

Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board Communication Protocol 2016-17

Introduction

The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (BDSCB) is a key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children in the locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do (Chapter 3, Working Together 2015).

The work of BDSCB, as detailed within the Governance and Constitution arrangements, is part of the wider context of Children's Trust arrangements that aim to improve the overall wellbeing of all children in the local area.

The BDSCB Board has representation across both internal and external agencies:

- Health (MH services, Acute Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Police
- Fire Service
- Probation
- Schools
- CAFCASS
- Local Authority Adult Services
- Local Authority Children's Services
- Voluntary Sector
- Faith Sector
- Lay Members

Full information including Governance arrangements can be found at <http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk/about/pages/home.aspx>

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) states that all Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a statutory responsibility to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of services to safeguard children and young people in their

	respective Boroughs.
Aim	<p>To let Board partners and statutory agencies know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of BDSCB, along with Constitution and Governance arrangements;• The Business plan for the BDSCB;• The roles and responsibilities of Board members and statutory agencies;• How to contact the BDSCB and their respective Safeguarding Leads;• What Multi Agency training is available and how to access it;• The Multi Agency Policies and Procedures available;• Learning and Development from Serious Case Reviews, including any recommendations;• Local issues that affect the safety and well being of all children in the area. <p>To let Children and young people know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to keep safe;• What to do if they, or someone they know is being harmed;• What Safeguarding is and what it means to them;• How to access help if needed.• How to let us know about the issues that affect their safety <p>To let Parents and Carers know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to protect their children and other that they are responsible for;• How to provide safe parenting;• The role of the BDSCB;• What to do if they are worried about a child• Local action being taken to ensure children are kept safe• Who to contact to obtain more information around keeping children safe <p>To let Professionals know:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their responsibilities in relation to Safeguarding; • Updated Policies and procedures and signposting available; • Availability and accessibility of Multi Agency training programme; • Learning and Development opportunities being held • What to do if they are worried about a child
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>The overall objectives of the Communication plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness across all agencies on Safeguarding and Child Protection processes; • Raise awareness of BDSCB; • Raise awareness of BDSCB website as a first point of access for information; • Dissemination of Policy and Procedures for use; • Dissemination of Key Messages; • Inform of local action being taken to keep children safe • Ensure everyone knows what to do if they are worried about a child • Promote the work of the LSCB and the agencies within it • Communicate with local residents, including children, around what they feel affect their safety and how they can let us know. To communicate that we will listen to this and act to respond to local concerns
<p>Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDSCB website - http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk/. This site to be established as a first point of contact for information. Information will be updated on a regular basis. Evaluation of the site will occur annually. Online feedback form is available for additional comments. • BDSCB Facebook page – https://www.facebook.com/BarkingDagenhamLSCB/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel This is a newly launched site for wider communications links to Professionals and the Community. This site is maintained by LSCB Business Manager

- **BDSCB Twitter feed** - <https://twitter.com/BarkingLSCB> This is a newly launched page for communicating widely the safeguarding messages coming from the BDSCB. This also allows the opportunity to link with other LSCBs and share messages @BarkingLSCB. This site is maintained by LSCB Business Manager
- **LBBB Yammer** – This is an LBBB internal Social media account to share messages across the services
- **Council intranet and internet** – <http://www.lbbd.gov.uk>. These sites will link to the BDSCB website, as well as providing signposting to other services within the Council.
- **BDSCB Newsletter** – Newsletters from the BDSCB will be created to share topics of information discussed at Board level, and detail work being coordinated across the partnership. Ad hoc Newsletters will also be created in conjunction with National campaigns to raise further awareness. All Newsletters to be published on BDSCB website and shared via Social Media accounts.
- **Advertising** - to raise interest and awareness of the proposed activities, the events will be advertised using a number of methods including: BDSCB website, Facebook, Twitter, Council internet/intranet (e-bulletin and pop up messages). Marketing and Communications team will assist with this. Partner agencies will also be encouraged to promote the events to staff using their respective websites, publications, newsletters, meeting agendas etc
- **Media relations** – The corporate Marketing and Communication Team will assist in the drafting of press releases as required.
- **Meetings** – The BDSCB Board meets six times per year and is attended by senior members from partner agencies. There are currently seven committees of the Board attended by a range of senior management and operational staff across the sectors:
 - Performance, Learning and Quality Assurance Committee (PLQ) – Quarterly meeting
 - Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – Quarterly meeting
 - Young Peoples Safety Group (YPSG) – Termly meetings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious Case Review (SCR) – As Directed • Faith and Culture Committee (FCC) – Quarterly Meetings • Early Help Committee (EH) – Quarterly meetings • Child Sexual Exploitation Committee (CSE) – Quarterly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioner Forum - This forum is to assist communication across front line services across the multi agency partnership. To share messages, and raise awareness of issues across the partnership. • Staff briefings – these will be used to disseminate information to staff across the partnership. They are led by the Directors of Children Services and may take the form of focus groups or other forums to engage staff in debate. • BDSCB Annual Report – This will be produced on an annual basis and circulated to Board and wider partner agencies, as directed by Working Together 2015. This will also be added to the BDSCB website • Multi Agency Training Programme – A designed programme of training will be issued at the start of the financial year, subject to funding arrangements. This information will be available to access on the BDSCB website, including information on how to access courses. • Face to face visits – The Chair and Board members visit partner agencies and front line services to improve communications and knowledge of safeguarding processes • Local consultation events with parents, children and young people
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BDSCB is a Multi Agency Board, and is funded by Partner agencies; • In order to keep costs to a minimum, the BDSCB will provide as much of the information as possible electronically

<p>Tasks</p>	<p>Completed tasks for 2015-16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDSCB website has been improved and is continually updated. • BDSCB Annual Report completed and circulated in line with Working Together 2015. Report also on BDSCB site. • Multi Agency Training programme continues to improve outcomes for Children • In School Training continues, led by Safeguarding Lead for Education. • Practitioner Forum continues to disseminate learning and improve practice. • Continued induction for new Board members and Committee members, to ensure all are aware of their responsibilities. • Creation of BDSCB Newsletters which are disseminated wider on a seasonal basis, including ad hoc editions to coincide with National safety themed weeks and days. • Continue to engage with national consultations in respect of safeguarding children
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>The Communication protocol will be updated annually. It will also be evaluated through a number of means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSCB Training Evaluation forms • Attendance database for Training – including numbers and breakdown of agency attendance • Annual training needs analysis • Monitoring of BDSCB website and evaluation of consultation feedback • Audit inspections and Peer Reviews • Twitter and Facebook feeds