



Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Children in Southend

October 2012 to September 2013

Southend Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)



Contents	Page
Section 1 – Introduction	3
Section 2 – Summary of the Overall Effectiveness of Safeguarding	7
Section 3 – The Experience and Progress of Children Who Need Help and Protection	27
Section 4 – The Experience and Progress of Looked After Children	29
Section 5 – Leadership, Management and Governance	30
Section 6 – Learning and Improvement	32
Section 7 – LSCB Financial Report April 2012 to March 2013	36
Section 8 – LSCB Attendance	38

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

Background

Southend LSCB is required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area (Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Govt 2013). This report is submitted to the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board; Chief Executive and Leader of Southend Borough Council; the Local Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable; and the Southend Success For All Children Group, to inform the business planning and priorities of these strategic partners for the coming financial year 2014/15. To support this function the LSCB's reporting year runs from October to September.

Foreword from the LSCB Chair

I am very pleased to introduce this year's annual report for Southend on Sea LSCB. This has been a year of significant change at national level, with the introduction of a revised "Working Together", changes to the inspection of safeguarding, with LSCB's now to be inspected in their own right, as well as significant organisational change for many of the LSCB partners. In addition, the impact of budget reductions in the public sector, and other changes such those within the welfare system, all have consequences for the effective safeguarding of children and young people.

Thus it has been a year of challenge and change. Throughout the year this LSCB has worked hard to retain its focus on effective safeguarding, to implement its business plan, and to keep the continuity of the local "story" of safeguarding, so that, despite these changes, the partnership is clear about both the historical and the contemporary context of safeguarding, and works hard to ensure that threads are not lost, and new challenges identified and addressed.

The revised Working Together has introduced some new responsibilities, and is more prescriptive in some areas. For example LSCB's are to be expected to have greater scrutiny of Looked After Children than has generally been the case in the past. On the other hand there are some areas of greater discretion such as the methodology for Serious Case Reviews. In addition Working Together makes it clear that the Annual Report should constitute an assessment of "how well safeguarding is going" in a particular Local Authority. These are all opportunities for the LSCB to continuously review and improve its focus and its effectiveness.

Southend LSCB, with its well developed governance structure and its comprehensive and dynamic performance management structure, has been well placed to deliver this annual report to this new model, since this was an approach which the LSCB had already adopted. Although, as can be seen from the Annual Report, there are areas of development for the LSCB (as there always will be), I do believe that this report gives a comprehensive assessment of safeguarding in Southend, as well as clarity about the areas of priority for the future.

I would like to thank all the board members and the staff for their hard work this year in delivering the work of the LSCB. It is the culture of openness, mutual challenge, shared responsibility and commitment to continuously raising the bar for vulnerable children and young people which drives this work. Whilst we will never be complacent, I believe the annual report shows that good progress in achieving effective safeguarding continued to be made in a challenging year.

Christine Doorly

Foreword from the LSCB Youth Lay Member

The annual report shows how much progress Southend has made, improving upon key safeguarding areas, such as the quality of referrals, prevention and awareness of domestic abuse with the implementation of the Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team and the

progression of the Child Exploitation Strategy which aims to promote awareness of and prevent child sexual exploitation. Although progress is positive, the LSCB needs to ensure that progression is not slowed by failures in agencies working together, which is core to the LSCB's functioning.

Benjamin Bradley

Foreword from the LSCB Community Lay Member

It has been another challenging but effective year for the LSCB. Whilst there can never be complacency in the context of the continuing unravelling of the Saville offences and the tragic lurid stories in the press of let down children, Southend LSCB works tirelessly to reduce risk as the report demonstrates.

It's important to celebrate improvements as they equal better prospects of safe and fulfilling lives for local children. It can seem like some of those improvements are incremental; but I've learned that it is the painstaking and careful work by all the LSCB partners – health services, the police, teachers, social services, volunteers, probation professionals, fire services – that results in sustainable safety for children. This means some of it is not glamorous or eye catching (for example tracking and relentlessly ensuring that GP surgery staff or school governors receive safeguarding training). This rigour ensures that in these times of change, when for instance there are new NHS structures and senior people on the Local Safeguarding Board have moved on and others taken their places – systems still work; communication between partners still happens.

