	2,000
Other Expenses	1,000
	72,400
<u>Training</u>	
Staffing Costs	74,700
Transport	1,600
Printing and Stationery	1,600
Staff Subsistence	1,000
Professional Fees	30,000
Venues (Meetings/Room Bookings & Hospitality)	15,000
General/Other Expenses	15,000
	138,900
TOTAL LSCB EXPENDITURE	437,500
Reserves	£
Reserves as at 31/03/2014	-268,418
Reserves to be used to balance 14/15 Budget	56,019

10. Priorities for 2015/16

Priorities identified in last year's annual report were as follows:

1. The application and understanding of thresholds and the continuum of need
2. Continued awareness raising and analysis of the risks presented through use of the internet and social media
3. Embedding the use of the refreshed CAF process and ensuring timely and appropriate early support services
4. The effectiveness of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
5. Domestic abuse data and evidence of the effectiveness of services on a countywide basis
6. Awareness of Private Fostering requirements and monitoring of number of cases
7. Engagement with private sector children's homes
8. Accurate monitoring of single agency training (quality and quantity)
9. The incidence of self-harm and causal factors
10. Alcohol use by young people
11. The higher than average incidence of smoking during pregnancy and infant mortality
12. Ensuring assessments are multi-agency and holistic; especially regarding: voice of the child, the role of men/fathers, accurate and up to date information, professional challenge / scepticism, consideration of historical information
13. Ensuring services target resources to areas of need effectively
14. Accurate and regular performance data on a countywide basis from health agencies

While good progress has been made with most of these priorities as evident from this annual report, it is clear that some of these issues will continue to remain a priority for the coming year and beyond (E.g. – self harm, alcohol use, accurate performance data). In addition to this the following challenges and achievements will also inform key priorities and business planning for the coming year (and in many cases beyond):

1. Complexity and diversity of the administrative area especially in relation to deprivation rates
2. Poor health outcomes, especially child obesity, tooth decay and hospital attendance
3. Increasing self-harm
4. Increasing numbers of CLA from other local authorities (approaching 1000)
5. Significant reduction in CPP to below the national average
6. Number of CLA above national average
7. Increasing number of CSE referrals but no increase in recorded crime
8. Ensure effective early intervention and preventative service responses continue to be developed
9. High level of agency compliance with S11 standards
10. Disproportionate levels of child deaths from Asian Pakistani heritage

11. Contact details

@ Email: lscb@cyp.lancscc.gov.uk

✉ Address:

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board
Room 503/504
East Cliff County Offices
East Cliff JDO
PRESTON
PR1 3EA

☎ Phone: +44 (0)1772 530283

🌐 Website: <http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/>

12. Appendices

Appendix 1

MASPI's

Summary of Key Findings

Early Help inspection:

Strengths:

- All actions from initial plan completed
- Improved commissioning based on need and views of children and families
- Significant investment in service development and workforce development
- Holistic approach looking at whole family via Team Around the Family (TAF)
- Engagement of VCFS
- Improved understanding of what 'good' looks like
- Good use of JSNA and consultation with C&YP
- Improved outcomes for early years

Weaknesses

- Governance / reporting unclear
- Improved understanding of what early help is across agencies
- More clarity required about step up / down process
- Lack of analytical capacity
- Use of community assets could be better
- Impact of Children's Centre Plus and YPS not well evidenced
- SCR learning not fully embedded
- Mixed understanding of Continuum of Need
- Variable use of CAF

The Burnley inspection:

Strengths

- Good practice and committed staff generally
- Good evidence of voice of child
- Improved involvement of health practitioners in safeguarding
- Social work forum works well
- Supervision & reflective practice well evidenced
- Improved pathways re CAMHS
- Young inspectors found YPs were generally positive about living in Burnley

Weaknesses

- CSC accommodation not good, scope for improved co-location
- LCS and recording issues
- Accessibility of CP medicals
- CSC leadership / management unclear (at the time)
- Social workers over burdened with admin

- Inconsistency / continuity of professionals at core groups
- Multi-agency decision making at core groups
- Impact of Police restructure in relation to CSE

The findings from these inspections were presented to the local Children's Partnership Boards who have developed an action plan to address any areas for improvement and recognise and promote areas of achievement. These action plans are overseen by the LSCB QA/PM Sub-group until they are completed and signed off.

