

Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board Communication Protocol 2011 - 2013

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 2010).

The work of BDSCB, as detailed within the Constitution and Governance arrangements 2010, 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 in accordance with the Every Child Matters Outcomes:

- Being healthy;
- Staying safe;
- Enjoying and achieving;
- Making a positive contribution; and
- Achieving economic wellbeing.

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

- Health
- Police
- Probation
- Schools
- CAFCASS
- Adult Social Care & Mental Health
- Children's Services
- Voluntary Sector
- Faith Sector
- Connexions

	<p>Full information including Governance arrangements can be found at www.bardag-lscb.co.uk</p> <p>Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010) 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.</p>
<p>Aim</p>	<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 roles and responsibilities of Board members and statutory agencies; • How to contact BDSCB; • The available Multi Agency training programme and how to access; • The Multi Agency Policies and Procedures available; • Recommendations from Serious Case Reviews; • 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 to Safeguarding; • Updated Policies and procedures available; • Availability and accessibility of Multi Agency training programme; • Events and conferences being held • What to do if they are worried about a child
Objectives	<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 BDSSCB website as a first point of call 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 take listen to this and act to respond to local concerns
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDSCB website - http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk/. This new site to be established as a first point of call for information. Information will be updated on a regular basis. • Corporate Facebook page – http://www.facebook.com/barkinganddagenham. Newly launched site for wider communications to link with BDSCB. This site is maintained by Marketing and Communications team. • 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.

- **Posters** – “Safeguarding Children” leaflets already created to be distributed. Training posters already created to be distributed annually
- **Advertising** - to raise interest and awareness of the proposed activities, the events will be advertised using a number of methods including: 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 six sub committees of the Board attended by a range of senior management and operational staff across the sectors:
 - Policy, Procedures and Communications (PPC) – 6 weekly meetings
 - Serious Case Review (SCR) – Quarterly meeting
 - Performance Management Committee (PMC) – Quarterly meeting
 - Professional Development Committee (PDC) – 6 weekly meetings
 - Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – Bi-annually
 - Young Peoples Safety Group (YPSG) – Quarterly.
- **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.
- **Annual Report** – This will be produced on an annual basis and circulated to Board and partner agencies. This will also be added to the BDSCB website
- **Annual Safeguarding Conference** – A one day Multi Agency conference covering Key Themes, enabling wider dissemination of information across sectors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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
Tasks	<p>Completed tasks for 2010-11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Safeguarding Conference – Themed on Olympics; Sexual Exploitation; Child trafficking and Gangs • Serious Case Review Briefings – Dissemination of learning from recent Baby M SCR findings • Fully attended Multi Agency Training Programme for 2010-11 • Annual Report 2009-10 completed and circulated • Full training issued to Schools –Whole school statutory Child Protection and Safeguarding training. • Full Induction programme of new Board and Committee members • Redesign of BDSCB website • Completion/Update of policies (Children not collected from Schools; 12month+ Panel; FGM Strategy) <p>Tasks for completion in 2011-13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDSCB new design website to be implemented • Corporate official ‘Facebook’ page launched • Annual Reports to be completed and circulated • Annual Multi Agency Training Programme – subject to budget • Continued Induction of members to the Board and Sub Committees • Continued training for Schools led by Safeguarding Lead for Education • Local consultation events

Evaluation	<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">• Conference and Training Evaluation forms• Attendance database for Conference and Training – including numbers and breakdown of agency attendance• Annual training needs analysis• Monitoring of BDSCB website• Audit inspections and Peer Reviews
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