From a personal perspective, I have seen the development of a more robust approach to the safety aspects of private fostering and a revitalised agenda for tackling bullying whatever the causes. The broader responsibility by the LSCB for looked after children strikes a chord with public perception of when young people and their futures are most at risk.

When I first attended a Community Sub Group I heard an unforgettable presentation on road traffic accidents from the Fire service and how to save children's lives. Seeing the improvement on those figures shows how good practice works its way through.

It is a fabulous advantage to have a new Youth Lay member – someone closer in years to the issues for children - who is also conversant with safety matters and enthusiastic and energetic in his approach to the role. From the Lay Member Safeguarding network in the South East, I know Youth Members are a precious commodity.

It has been a privilege to be a Lay Member of the Southend LSCB since early in 2011. There is now an opportunity to communicate more about its work to the local community – and hear feedback, for example through greater involvement with SAVS (Southend Association of Volunteer Services).

Although I have now moved to Sussex I remain committed to assisting with the transition to the next Community Lay Member, who will no doubt be dedicated to taking this important and satisfying role forward.

Kim Freeman

SECTION 2 – SUMMARY OF THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Key Findings from 2012-13

Successes

- The LSCB's multi agency audits programme and performance information, evidences that early help to children and families is effective, with more children and families supported at an early stage, reducing the need for statutory child protection intervention
- LSCB partners have established systems, including surveys, complaints and direct feedback on their experiences, to ensure the effective participation of children and families in the development of services
- 90.91% of looked after children who responded to a survey said that feel safe where they are living
- A partnership approach to road safety awareness has seen a 20% reduction in the numbers of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions a reduction from ten in 2011/12 to eight in 2012/13
- Implementation of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock LSCBs Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy to identify children at risk; ensure partner agencies engage and support them effectively; and monitor the effectiveness of that support, in line with the requirements of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups

- 85% of partner agencies have in excess of 70% of their staff trained to an appropriate level in safeguarding children, enabling them to recognise safeguarding issues, communicate their concerns, and respond appropriately to the need of the child and family.

Findings and Progress on Identified Priorities from 2011/12 Annual Report

In June 2012 an announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children found that the effectiveness of safeguarding services overall was “good”, with “outstanding” judgements in capacity for improvement; children and young people are safe and feel safe; ambition and prioritisation; partnership working; and the economic well-being of looked after children and care leavers. The inspection found that partnership arrangements were a significant strength and central to the effectiveness of achieving improvements in safeguarding services.

The findings of the LSCB’s annual report for 2011/12 reflected those of the inspection, and identified policy priorities for 2012/13 in key areas for development. The identified priorities, and those of strategic partners, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, informed the key priorities of the LSCB’s Business Plan for 2012-13.

Progress against these priorities is summarised below:

All data is for the period October 2012 to September 2013 unless otherwise stated

	<p>Priorities for 2012/13</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>A</p>	<p>Develop and maintain a culture of effective communication between all stakeholders, including restructured services, to safeguard children, including the strategic interface between the LSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Board</p>	<p>The LSCB has secured and maintained its engagement with all stakeholders, including the Southend Clinical Commissioning Group and other new strategic health bodies.</p> <p>The LSCB chair has met the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) to discuss the LSCB's strategic priorities, including domestic abuse, which the PCC is now taking a strategic lead on.</p> <p>The LSCB's annual report is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, where the PCC will also be in attendance.</p> <p>There is an ongoing interface via the Success for all Children Group, with the LSCB Annual Report identifying, and holding the Group to account for the implementation of the safeguarding children priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan.</p>

B	<p>Reduce the impact of bullying on children and young people, including face to face, text or internet</p>	<p>Bullying is identified as a priority by children and young people in Southend.</p> <p>The anti bullying strategy has been refreshed and is being implemented by partner agencies to improve the identification and response to bullying.</p> <p>Cyber bullying, using social networking and other online mediums, has been identified as a growing issue for children and young people. A drama raising awareness of cyber bullying, its impact, and how to deal with it, was performed by South Essex College students to over 5000 Southend school pupils.</p> <p>A survey is to be undertaken with children and young people in 2014 to assess the impact of the anti bullying strategy and activity.</p>
C	<p>Reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young peoples' life chances, including through early intervention with young people</p>	<p>The LSCB holds the Southend Community Safety Partnership to account for the effectiveness of the local implementation of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Strategy, receiving</p>

