

Meeting of BNSSG CCG Governing Body Meeting

Date: Tuesday 2nd October 2018

Time: 1.30pm

Location: The Vassal centre, Gill Avenue, Downend, BS16 2QQ

Agenda number: 7.2

Report title: Update on Serious Case Review action plans.

Report Author: Jacalyn Mathers

Report Sponsor: Anne Morris

1. Purpose

To provide Governing Body with an update on the approval process for Serious Case Review (SCR) action plans and planned approach to the review of the quality of the action plans.

2. Recommendations

The Governing Body is asked to note this report and agree that the quality committee will continue to receive a quarterly report on the action from the local serious case reviews across BNSSG. The Governing Body will be notified of any exceptions or difficulties in achieving the action plans within agreed time scales.

3. Executive Summary

A report has been presented to the quality committee in response to concerns raised about the Bristol serious case review action plans. There are eight completed serious case reviews across BNSSG and one which is on-going. There have been four requests for cases to be reviewed across BNSSG.

4. Financial resource implications

There are currently no financial risks related to serious case reviews across BNSSG CCG.

5. Legal implications

There are currently no financial risks related to serious case reviews across BNSSG CCG.

6. Risk implications

The full serious case review action plan are not public documents and are monitored by the quality committee and the LSCB serious case review sub groups. The Governing body will be notified of any outstanding actions for health services commissioned by the CCG. The CCG executive lead for safeguarding will have final oversight of the full LSCB action plans through the main board meetings and the executive groups of the LSCB.

7. Implications for health inequalities

There are health inequalities considered in every serious case review. The need for new services and provisions are addressed by each case. The BNSSG safeguarding governance group monitor these actions and ensure there is effective communication with the commissioners of the services or the transformation teams as appropriate.

8. Implications for equalities (Black and Other Minority Ethnic/Disability/Age Issues)

Inequalities are reflected by the numbers of children identified with safeguarding needs across Bristol, with pockets of deprivation through the city. The development of BNSSG Safeguarding Policy identifies the need to reduce inequalities through assessments of vulnerable children and adults at risk of harm or abuse.

9. Implications for Public Involvement

The child (if appropriate) and the families of children involved in serious case reviews are always sought and they inform the learning and recommendations.

Agenda item: 7.2

Report title: Serious Case Review

1. Background

The Safeguarding Children's Quarter 3 and 4 report presented to the Quality Committee in August 2018 included the Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) Serious Case Review (SCR) action plans. There were concerns raised about the quality of the action plans and the Red Amber Green (RAG) scoring used. These concerns had also been expressed at the July Governing Body meeting.

The Head of Safeguarding Children attended the BSCB SCR Sub Group on 12 September and discussed the concerns raised and opportunities for improvement.

2. Key points

The use of RAG scores on BSCB SCR action plans

- The Chair of the BSCB Sub Group explained the RAG rating has been in place for several years with no concerns previously raised. They do not feel able to make changes to the current scoring halfway through a reporting period.
- They have agreed to make changes to start in April 2019 when agreed by all partners, these include:
 - A Blue Red Amber Green (BRAG) score to highlight when actions have not started
 - To improve the update sections on the action plans
 - To indicate a start and end date and reasons why a date may be changed

Draft being left on SCR action plans

- All SCR are written under the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) methodology. This means that SCR reports do not have recommendations but 'Findings for the Board'. A draft action plan is shared with the BSCB members when the SCR is presented to the main board. The BSCB Business Unit indicated they have not had any requests to review or amend the actions in previous SCR's but they welcome that level of engagement in future.
- The document which still had draft on was due to an administrative error and this has now been rectified.

Final sign off and review

- It has previously been agreed by BSCB board members that the SCR action plans are not shared with the main board but are reviewed by the executive group, with exception reporting to the main board. This is a historic agreement of the BSCB.
- A request has been made to have SCR action plans as an agenda item at the next board meeting on 31st October so there is an agreement across the whole board on the quality and monitoring of these action plans.
- The executive lead will also raise this with the core partners at their quarterly executive partner meetings.

Concerns that there were gaps in the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)/ SCR action plan

- Draft has been removed and the Head of Children's Safeguarding (Designated Nurse) has asked for a change to the name from the working title for the review to the name on the published report.
- As a DHR as well as a SCR it has to be written in a different format to SCR's. DHRs must have recommendations and action plans submitted to the home office for final ratification. The draft action plan was presented to both the BSCB and the Community Partnership and signed off in principle by both boards.

