

# Dudley Safeguarding Children Board **Strategic Plan 2015 – 18**



# Introduction

## Welcome to the Dudley's Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Strategic Plan incorporating DSCB Business Plan for 2016 – 2017.

The DSCB is a statutory body providing a central co-ordinating function throughout Dudley for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare, agreeing how local organisations will co-operate in keeping children safe and ensuring the effectiveness of what they do as specified in Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2015)

This Business Plan sets out the strategic priorities that the DSCB has identified that will be the primary focus for 2015 – 2018. These will drive the work of the DSCB and correspond with the priorities of the Children and Young People's Alliance, Health and Well Being strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. They also reflect learning from the recent Ofsted inspection and LSCB diagnostic.

The plan will support the improvement plan and the journey of the children and young people in Dudley. The plan will be updated annually to respond to local and national requirements and emerging themes identified through a process of learning and improvement.

The DSCB is the decision making body for multi-agency safeguarding activities within Dudley. The work of the DSCB fits within the wider context of the Health & Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People's Alliance, Community Safety Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board. Ensuring that work to protect children and young people from harm is properly co-ordinated and effective, is the primary function of the DSCB.

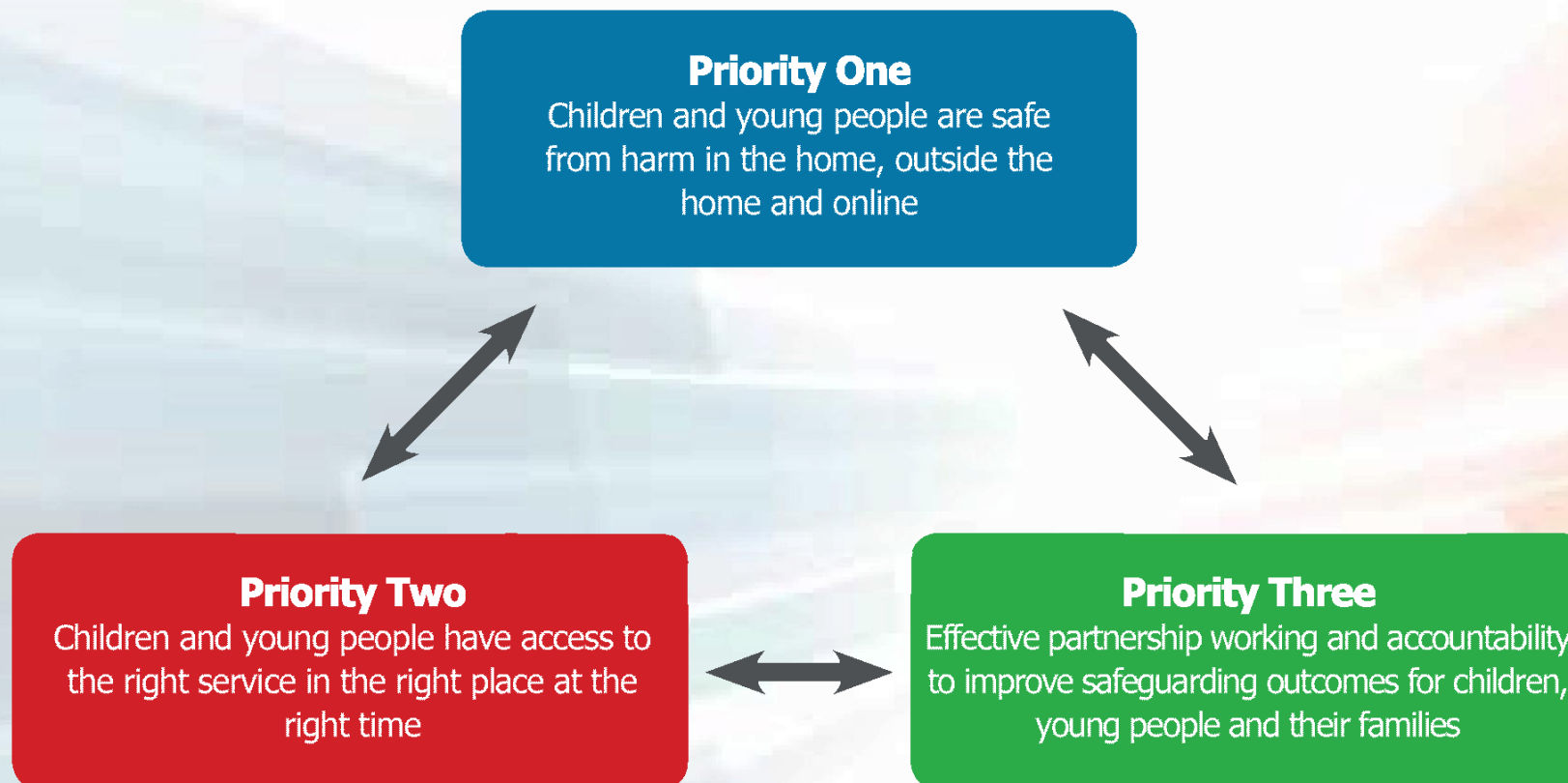
In achieving the above, the DSCB will seek to involve children and young people in its work and will keep them as the focus for all its' activities and decision making.