<p>regular progress reports. The Domestic Abuse Strategy is currently being reviewed by a strategic board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner</p> <p>The LSCB recognizes the significant impact that domestic abuse has on children and young people’s safety, education and wellbeing, and believes a reduction in that impact can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ reducing incidences of domestic abuse, ➤ improving general service response to domestic abuse to support victims and deal effectively with perpetrators, and ➤ directing support to children affected to reduce the impact of domestic abuse they have witnessed or been involved in. <p>The LSCB recognises the significant activity of the Community Safety Partnership and partner agencies in tackling domestic abuse, and its impact on</p>	
---	--

children, in particular:

- A pilot domestic abuse awareness programme for secondary age pupils
- Improving the skills of the workforce to appropriately respond at an early stage to domestic violence
- A Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team has been established, initially with personnel from Essex Police co-located within Children's Social Care. The team enables an integrated approach to managing and sharing information in and between agencies, and removes systemic barriers to effective early interventions.
- Domestic abuse perpetrator work stream established by the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of the policing plan for Essex, with Southend focussed actions identified.

These initiatives will be used to identify areas which require additional resources, and will lead to an increase in commissioned services over the coming period

The LSCB has noted an increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents where children were resident or present, and the number of children witnessing those incidents (although this may be due to better recognition and reporting).

During the year 2012-13 there were 4186 reported domestic abuse incidents in Southend. 2782 incidents had children resident or present. 6921 children were resident or present at the time of the incident. 1243 children witnessed the incident.

This is an increase on the year 2011-12 when 3912 domestic abuse incidents were reported; 2456 incidents had children resident or present; 6219 children were resident or present at the time of the incident; and 1013 children witnessed the incident

D	<p>Continue to reduce the need for young people to be looked after, in particular through early intervention and preventative multi agency working</p>	<p>Research shows that where children are supported to remain with their families their life chances are better than for those children who are taken into residential or foster care by the local authority. Identifying early, and working with, children and families who need help reduces harm to children and the need for children to be looked after by the local authority in this way. There is a strong early help and intervention offer which is effective in supporting families and children to reduce need and risk. Consequently there has been a reduction in the number of children with a child protection plan.</p> <p>Through its learning and improvement framework, including scrutiny of performance information and multi agency audits the LSCB is assured that there is a good understanding of thresholds by practitioners, and children and families are supported appropriately to ensure the safeguarding of children.</p>
---	--	--

E	<p>Reduce the number of children killed or injured in road traffic collisions</p>	<p>Targeted road safety awareness activity by LSCB partners has resulted in a 20% reduction in the, thankfully low, numbers of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions (RTCs) over the year compared to 2012-13.</p> <p>Eight children were killed or seriously injured in RTCs over the year compared with 10 in the previous year. This continues a downward trend from previous years with 13 children KSI in the year 2011-12.</p>
F	<p>Ensure the LSCB and its partners facilitate the meaningful participation of children, families and the community and their contribution to service development</p>	<p>The LSCB Lay Members actively represent the views of the community to the LSCB and its sub groups, particularly in the areas of bullying and raising awareness of private fostering arrangements.</p> <p>LSCB members are developing systems to improve the participation of children and families, with evidence that this is starting to contribute to the development of services, for example in the child protection process. This is an area for ongoing</p>

	development by the LSCB and its partners.
G	<p>Reduce the impact of substance misuse on children and young people</p> <p>The 2013 Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment estimates that between 800-900 children in Southend have a parent undergoing treatment for substance misuse. A Care Programme Approach, for mental health assessment and care planning coordinated by a lead professional, is used to identify concerns for child welfare due to substance misuse of a parent and refer to children's social care.</p> <p>Additionally 79.2% of young people with identified substance misuse issues accessing treatment from the Young People's Drug & Alcohol Team (YPDAT) exit in a planned and agreed manner, having achieved the targets agreed in their care plan. Of these planned exits (76 people), 17% report reduced offending at exit and 7% report reduced levels of self-harm. These are higher than the national averages.</p>