Update on the 'Becky' SCR

- This SCR action plan is reviewed quarterly by the Bristol Safeguarding Children's Boards Serious Case Review Sub Group. Any outstanding actions or exceptions for health will be reported to the BNSSG CCG Safeguarding Governance group and the quarterly Quality Committee.
- The update on this action plan highlights that it is 82% complete, all the health actions are complete and the outstanding areas are being reviewed with the lead agencies or sub groups.

The number of serious case reviews across BNSSG CCG

- Bristol Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has six action plans from the Bristol serious case reviews. The health sub group monitor the health actions and report back to the serious case review sub group and the executive chairs meetings.
 - There have been two requests for a rapid review. This is the new process for access if a case meets the threshold for a national or local SCR. This is part of the new statutory guidance on working together to safeguard children 2018. Bristol has had two rapid reviews. The decision in both cases was not to undertake a serious case review. The national panel have reviewed one of the

cases and agreed with the decision and they are currently reviewing the second case.

- North Somerset LSCB has two serious case reviews. Both have been completed and the main LSCB is waiting to sign off both action plans.
 - There has been one request for a review of a case the collection of a combined chronology has happened but the full rapid review is still yet to be completed.
- South Gloucestershire has one serious case review which is just starting. The case has been suspended while criminal investigations are on-going.
 - There has been one request for a rapid review, this case did not meet the threshold for a full serious case review.

Quality of Action Plans

- The Chair of the SCR sub group acknowledged that issues had been escalated where actions had not been taken or lead professionals identified. This information has not always been documented in the action plans eg the lack of timescales and leads for some of the actions in the recent SCR/DHR. The BSCB have agreed to improve the information shared in the action plans.
- A request has been made to have start and end dates so that actions can be tracked.
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 has revised the SCR process. Any request for SCR in the future will need to have a 'Rapid Review' which includes a chronology from all agencies. From the date of notification to a final report being sent to the national SCR Panel is 15 working days. These reports will include a summary action plan of learning and the agreed outcome, eg to undertake a SCR or request a national review. The Chair of the SCR sub group has agreed the draft action plan for any new SCR will be considered throughout the SCR process and the full BSCB will be asked to sign off the action plan when they receive the final SCR report for ratification.

3. Financial resource implications

There are currently no financial risks related to serious case reviews across BNSSG CCG.

4. Legal implications

There are currently no legal implications from any of the serious case reviews across BNSSG>

5. Risk implications

The full serious case review action plans are not public documents and are monitored by the Quality Committee and the LSCB serious case review sub groups. The Governing Body will be notified of any outstanding actions. The CCG executive lead for safeguarding will have final oversight of the full LSCB action plans through the main board meetings and the executive groups of the LSCB.

6. Implications for health inequalities

Health inequalities are considered in every serious case review. The need for new services and provisions are addressed by each case. The BNSSG Safeguarding Governance group and Quality

Committee monitor these actions and ensure there is effective communication with the commissioners of the services or the transformation teams as appropriate.

7. Implications for equalities (Black and Other Minority Ethnic/Disability/Age Issues)

Inequalities are reflected by the numbers of children identified with safeguarding needs across Bristol, with pockets of deprivation through the city. The development of BNSSG Safeguarding Policy identifies the need to reduce inequalities through assessments of vulnerable children and adults at risk of harm or abuse.

8. Consultation and Communication including Public Involvement

The child (if appropriate) and the families of children involved in serious case reviews are always sought and they inform the learning and recommendations

9. Recommendations

The concerns raised have been presented to the BSCB SCR Sub group on the 12th September. This paper provides their responses to the concerns raised. The Governing Body is asked to review their responses and indicate if there are any outstanding concerns to be escalated to the BSCB.

Report Author: Jacalyn Mathers

Report Sponsor: Anne Morris

Appendices

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Please explain all initials, technical terms and abbreviations. .

BNSSG	Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
CCG	The Clinical Commissioning Group
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board- this is currently a statutory requirement for each LA to have a LSCB which is supported by the key and core partners involved in safeguarding children.
SCIE	Social Care Institute for Excellence – a validated method for undertaking Serious case review
SCR	Serious Case Review. There is a mandatory duty to undertake a SCR when a child (0-18 years) dies and abuse and neglect are suspected.
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review. These are completed when the victim is over 16 and therefore a child's death may need 2 types of reviews, they are managed using different criteria and the overseen by different government departments DHR- Home office/ SCR- Department of Education
RAG	Red Amber Green As used by the Bristol LSCB the Red score is used for any case that has not started or has exceeded its completion date or is not going to meet it. With red having so many meaning it is easy to miss understand the action plan
BRAG	Blue Red Amber Green Each colour needs to identify what action will be taken The CCG has requested a clearer coding to track cases which are on track not yet completed and those where there are problems. The BRAG score could be a solution

AOB	Any Other Business
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