All LSCB members, as part of their role and responsibility to the Board, will be a champion in their own agency to support and progress the work of the business plan and ensure their agency staffs active involvement in its successful delivery.

**Liz Murphy, DSCB Independent Chair  
April 2016**

# DSCB Strategic Plan 2015 – 2016

## What DSCB wants to achieve



## Local Context

Through a variety of means including self-assessment, peer review and external inspection, DSCB recognises that significant improvement is required in order that DSCB is fulfilling its statutory functions as set out in Working Together 2015. Identified gaps include:

- Use of performance data to regularly and effectively monitor front line practice
- Use of multi-agency audit to improve safeguarding practice
- Delivery of high quality multi-agency training and evaluation of its impact
- Evidence of challenge including via s11 and s175/157 audits to improve the safeguarding system and practice
- Embedding learning and improvement activity
- Monitoring the application of local agreed thresholds and CSE pathway
- Engagement with children, parents/carers and front line staff as well as the wider community
- Influencing and evaluating the work of strategic partnerships and priorities with regard to improved outcomes for children
- Partner agency contribution to support the work of the DSCB

To address these gaps, this business plan is supported by a **DSCB Improvement Plan** (add hyperlink) that has been developed to set out the actions required for DSCB delivers its statutory functions. The Improvement Plan has been approved by the DSCB and shared with the Children's Alliance and Health and Wellbeing Board. All Board partners are expected to ensure that their agency contributes as required to implement the improvement plan.

In addition, to Board effectiveness, Dudley MBC has previously reported to the DSCB significant performance issues with regards to the delivery of safe and effective social care intervention for children and young people. The recent Ofsted inspection findings once published will provide further insight into the quality of service provision and any associated improvement priorities. In the meantime, the data available to the DSCB indicates that the following are areas of priority with regard to improving safeguarding outcomes for vulnerable children and so should be the focus of DSCB activity during 2016-17:

- Recognition and response to **neglect**
- Understanding and application of **thresholds** and **early help**
- Embedding **CSE and missing** pathways

DSCB recognises that effective management oversight and supervision is a golden thread on each of the three priority areas.



The DSCB will also seek assurance in relation to safeguarding activity carried out in respect of a range of vulnerable children and young people and as required will influence and challenge other agencies and partnership to take action to improve outcomes for groups of vulnerable children. The DSCB will ensure it focuses its attention on the following groups during 2016-17:

- Looked after children and young people
- Privately fostered children and young people
- Children and young people with emotional health and wellbeing needs
- Disabled children and young people
- Unaccompanied children
- Young people in custody
- Young people at risk of radicalisation
- Young people living with domestic abuse
- Young people at risk of Female Genital Mutilation
- Young people at risk of Forced Marriage