H	<p>Implement an effective multi agency approach to safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation</p>	<p>The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (2013) identified that LSCBs needed to do more to develop local strategies to tackle CSE; identify children and young people at risk; ensure partner agencies engage and support those at risk effectively; and monitor the effectiveness of that support. The LSCB has worked with those of Essex and Thurrock to develop a strategy for tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE), with a local group responsible for ensuring the implementation of the strategy and monitoring of intelligence.</p> <p>Identification and training of 380 CSE Champions and Key Practitioners has been undertaken to date to enable practitioners to identify those at risk and respond appropriately to ensure children, young people and their families are supported and perpetrators disrupted and convicted.</p> <p>At the end of September 2013 there were 3 CSE cases being investigated in Southend by Essex</p>
---	--	---

<p>Police, with support from other LSCB partners to meet the identified needs of the victims. Learning from these cases will be identified and implemented by the LSCB to improve our understanding and approach to child sexual exploitation</p>	
<p>Children and young people in informal or private fostering arrangements, where they live with someone who is not from their immediate family, have been identified as being at particular risk of abuse. Such arrangements should be notified to the local authority in order that an assessment of the suitability of the arrangements can be made and support provided where required. There has been an increase in the number of private fostering arrangements from 4 last year to 7 in November 2013 Of these placements two were confirmed as private fostering arrangements; 4 Children became looked after; and one placement was with close family.</p> <p>NYAS has been engaged by the local authority to</p>	<p>Develop an understanding of the needs of children and young people in alternative family/accommodation arrangements</p>

provide advocacy for children in private fostering arrangements, to ensure their needs met.

For children looked after by the local authority in foster or residential placements 90.91% of those surveyed stated that they felt 'very safe' living in their home (78% nationally) and 94.74% said their care plan was being kept to (81% nationally)

Priority Areas Identified for Development 2014-15

Priority Areas Identified for Development	Action Required	Responsible Agency	Monitoring by LSCB
<p>Continue to improve the timeliness of completion and recording of assessments and the sharing of these with parents and children (<i>where appropriate</i>) before conferences to enable their effective participation</p>	<p>Closer monitoring of completion and recording of assessments by supervisors. Processes are developed to ensure assessments are shared with parents and children in advance of conferences</p>	<p>Success for all Children Group; LSCB; all partners</p>	<p>Via LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>
<p>Improve the quality and implementation of Child in Need Plans where children have been de-escalated from a child protection plan or have been identified as having complex needs which require a targeted multi agency response</p>	<p>Closer monitoring of completion and recording of plans by supervisors. Review of current processes to ensure the implementation and outcomes of child in need plans is monitored effectively</p>	<p>Success for all Children Group and partner agencies</p>	<p>Via LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>

<p>Improve the effectiveness of the functioning of core groups and child in need meetings in implementing Child Protection and Child in Need Plans</p>	<p>Guidance on functioning of core groups and child in need meetings to be reviewed and disseminated to ensure they are effectively developing and monitoring the implementation of child protection and child in need plans</p>	<p>Success for all Children Group and partner agencies</p>	<p>Via LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>
<p>Increase the number of private fostering arrangements identified where children and young people are living with people who are not close family members.</p>	<p>Targeted awareness raising activity with key professionals, voluntary organisations, and the community to increase notifications of private fostering arrangements Research indicates 9+ arrangements should be identified in Southend</p>	<p>Local Authority Private Fostering Lead; LSCB; and partner agencies</p>	<p>Quarterly performance reports to LSCB</p>
<p>Reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children</p>	<p>Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy by the Southend Domestic Abuse Forum (a sub group of the Community Safety Partnership) focussing on</p>	<p>Community Safety Partnership; Domestic Abuse Forum; all partners</p>	<p>Via LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>

<p>Implement the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Children Strategies</p>	<p>prevention, support for victims, and programmes for perpetrators</p>	<p>LSCB CSE and Missing Sub Group and all partners</p>	<p>Progress reports to LSCB and Southend, Essex and Thurrock Strategic CSE Panel.</p> <p>LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>
	<p>CSE Strategy action plan to be implemented and linked to missing children action plan.</p> <p>Essex Police to provide quantitative and qualitative information regarding CSE information reports, intelligence received and cases resolved.</p> <p>Local Authority to provide quantitative and qualitative information regarding CSE referrals to First Contact and Locality Panels and outcomes for children and Young people</p> <p>Awareness raising to be undertaken by LSCB with young</p>		

