



## Chair's Safeguarding Update

Penny welcomed everyone to the Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly and gave a brief outline of the plans for the morning session at the Midlands Art Centre. An overview of the upcoming events in the Safeguarding calendar was provided:

- Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games are fast approaching. A Strategic Safeguarding Advisory Group has been meeting regularly as part of the planning for the games.
- The National Panel are finalising the National Review into the tragic death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and the report will be published in late May 2022.
- The [Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Solihull](#), was published on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022. We have analysed the transferrable learning, which will be discussed at the Executive Board in May 2022, how we can embed learning in Birmingham.
- We will be launching a 'Never Ever Shake a Baby' campaign on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to coincide with National Child Safety week.
- The Autumn Practitioner Conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022, will focus on tackling Childhood Neglect and will provide the perfect opportunity to launch the revised Neglect Strategy.

## Independent Chair's Accountability Report



The [Independent Chair's Accountability Report](#) looks back at the past twelve months, April 2021 - March 2022. Penny Thompson CBE, concludes the report:

***"This past year has been surprisingly more of the same in Covid-19 terms. That practitioners have sustained their commitment, creativity and energy to safeguarding children is evident and must be appreciated.***

***In my judgement, safeguarding arrangements in Birmingham are working effectively and progress in delivery of Partnership priorities is evident. The development of the Birmingham Children's Partnership and prioritised Children's Plan are welcome and necessary. The progress in Early Help via a locality offer is encouraging.***

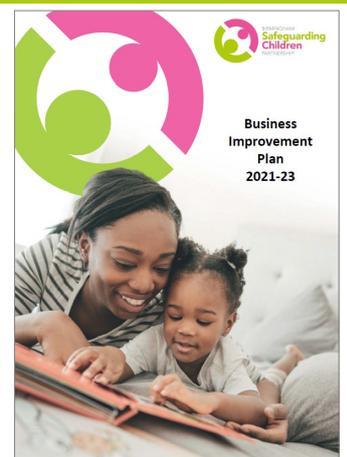
***I must end by thanking all the colleagues in all the organisations that make up the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership for their support, and the confidence they have put in me to fulfil this awesome role – of convening, support, challenge, assurance and learning."***

## Business Improvement Plan 2021-23

A refresh of the key actions of the [Business Improvement Plan](#), has been undertaken to strengthen performance measures and the desired outcomes for the second year of the plan;

The new key elements are:

- Consultation Childhood Neglect Strategy
- Utilising the Six Steps to Independent Scrutiny Model
- Embedding learning from Self-Assessment - JATI Solihull
- Establishing a Strategic Safeguarding Leaders Group to drive future partnership developments and agenda planning
- To work in close collaboration with the Birmingham Council of Faiths on the Safeguarding in Faith Communities Project
- Hosting of regional workshop to cascade learning from National Review
- Help support the development of a multi-agency 'Respect and Consent' Strategy.



## 'What it will take to achieve 2023 – Year of the Child'

Deborah Cadman OBE, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council, Richard Brooks, Director Strategy, Quality & Partnerships, Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services & Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Birmingham Children's Trust facilitated a session to explore 'What it will take to achieve 2023 – Year of the Child'

### Context

- Some deep historical strengths and truly outstanding institutions.
- Recent history of service failure and intervention, now turning the corner organisationally but still fragile and low trust environment.
- City is transforming, huge economic opportunities for young people, Commonwealth Games this year.
- Danger of many young people missing out and feeling excluded.
- Deep inequalities and long-tail of poor outcomes.
- **Strong need to put children more at the centre of our discussions, decisions and the life of the city.**

Making a positive difference every day to people's lives  
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Deborah provided a strategic [overview](#) of the vision for Birmingham, highlighting deep historical issues, strengths and truly outstanding institutions.

The City is transforming, there are huge economic opportunities for young people i.e. Commonwealth Games. There is a danger of many young people missing out and feeling excluded. There are deep inequalities and long-tail of poor outcomes. There is a strong need to put children more at the centre of our discussions, decisions and the life of the city.

The session incorporated a Workshop element where the strategic safeguarding leaders focused on how partners could work in collaboration to deliver enduring change for children. There was unanimous support for 2023 to herald a sustained change for children.

The Assembly discussed 'What can we do as partners to achieve 2023 – Year of the Child'

- What should we try to achieve this year and next?
  - How does safeguarding fit into the wider picture?
- How can each partner contribute actively to 2023 Year of the Child?
  - How should the Children's Partnership relate to the Year of the Child work?
- What can we each do to make this work?

It was agreed the outcome of the workshop would be remitted to the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership, Executive Board on Wednesday 25th May 2021, to formulate partnership action and how the BSCP can support the initiative going forward.

**Thank you to all who attended the Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly and the contributions made.**



The next Safeguarding Leaders Assembly will be held on  
Thursday 3rd November 2022, 09.00am—12.00pm, at The Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham  
Please save the date!