

### Reading Ofsted Inspection

In May and June 2016 Ofsted undertook a review of the effectiveness of Reading LSCB as part of the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers in Reading. The inspection determined that Reading LSCB requires improvement.

#### Ofsted made five recommendations in relation to the LSCB:

- Develop an overarching process to ensure that learning from quality assurance activity is properly shared, tracked and reviewed. This should include clear and relevant actions from single and multi-agency case audits.
- Implement a clear and transparent process for referring serious incidents to the case review sub-group for detailed consideration of whether a serious case review is needed.
- Ensure that the work of the learning and development sub-group has a sharper focus on the particular learning and training needs of Reading professionals, including overseeing and, where appropriate, influencing the provision of single agency training.
- Undertake a review of local safeguarding thresholds, including the effectiveness of the early help pathway, and the understanding and application of thresholds at all the key points in a child's journey.
- Secure regular and consistent attendance and engagement at the board and sub-groups by children's social care, to increase the board's ability to contribute to improvements in core social work practice.

All five recommendations were in line with a self-assessment that had been recently carried out by Board members.

#### Ofsted also made a number of positive comments which included:

- There has been positive change in the last 18 months.
- There is good representation and commitment from partners.
- Partners and young people have helped to shape the LSCB priorities, which are right for Reading.
- The 2015/16 Business Plan was an effective tool in progressing priorities with most actions completed and the remaining carried over.
- We have a comprehensive dataset which is much improved in the past year.
- The Independent Chair is a strong leader with high expectations and instils a culture of transparency and challenge. The Challenge and Concern log has facilitated active challenge and has led to practice improvement.
- Comprehensive CSE Strategy and LSCB has been instrumental in progress but there needs to be more scrutiny on operational practice and data.
- The Board has developed and published a comprehensive threshold of need document.

All recommendations have been embedded within the Reading LSCB Improvement and Development Plan for 2016/17. A copy can be found at:

<http://www.readingslscb.org.uk/about-lscb/readingslscb-business-plan/>



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Website: [www.readingslscb.org](http://www.readingslscb.org)

Berkshire Child Protection Procedures Online - <http://proceduresonline.com/>

## West of Berkshire Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Risk Assessment Toolkit Launch

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna.

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

All types of FGM have been illegal in the UK since the 1985 Female Circumcision Prohibition Act. The new Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act 2003 updates and extends the original act. It is now 'an offence to take UK nationals and those with permanent UK residency overseas for the purpose of circumcision, to aid and abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of Female Genital Mutilation (all types of circumcision). It is illegal for anyone to circumcise women or children for cultural or non-medical reason'.

Due to the adverse impact that FGM has on the physical and emotional health, safety and wellbeing of girls and women, it has been identified as an area for priority work by the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards in the west of Berkshire. The purpose of this work is not to duplicate any existing guidance, policy or procedures, but to strengthen our local joined up response by setting out our vision for raising awareness, and improving our response to FGM, in partnership with community groups. This work is being coordinated through a joint multi-agency partnership group.

In June we launched our west of Berkshire FGM Risk Assessment Toolkit to over 65 staff from across the partnership, across the west of Berkshire. Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive, stating that the mix of detail, hearing from survivors, men from effected communities and a review of the risk assessment tool and pathways, was motivating.

**The Toolkit and a One-Page Factsheet can be found at: <http://www.readingslscb.org.uk/information-professionals/fgm/>**

### Training

The three LSCBs recommend the online Home Office training - E-learning for all professionals (including teachers, police, border force staff, and health visitors), is available at [www.fgmelearning.co.uk](http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk)

Health Education England offer e-learning, free to access by health and social care professionals, at: [www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/female-genital-mutilation/](http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/female-genital-mutilation/)

Reading LSCB also offers a half day specialist course - see the Reading LSCB training programme on the Training page: [www.readingslscb.org.uk/guidance/rscb-training/](http://www.readingslscb.org.uk/guidance/rscb-training/)



**22/09/2016** - Effective Multi-Agency Working - Full Day - Targeted - West Berkshire Council

**27/09/2016** - Allegation Management - 09:30–12:30 - Specialist - Reading Borough Council

**07/10/2016** - Safeguarding Children - Full Day - Targeted Level 3 - Royal Berkshire Hospital

**17/10/2016** - Safeguarding : Parental Substance Misuse - Full Day - Specialist - Wokingham Borough Council

**10/11/2016** - Safer Care for Children of Parents with Mental Health Issues - Full Day  
Specialist - Reading Borough Council

**16/11/2016** - Emotional Abuse - Full Day - Specialist - Wokingham Borough Council

**23/11/2016** - Effective Multi-Agency Working - Full Day - Targeted - Reading Borough Council

**TBC/11/2016** - Female Genital Mutilation - 09:30–12:30 - Targeted - West Berkshire Council

Before a course is booked please discuss this with your manager, training team or administrator. For more information on how to book onto training please go to:

<http://www.readinglscb.org.uk/readinglscb-training/>

### **West of Berkshire Joint Safeguarding Adults and Children Conference for Practitioners**

**Friday 23rd September 2016 - 09:30 - 16:30**

**Easthampstead Park Conference Centre , off Peacock Lane,  
Wokingham, RG40 3DF**

The focus of this year's conference is Safeguarding Children and Adults with Disabilities. There will be two keynote speakers from leading national organisations talking about practical approaches to supported decision making. Delegates will also have the opportunity to attend two workshops to focus on areas of practice relevant to their individual learning needs.