	<p>people and the community</p> <p>Continued roll out of training to professionals and volunteers</p>		
<p>Ensure the effective participation of children, families and practitioners to influence the development and delivery of safeguarding children services</p>	<p>Development of processes and tools to obtain feedback including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ direct input to LSCB e.g. through lay youth member, youth council and other relevant groups of young people) ➤ qualitative information to the LSCB via the Success for all Children Group or direct to the LSCB ➤ survey feedback from children services, practitioners and parents ➤ the LSCB ensuring that 	<p>LSCB, Success for all Children Group and all partners</p>	<p>Via LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>

<p>Encourage professional curiosity, enquiry and information sharing in line with recommendations from recent serious case reviews, including the Pelka case, which have identified that not enough questions are asked by professionals when they see something out of the ordinary. Professionals need to be encouraged to think the unthinkable and challenge each other whether further actions should be taken</p>	<p>children's views are heard across services as they are delivered within core groups, conferences Looked After Children reviews etc</p>		
<p>Learning from serious case reviews and research regarding the importance of professional curiosity, enquiry and information sharing to be disseminated to practitioners</p>	<p>Success for all Children Group; LSCB and all partners</p>	<p>Via LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>	

<p>Monitor potential risks to safeguarding children services as a result of structural changes to local, regional and national agencies and strategic bodies, particularly within the NHS</p>	<p>LSCB to continue to secure full representation and be updated on changes which are pending and their impact, with written briefings.</p>	<p>LSCB</p>	<p>Partner agency reports to LSCB Executive</p>
<p>Monitor the development and implementation of the early help offer</p>	<p>LSCB to ensure that thresholds are defined and are understood by partner agencies and practitioners. Success for all Children Group to ensure early help services are provided to meet identified needs</p>	<p>LSCB, Success For All Children Group</p>	<p>Via LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework</p>
<p>Monitor the effectiveness of services to safeguard looked after children and young people leaving care</p>	<p>LSCB to scrutinize the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Group in ensuring looked after children and those leaving care are safeguarded effectively to improve their life</p>	<p>LSCB, Corporate Parenting Group</p>	<p>Twice annual reports from Corporate Parenting Group to LSCB.</p>

	<p>chances</p> <p>LSCB Annual Report and identified priorities to be considered by Corporate Parenting Group in its strategic planning cycle</p>		
--	--	--	--

DRAFT

SECTION 3 – THE EXPERIENCE AND PROGRESS OF CHILDREN WHO NEED HELP AND PROTECTION

The Integrated Staged Approach to Intervention

Southend has a well established integrated staged approach to intervention from universal (stage 1) to acute (stage 4) services. During the year April 2012 to March 2013 there were 678 CAFs completed, with the majority of children (64.16%) supported at stage 2 (vulnerable). 16.6% of cases at the acute (stage 4), complex (stage 3) and vulnerable (stage 2) decreased in the level of support required. There was also an 18.6% increase in the number of cases supported at the universal stage compared to 7.81% in the previous year. The LSCB's multi agency audit programme and performance management framework has evidenced that children are being supported, thresholds are being applied appropriately, particularly at stages 2-4, and assessments are generally of a good quality; although the timeliness of assessments and quality of Child in Need Plans requires further development.

Children in Need of Protection

The number of children with a child protection plan continues to decrease, against the national trend. The LSCB has assured itself, through its learning and improvement framework, including its multi agency audit programme, that thresholds for protection of children are appropriately applied and that children and their families are being supported to keep children safe.

The quality of assessments and child protection plans overall is good, although the timeliness of the completion of assessments and sharing them with parents and children (where appropriate) is variable, and is being addressed by LSCB partners. The effective functioning of core groups continues to require further development.

The LSCB has established a Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children Sub Group to support the local implementation of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy developed by Southend, Essex and Thurrock LSCBs. The Southend implementation action plan is on track, with training of CSE Champions and key practitioners due to be completed by the end of 2013, with roll out to the wider workforce, and awareness raising campaigns with young people and the community, planned for early 2014.

Data analysis undertaken in March 2013 shows pupils who have been affected by domestic abuse do not attain the same level of attainment as their peer group across all stages of their academic life.

