



Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (BDSCB)

Learning & Improvement Framework 2017-2020

February 2017

Background:

Within the revised statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) it sets out the approach to learning and improvement for LSCBs and places a duty on them to develop their own local frameworks:

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) should maintain a local learning and framework which is shared across local organisations who work with children and families. This framework should enable organisations to be clear about their responsibilities, to learn from experience and improve services as a result.

HM Government, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Statutory guidance also sets out the principles for LSCB learning and improvement which can be summarised as follows:

- A culture of continuous learning and improvement;
- A practice of transparency - Serious Case reviews (SCRs) must be published in full and displayed on the LSCB website for a minimum of 12 months;
- SCRs should be led by someone independent;
- Issues identified in all reviews should be published;
- Reviews should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of the issues being examined;
- Professionals should be fully involved in reviews without fear of blame;
- The views of families and siblings should be sought;
- Subsequent improvements should be detailed in the annual report and inform inspection; and
- Improvements must be monitored and reviewed.

Purpose of this framework:

The aim of this framework is to enable BDSCB to provide improved children safeguarding services by learning from experience and particularly through the provision of insights into the way organisations work together to safeguard and protect the welfare of children.

The framework should enable the LSCBs, their partner organisations and local partnership bodies to be clear about what needs to be learnt, where services and practice require improvement, and how any programme of action will lead to sustainable improvements.

This framework is intended to cover the full range of single and multi-agency reviews, audits, and briefings, which aim to drive improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and families.

The different types of learning include:

1. Serious Case Reviews (page 75 WT 2015)

2. Child death review (see Chapter 5: Child death reviews of Working Together 2015: a review of all child deaths under the age of 18)
3. Reviews of Child incidents which fall below the threshold for a full serious case review;
4. Review or audit of practice in one or more agencies.
5. Section 11 assessments
6. BDSCB Annual Conferences, Training courses and briefing sessions
7. National Learning via guidance, training and policy briefings.
8. Performance and learning outcomes from BDSCB members

Methodology

BDSCB will seek to achieve continuous learning and improvement by:

- Initiating Serious Case Reviews (SCR) in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006, in order to learn Multi and Single Agency lessons, along with risk information. The SCR methodology is included within **Appendix A**.
- Conduct Child Death reviews in accordance with chapter 5, child death reviews of Working Together 2013: a review of all child deaths under the age of 18, in order to identify Themes, Trends and Modifiable factors.
- Identify cases that fall below the threshold for a serious case review and conduct a review by the serious case review committee; in line with agreed Local protocol **Appendix B**.
- Conduct Multi Agency reviews, analysis and identification of lessons learnt
- Where appropriate, hold Annual Conferences or briefing sessions in order to share local learning and disseminate practice, policy including National themes.
- Continue delivering a Multi Agency Training Programme for the wider partnership.
- Seek performance and learning outcomes from BDSCB members in order to ensure continued learning across the partnership.
- Review LSCB learning activities to ensure the aims and objectives are fit for purpose and providers meet the quality standards expected by the Performance, Learning and Quality Assurance Committee, or equivalent working group.

This will ensure that the BDSCB will:

- Identify good and problematic practice and recognise the strengths and weaknesses of organisations involved.

- Produce a report that outlines what happened in a case, why it happened and what action will be taken to learn from the findings and by whom. These actions will be presented to the BDSCB for approval.
- BDSCB Training and Development will ensure dissemination of learning improvements that affect the multi-agency partnership.
- BDSCB will ensure sustainable improvement through regular monitoring and follow-up so that the findings from these reviews make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.

The Learning and Improvement Process

BDSCB Learning and Improvement Framework is a cyclical process, as detailed below:



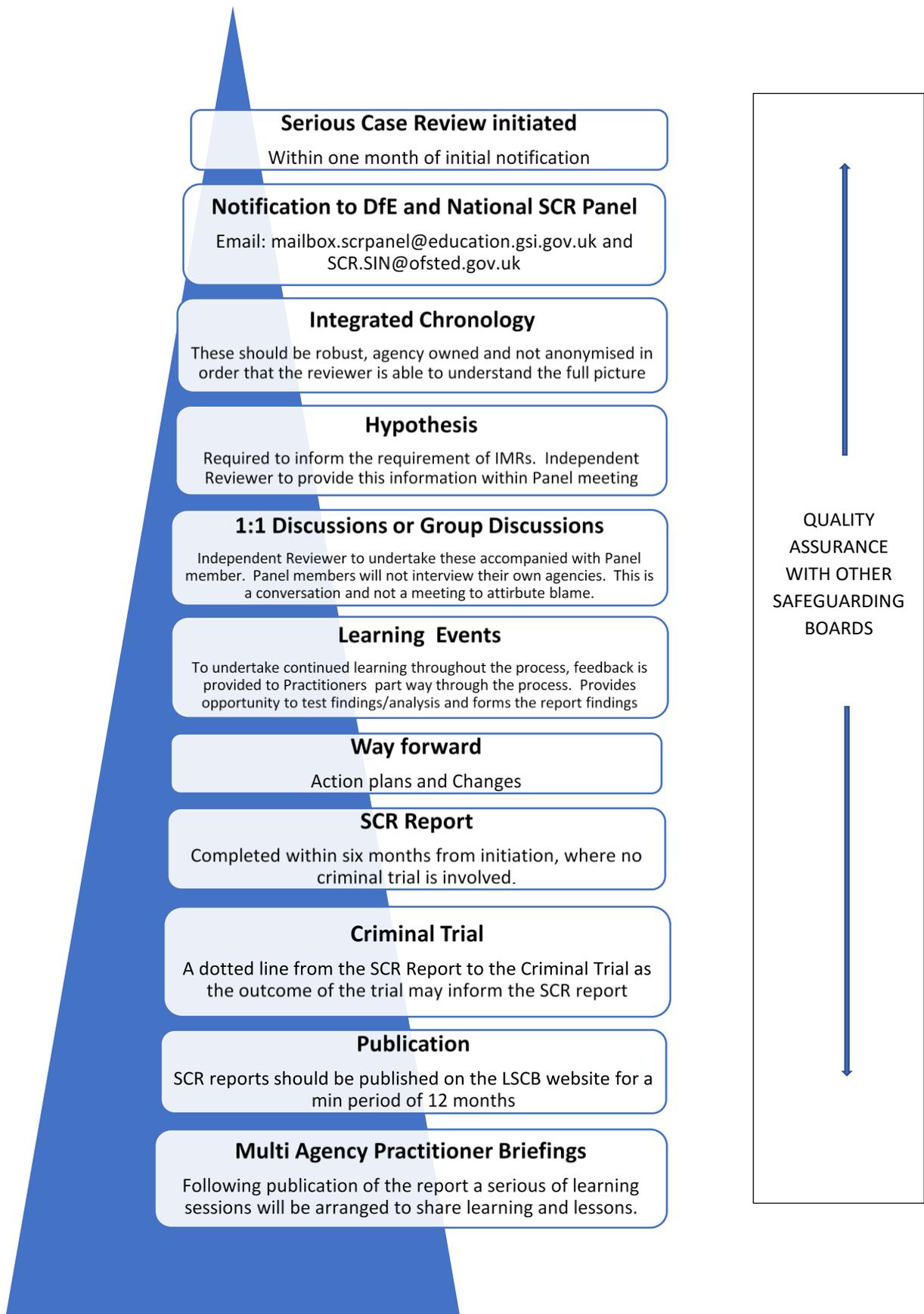
Information is gathered by conducting reviews, audits of single and multi-agency organisations, including relevant data and trends.

Following the review and/or audit, a report and action plan will be produced and presented to BDSCB Board, or specific committee (as deemed appropriate) for approval.

A programme of implementation will be produced with clear identification of actions and organisations responsible for implementation will be identified.

This will be monitored by the Performance, Learning and Quality Assurance Committee, on behalf of the BDSCB. This information will be disseminated to multi agency front line practitioners, via Practitioner Forum or other means as deemed appropriate.

Impact of the actions and implementation will be evidenced when information is gathered by conducting reviews, audits of single and multi-agency organisations, relevant data and trends.



APPENDIX B:

Protocol for Practice Learning Reviews (PLR)

- initiated where threshold for SCR has not been met

Background:

In order to initiate a full Serious Case review, the following criteria needs to be met, as directed by Working Together (2015):

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 includes the requirement for LSCBs to undertake reviews of serious cases in specified circumstances. Regulation 5(1) (e) and (2) set out an LSCB's function in relation to serious case reviews, namely:

- 5 (1) (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (e) a serious case is one where:
 - (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
 - (b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

If an SCR is not required because the criteria in regulation 5(2) are not met, the LSCB may still decide to commission a Practice Learning Review (PLR) or other review as deemed appropriate.

The final decision to conduct an SCR or PLR sits with the LSCB Chair. Should the Panel decide not to initiate a full SCR, their decision may be subject to scrutiny by the national panel. The LSCB should provide information to the panel on request to inform its deliberations and the LSCB Chair should be prepared to attend in person to give evidence to the panel

This protocol will focus on the Practice Learning Review (PLR) Process.

Practice Learning Review (PLR) process:

Stage	Activity
SCR consideration panel	Panel make recommendation to the LSCB Chair to undertake a Learning Review. Following agreement through the Strategic Partners the process begins.
Independent Review	Independent Reviewer will be commissioned to undertake review.
Multi Agency partners	Agencies identified. Authors for IMRs will be advised to panel.
Terms of Reference and Methodology	<p>Terms of Reference will be drafted and circulated to all members for agreement, by the Chair of the Panel</p> <p>Methodology will depend on the nature of the review. In line with Working Together 2015 Reviews should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of the issues being examined</p>
Meetings	Regular update meetings will be arranged by BDSCB Business Manager, as directed by the Chair.
Timescale	<p>To be agreed at initial review meeting and dependent on the complexity of the case.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the process will be completed within six months, from initial meeting in line with full SCR process.</p>