



## **Blackburn with Darwen Local Safeguarding Children Board**

### **Key Messages – 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2010**

#### **Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Team (DAMAT)**

The Board received an update on the work of the DAMAT. Those involved from the police, Children's Social Care, NHS and voluntary sector now meet less frequently than was the case when the team was established as a consequence of improved data sharing systems. However, the team do still meet regularly to focus on particular families and ensure the smooth running of the process. The Board approved the slight change in the working arrangements of DAMAT but will receive a further update on its work at the January, 2011 meeting.

#### **Disputes Resolution Process**

The Board agreed to adopt the Disputes Resolution Procedure which can now be found with the other LSCB Policies and Procedures on the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council website. This makes clear the actions required within Blackburn with Darwen where there is a professional disagreement in relation to a safeguarding issue/concern. There is a three stage process to follow – where a disagreement escalates to stage 3 (where the more senior officers become involved), the Safeguarding Unit is advised in order to monitor activity and to identify issues that could potentially benefit from LSCB Quality Assurance activity.

#### **Annual Report & 2010-11 Priorities**

The Board were presented with and discussed the initial draft of the 2009-10 Annual Report and a list of priority areas of work for the LSCB and Children's Trust for 2010-11. Members were asked to feedback comments, amendments and suggestions by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

#### **Amendments to Child Protection Process**

The Board accepted proposals to change the process of how children subject to protection plans (and also are looked after by the local authority) can be deregistered from the children subject to protection plans process. The agreed changes now reflect the expected practice in new statutory guidance. The Board were informed of the likely improvement for children and the

efficiencies for services these changes will create. The changes are expected to be in place within a month and LSCB policies and procedures will be amended to reflect the changes.

### **Safe Workforce**

A very detailed self evaluation checklist in relation to safer working practices has been produced by the LSCB's Safe Workforce Committee. This checklist will enable agencies to identify their strengths and weaknesses in relation to safe recruitment and allegations management issues. The Board agreed that safe working practice will be the focus of an LSCB audit which will take place in the autumn/winter.

### **Safeguarding Priorities/Performance**

The Board focused on the multi agency data set which identified a number of challenges as a consequence of the increase in workloads across the multi agency partnership. Additionally, increasing demands will be placed on safeguarding services as a result of the very difficult public sector financial position. This will be a challenging time for all Board agencies as it will require difficult decisions in relation to safeguarding priorities to be made and necessitate the identification of new and innovative ways of delivering safeguarding services across the borough. These challenges will continue to be discussed by the LSCB at future meetings. The Munro Review that the Government has initiated is calling for ideas on innovative practice that can also help in reducing costs.

### **Documents discussed and approved by the Board include:**

- Disputes Resolution Procedure
- Role of LSCB Chair