SECTION 4 – THE EXPERIENCE AND PROGRESS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The Corporate Parenting Group monitors the experience and progress of looked after children in Southend at a strategic level. The LSCB receives an annual report from the Corporate Parenting Group regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding of looked after children. The Corporate Parenting Group reports that, from a survey of looked after children, performance is above the national average in the following areas:

- 90.91% report feeling safe where they live compared to 78% nationally
- 82.61% know what is in their care plan and 94.74% feel it is being kept to, compared to 72% and 81% nationally
- 83.87% feel they are doing well or very well at school or college compared to 78% nationally

Performance is below the national average and/or requires further development in the following areas:

- 60.6% of looked after children surveyed reported moving placements with less than a week's notice (42% nationally), with only 48.48% feeling they were given enough information about their new carers (58% nationally).
- Only 21.21% report that they were always able to talk privately to their social worker and independent reviewing officer, compared to 39% nationally
- 56% know who their designated teacher is, compared to 67% nationally

SECTION 5 – LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The LSCB has continued to develop its governance arrangements. The LSCB chair will undergo an annual 360 degree appraisal using the local authority's corporate management team scheme, carried out under the direction of the chief executive of the council in order to ensure the chair's effectiveness is monitored and that professional development of the chair takes place. The LSCB chair has been in post since 2006, and brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding to the role, in addition to a strategic lead locally and regionally.

There is a continuing dialogue and commitment to ensuring that safeguarding of children in Southend continues to improve. The Chair of the LSCB meets with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council annually to present the LSCB's Annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in Southend. The LSCB's annual report is also considered by the Council's Cabinet.

A well established, and nationally recognised, Scrutiny Panel of elected council members and non executive members of partner agency boards scrutinizes the work of the LSCB on a quarterly basis.

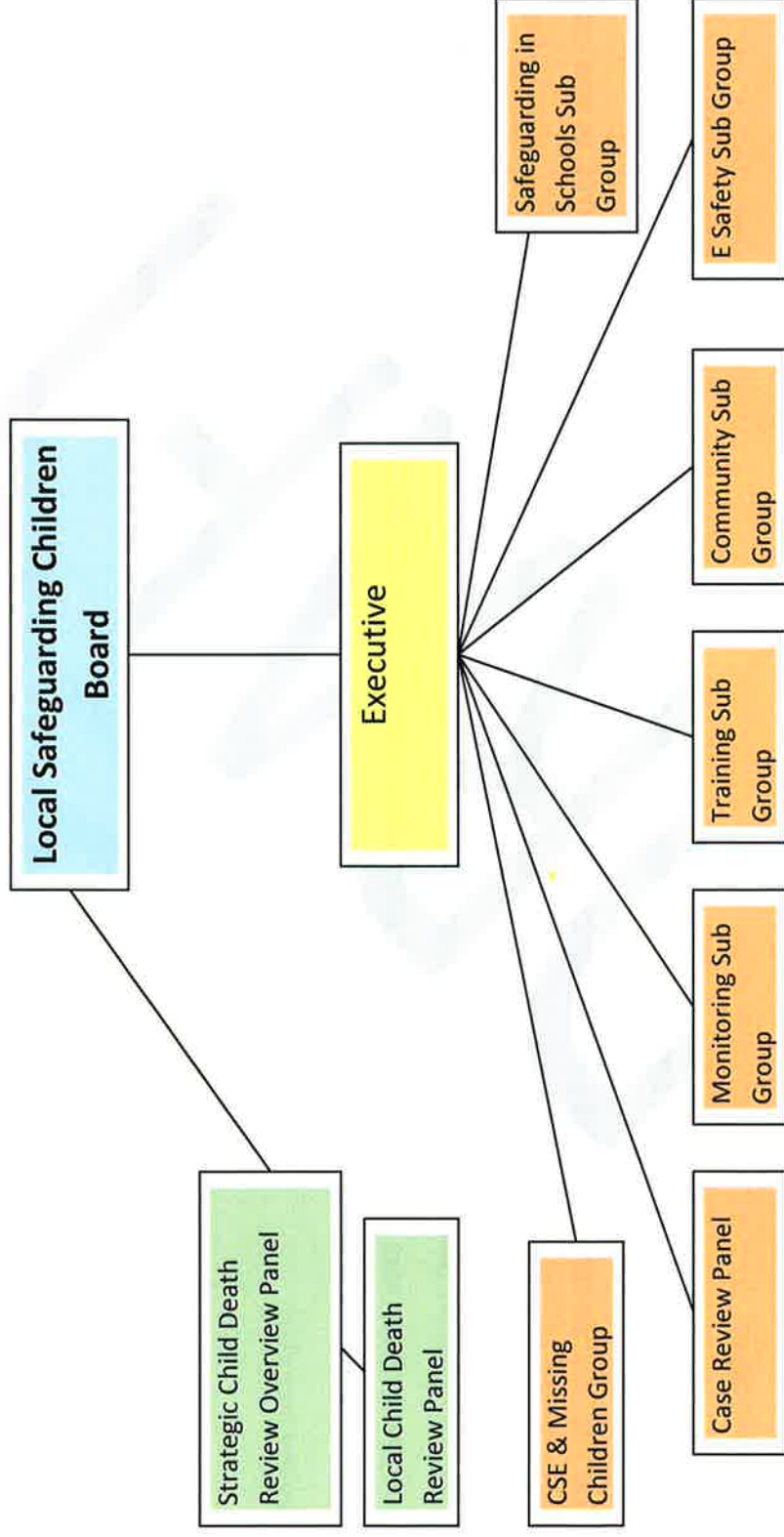
2012/13 has seen significant restructuring within a number of partner agencies, and changes in senior management, particularly within Southend Borough Council Children's Services and health services. The LSCB is monitoring the transitional arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding children services is not negatively impacted.