## What we will do

### Strategic Priority One - **Children and Young People are safe from harm in the home, outside the home and online**

How we will evaluate and evidence our impact i.e. outcome measures:

- The level of risk and harm caused by child sexual exploitation (CSE) decreases for those young people identified as at risk/being sexually exploited
- There is a reduction in the volume of repeat missing incidences
- Children are safeguarded from neglect without drift and delay
- Children and parents/carers recognise the risks associated with the internet, how to avoid these risks and how best to respond if things go wrong

What we will do:

- Devise a local CSE problem profile to inform strategy, commissioning and practice
- Deliver CSE and missing strategy and embed CSE and missing pathways
- Devise and implement a multi-agency neglect strategy
- Refresh and deliver the e safety action plan
- Provide learning and development opportunities to enable the workforce to safeguard children and young people

### Strategic Priority Two **Children and Young People have access to the right service in the right place at the right time**

How we will evaluate and evidence our impact i.e. outcome measures:

- Professionals report they understand and are confident to apply locally agreed thresholds
- Early help cases end for positive reasons i.e. step down to single agency early help or return to universal services
- Children, young people and parents/carers report that they know where to go to access support
- Children, young people and parents/carers report the support they have received has made a positive difference

What we will do:

- Increase awareness and understanding of the revised thresholds document
- Evaluate the application of locally agreed thresholds
- Implement a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Evaluate the accessibility and impact of the early help offer

Strategic Priority Three - **Effective partnership working and accountability to improve safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and their families**

How we will evaluate and evidence our impact i.e. outcome measures:

- Partnership working is delivering positive outcomes for children and young people
- Management oversight is robust and front line staff have access to reflective supervision
- The learning and development strategies of single agencies and partnerships result in improved practice, which in turn translates into improved outcomes for children and their families
- Professionals report, audits demonstrate and evaluation of the impact of training evidences that learning and development has improved practice and so outcomes for children and families
- DSCB is fulfilling its statutory functions

What we will do:

- Secure and use the voice of children, young people, parents/carers and front line staff to inform our work; including evaluating the effectiveness of local service provision
- Develop supervision standards and support managers to provide reflective supervision/promote reflective practice
- Disseminate learning and evaluate its impact on practice
- Implement the DSCB Improvement Plan
- Adequately resource the DSCB to deliver its statutory functions

## **Implementation and Monitoring**

The DSCB subgroups are accountable for ensuring that work of the DSCB is progressed. Each sub group will develop a detailed work plan which identifies the specific activity that will be carried out by the sub group. Responsibility for delivering the work plans rests with the relevant sub group chairs and members and each statutory partner is responsible for ensuring that the Board's work is properly implemented and delivered within their own agency.

DSCB Annual Business Plan along with the DSCB Improvement Plan are monitored quarterly by the DSCB Executive group and progress will be routinely reported to the DSCB.

## Other activity

The activity described on the preceding pages can be considered the improvement priorities identified by DSCB for 2016-17. In addition, to the delivery of work to deliver the improvement priorities, DSCB will carry out a range of other activities in relation to its statutory functions. DSCB will:

- Review and update policy, procedures and practice guidance
- Carry out a review of any child death
- Carry out a Serious Case Review or other learning review as required
- Complete a Section 11 audit and scrutinise s175/157 audits
- Raise awareness of the action to be taken to safeguard children and young people

## Reporting the impact of the DSCB Business Plan and DSCB Improvement Plan

The DSCB will report progress on implementing its Improvement Plan to the independently chaired Improvement Board. In addition, DSCB will publish a publically available annual report on the work it has carried out in 2016-17. Self-assessment, external peer review and future inspections will assist the DSCB to evaluate and evidence the progress made in terms of delivering its statutory functions in accordance with the requirements of statutory guidance.

An important aspect of the DSCB annual report will be to provide a rigorous assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. This will allow the DSCB to evaluate and analyse the impact of its work in relation to its improvement priorities. The findings of the DSCB Annual Report will be used to inform future improvement activity.



