

REPORT TO:	Reading Health and Wellbeing Board		
REPORT FROM:	Fran Gosling Thomas, Independent Chair Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)		
DATE:	24 th March 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Boards - Data and Information Sharing Agreement for Agencies Working with Children and Young People		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report from Reading LSCB was submitted to the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2015 following a joint letter from Government Ministers to all Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, LSCBs and Health and Wellbeing Boards. The letter followed the publication of the Government response to the child sexual exploitation cases in Rotherham and stated that a key factor in keeping children safe is the effective sharing of information.
- 1.2 This letter was discussed at the Reading LSCB in March 2015, with actions agreed to review the existing Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) and produce a revised document.
- 1.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board requested an update report when the ISA had been finalised.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the attached Information Sharing Agreement. No action required - the report is for information only.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 A Task and Finish Group of the LSCB was initiated to review the existing Information Sharing Protocol and Agreement. The group included members from Reading LSCB, Reading Borough Council Legal Services, and was chaired by the Board member from the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust who has championed this work throughout the process. This group reviewed the existing document against the pan Berkshire Online Child Protection Procedures and Government guidance.
- 3.2 In the course of this review, it was identified that Bracknell LSCB had updated the original Berkshire shared ISA and had signed this off locally. Reading LSCB agreed that it would be more beneficial to approach this as a pan Berkshire document, and therefore, although it meant the process would take longer, a revised document that could be accepted across all six LSCBs was drafted.

- 3.3 The Information Sharing Task and Finish Group reviewed the Bracknell ISA and the key changes made include:
- Addition of the Health & Social Care Act 2012
 - Updated Caldicott Principles Annex 2 to reflect the 2013 review
 - Addition of a link to NHS national data information sharing protocol/agreement that is current - Annex 4
 - Extended the list of occasions that Berkshire organisations may need to share data/information (not child specific) using the NHS protocol/agreement
- 3.4 In the course of this review, reminders regarding the eight golden rules for information sharing were re-circulated to all Board partners. In addition a local Information Sharing Protocol was produced, agreed and disseminated by Reading LSCB in May 2016. This local document is useful for staff to understand information sharing requirements and is separate from the higher level strategic ISA.
- 3.5 All six Berkshire LSCBs, and therefore the partners that make up each Board, have now signed off the attached Information Sharing Agreement.
- 3.6 The Information Sharing Agreement will be included in the next upload to the online Child Protection Procedures which will go live in July 2017. The document will support the information already contained within the online procedures.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 4.1 This work meets the following Corporate Plan priorities:
1. Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable;
 2. Providing the best start in life through education, early help and healthy living;

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out for this report however, equality and diversity continues to be a key theme for the LSCB.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A protocol, signed up to by all partner agencies, must be in place to allow effective and appropriate sharing of information and data for the protection of children and young people.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Boards - Data and Information Sharing Agreement for Agencies Working with Children and Young People