The LSCB has continued to develop its links with strategic bodies. Its interface with the Health and Wellbeing Board is facilitated through the Success for all Children Group, in addition to the LSCB Annual Report being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, with the Police and Crime Commissioner in attendance, to help inform strategic planning.

The LSCB has established strong links with Southend Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and will continue to develop these to strengthen the strategic approach within health services to safeguarding children.

The LSCB continues to develop its links with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board, including integrating the training activities of both Boards and business management support.

The structure of the LSCB is detailed in the following diagram:



SECTION 6 – LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

As detailed in 'Working together to safeguard children' (2013) the LSCB has developed a Learning and Improvement Framework to enable organisations to be clear about their responsibilities; to learn from experience; and improve services as a result.

Case Reviews

The LSCB has not undertaken any statutory serious case reviews in the period.

The implementation of the Baby Kathy Serious Case Review recommendations, published in 2011, is now complete. Evidence of the impact of the implementation of all recommendations from the case is being audited by partner agency internal audit teams.

The LSCB commissioned and completed one alternative review during the period regarding a baby which died of natural causes, but where there was previous involvement with safeguarding services. This case did not meet the criteria for undertaking a serious case review, however, the LSCB felt there would be useful learning from undertaking a review of the case. Learning from this review included:

- The use of professional meetings to develop an agreed strategy for work with the family to progress
- GP contracts could be used to monitor the engagement and training of GP Practices generally in respect of their responsibilities in safeguarding children
- Existing protocols need to be reviewed with regards to sharing of information by and with Housing Services
- Core Groups should incorporate the following principles:
 - *Social workers are supported and trained in the skills necessary to effectively chair meetings.*
 - *Social workers should not be expected to Chair and Minute meetings.*

- *A standard agenda is followed*
- *Terms of reference for core groups should be developed and revisited at the start of each core group meeting*
- *Suitable venues are essential, with parents able to participate without the interruptions of caring for their children*
- Agendas for Case Conferences need to facilitate discussions that promote the shared understanding that moving from Child Protection Plan to Child In Need Plan is not an indicator of de-escalation of support, and facilitate the voicing of any professional concerns.
- Encouraging professional curiosity and enquiry - the need for professionals to proactively enquire why something is happening.

Child Death Reviews

The Child Death Review function is undertaken in partnership with the LSCBs of Essex and Thurrock.

28% of the deaths reviewed across Southend, Essex and Thurrock were found to have 'modifiable factors' which may have contributed to the death of the child and which, by means of locally or national achievable intervention could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths. This is higher than the national average of 20% for the year 2011-2012.

Strategic learning across the Southend, Essex and Thurrock areas from child death reviews for the period April 2013 to March 2013 includes:

- Maternal smoking in pregnancy
- Parental smoking in the household
- Domestic violence

- Late attendance at hospital
- Identification and booking of high risk pregnancies; and
- Parents' refusal of caesarean section
- Maternal nutrition and vitamin D deficiency
- Road conditions
- Lack of parental supervision
- Factors in the family and environment such as housing issues.
- Consanguinity (children born of blood relations)

The LSCB is undertaking work to address the modifiable factors identified where appropriate. The LSCB has undertaken a targeted campaign with new parents to raise awareness of the importance of safe sleeping arrangements for babies. During the period there were no reviews completed which identified co sleeping or inappropriate sleeping surface as modifiable factors in deaths of babies from the Southend area.