**Target audience:** Practitioners from adults' and children's services within the statutory, private and voluntary sector including police, schools, children's centres, social care, health staff and anyone working or volunteering with vulnerable adults, children, young people and their families in the Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham areas.

**To book your place, go to [wokingham.learningpool.com](http://wokingham.learningpool.com)**

**Create yourself an account if you don't already have one**

**Telephone 0118 974 6116 for queries.**

## Useful Information

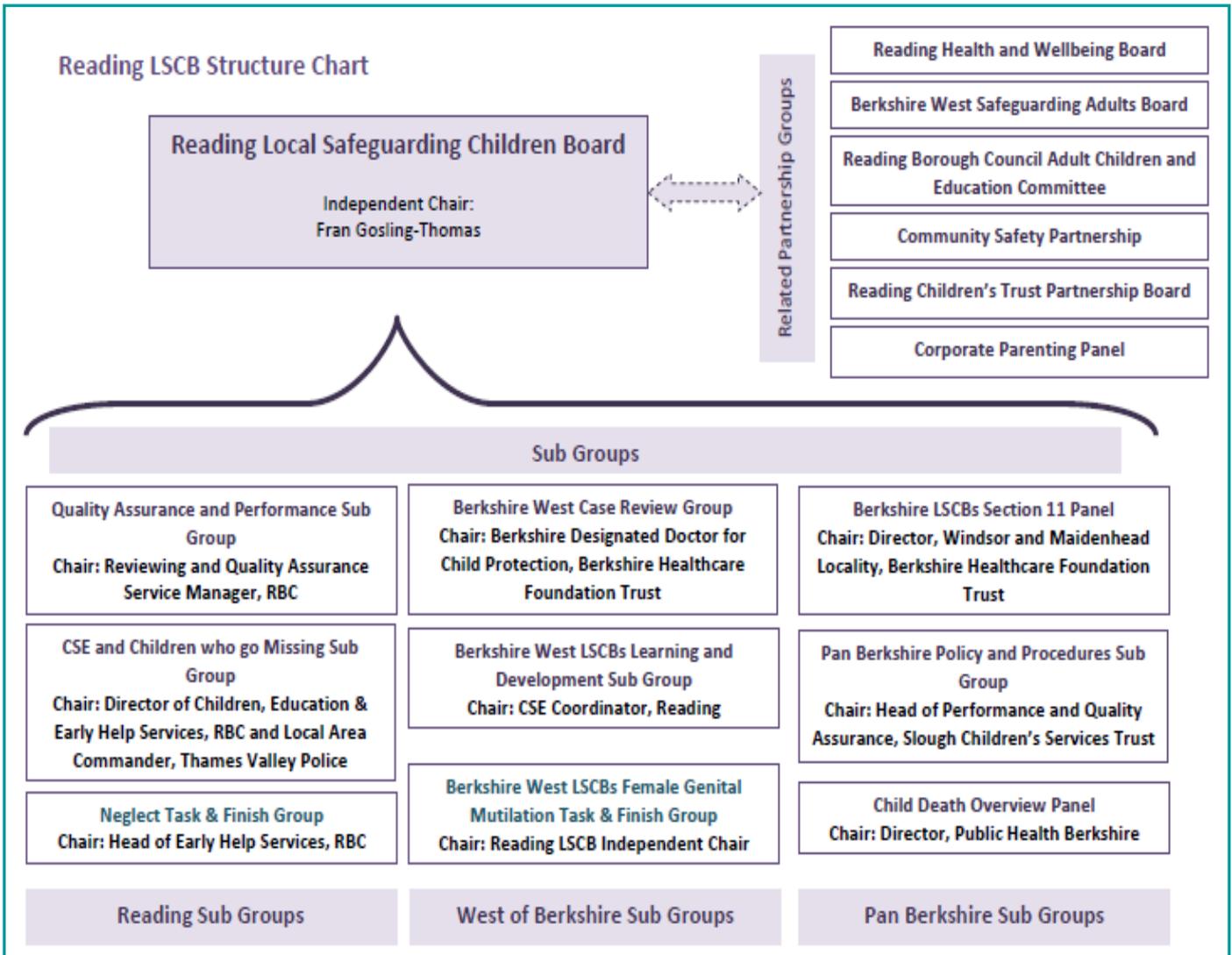
**LSCB Chair:** Fran Gosling-Thomas

**LSCB Business Manager:** Esther Blake **LSCB Coordinator:** Donna Gray

Reading LSCB, Floor 2, North Front, Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU

Please send General Enquiries to: [LSCB@reading.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@reading.gov.uk)

### Reading LSCB Structure Chart



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