Appendix 2

LSCB Annual Reports - Summaries

Local Authority Designated Officer for Allegations (LADO)

Overall the LADO has seen an increase in activity and referrals, contacts have increased from 1076 in 2014 to 1616 in 2015. This is likely attributable to more awareness raising and improved information sharing (possibly resulting from location to the MASH) and a widening of the definition of regulated activity in statutory guidance. Timeliness of initial response has improved, but there has been an apparent decline in performance with regard to time taken to resolve cases; this however represents a higher proportion of complex cases in the sample due to changes in how the cases are categorised. Provision of a LADO assistant has had a significant impact on resolving open cases.

CAF / Early Help

The total number of CAFs initiated during 2014/15 increased substantially from previous year (approximately 50% increase) and the vast majority of closed CAFs were due to needs being met. A quality assurance process is now in place and will enable better monitoring of quality and completeness of information in future. A total of 3,070 people completed the CAF eLearning module with 183 practitioners completing the CAF champion training. Early Help / CAF module on LCS needs progressing ASAP as database is very limited.

Counter Terrorism

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) was granted Royal Assent on 12th February 2015 and came into effect on 1st July 2015. It requires specified bodies to have due regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. LSCBs need to be assured agencies have considered the guidance especially with regard to staff training. The Chanel Team continue to provide training to partner agencies.

Domestic Abuse

Lancashire Action against Domestic Abuse (LADA) is now the group with strategic and senior representation across all relevant statutory and 3rd sector agencies responsible for the delivery of front line services across the county. It governs the following which are its now sub-groups:

- MARAC Steering group
- HBV/FM/FGM Steering group
- SDVC Steering group

An outcome focussed strategy will be developed to ensure equitable services for victims and offenders across county. This will be ratified by the district Chief Executives Group.

IRO

The IRO service is now fully staffed, however, IRO capacity remains a significant challenge and caseloads are consistently higher than that recommended in the IRO Handbook. There has been an improvement in performance in relation to the proportion of reviews (CLA and CP) completed within the required timescale. Performance in relation to participation of children in their review has increased to 97.6% in 2014-15 from 95.2% in 2013-14. Attendance by key agencies and families at reviews is generally high. Transition to LCS continues to present challenges. A new locality management model will be introduced in 2015 to further improve efficiency of the service.

MAPPA

Lancashire MAPPA's performance continues to be strong although the lack of attendance by some Duty to Co-Operate agencies at Level 2 meetings can be concerning. The numbers of cases managed at MAPPA level 2 continues to fall across Lancashire and this is attributed to more robust screening process at the referral stage along with the 'Four Pillars' Risk Management approach.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The estimate for police referrals at the commencement of MASH (pan Lancashire) was 34000, clearly this had been drastically underestimated and the first year of MASH saw a total of almost 50000 referrals and 47000 in year 2.

Moving to phase 2 may lead to a doubling in referrals and plans need to be agreed as to how this volume can be managed / resourced. The multi-agency staff structure is working well to improve information sharing and appropriate escalation / step down, however, it is felt that Probation, IDVA and Mental Health professionals would further strengthen this.

Secure Estate

During April 2014 – March 2015, 34 young people were remanded to secure placements and 54 young people were sentenced to custody. The majority of these were placed in YOIs and were nearly all male. 44% of sentenced young people were CLA. 100% of all ASSETs were completed for the period and there were 7 notifications of restraint. Access to accommodation and employment / training are the 2 biggest priorities for young people upon release.

Private Fostering

The Private Fostering Champions Group has continued to take the work forward by the development of plans. LCC have a budget for publicity information and publicity campaigns continue to be delivered to targeted groups as well as more generally. The website and pages have also been updated to ensure information is up to date.

There were 47 notifications received during the year and compliance with processes and timescales is generally in line with last year's performance though there are some concerns about the accuracy of the data due to implementation of LCS. All cases have been audited by at least one children's social care manager so the LSCB can be reassured that no children were left at risk. There are still some challenges with the use of LSCs, timeliness of DBS checks and ensuring YPs are informed of advocacy services.

Appendix 3

LSCB Attendance

Agency	% Atn
Children's Society	67
LSAB	67
Chair QA/PM	100
EL CCG	100
LCC (Lead Member)	67
LCC (DCS)	83
LTHT NHS	67
Probation	100
Police	67
CCG - C&SR, WL and Preston	83
District Councils	50
LCC	83
Indep Chair	100
LCFT NHS	83
CVS	50
LCC SI&A	100
Cafcass	83
LTHT NHS	50
Schools	33
CDOP Chair	67
L&F CCG	83
Lay Member	33
UHMB	67
ELHT	83
NHS England	67
BTHT	133
S&OHT	0
Governing Bodies	100
OVERALL %	69

This report has been prepared by Jane Booth, Independent Chair of the Board with support from Paul Hegarty and Richard Matthews

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