Multi Agency Audits

The LSCB has undertaken multi agency audits of the stages of the journey of the child through the safeguarding process, and identified learning in the following areas of safeguarding children practice:

- **Referrals** – are generally of good quality. Response to referrers by Children's Social Care regarding outcome of the referral is inconsistent and will be monitored by the LSCB

- **Domestic Abuse Referrals and Notifications** – The quality of the information provided has significantly improved. Delays were evident in the receipt of domestic abuse notifications by Children's Services from Essex Police, however performance is expected to improve due to the development of a Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team, and will be monitored by the LSCB
- **Assessments** – Assessments are generally of a good quality. Their quality will be further benefited by the use of theoretic frameworks in analysis. The timeliness of assessments is inconsistent, and they are not always shared with parents/carers and children (*if appropriate*) in advance of conferences. Partners are working to address these issues and progress will be monitored by the LSCB
- **Plans** – Plans identify risk appropriately and there is evidence that they are progressed by Core Groups/Child in Need meetings. The functioning of Core Groups and Child in Need meetings requires further development

School Governing Body Safeguarding Monitoring

A well embedded annual process of safeguarding monitoring visits by all school governing bodies assures the LSCB that children are safeguarded appropriately.

SECTION 7 – LSCB FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2012 to MARCH 2013

The LSCB is financed by contributions from statutory partners using the following formula:

Agency	Budget %age Contribution	Actual Contributions in 2012/13
Southend Borough Council	49.5%	£38847.60
Essex Police	16.5%	£12949.20
CCG/Local Commissioning Board	26.0%	£20404.80
Probation	7.2%	£5650.56
CAFCASS (+ reserves)	0.7%	£550.00
	0.1%	/£77.84
Total	100%	£78480

The LSCB also received £10000 from the Southend Schools Forum, and additional income from consultancy fees, the LSCB Training Programme, grants, and carried over funds.

Total income for April 2012- March 2013 was £96621

Total expenditure for April 2012- March 2013 was £97256

Expenditure consisted of:

- Employee Costs = £68492
(*Business Manager & Administrator*)
- Other Supplies and Services = £28764
(*inc. LSCB chair remuneration and case review chair and author*)

Total carried forward to 2013-14 is £38000

SECTION 8 – LSCB ATTENDANCE

Representative	Percentage Attendance
Christine Doorly -Independent Chair	100%
Sue Cook/ Simon Leftly - Vice Chair, SBC Director for People	100%
Robin Brennan/Alex Bamber – Essex Probation	75%
Andy Brogan/Theresa Smith - South Essex Partnership Trust	100%
Jane Belcher – South Essex College (from February 2013 onwards)	75%
Benjamin Bradley – Youth Lay Member (from May 2013 onwards)	100%
Linda Dowse, Southend CCG	100%
Carol Cranfield – SBC Department for People, Adult Services	25%
Heather Flinders - SBC Department for People	100%
Kim Freeman - Community Lay Member	75%
Margaret Gray – Public Health (from January 2013 onwards)	75%
Sue Hadley – Department for People (from July 2013 onwards)	100%
Melanie Hall – Special Schools	25%

Representative	Percentage Attendance
Jim Johnson – Primary Schools	75%
S Tompkins/Gareth Davies – Independent Schools	75%
Mark Schofield – Secondary Heads	75%
Hussein Khatib, Safeguarding Children Clinical Network	100%
DCI Lesley Ford – Essex Police, CAI Team	100%
Alison Semmence - Voluntary Sector	75%
Sue Williams - Department for People	100%
Dr A Shrivastava – Designated Doctor	75%
Gina Quantrill - Southend Hospital Trust	25%
Southend Police	25%
P Hill - Essex Fire & Rescue Service	25%
Councillor Courtenay, Lead Member	75%
Ambulance Trust	50%
H Hamilton – CAF/CASS	33%
Vicky Hurling from February 2013 onwards	

Representative	Percentage Attendance
Dorothy Simon – LSCB Legal Advisor	75%
NHS England, Essex Area Team (Pol Toner from July 2013 onwards)	25%