



Welcome to the 21st edition of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Information Update.

Please share this as widely as possible across your organisation. If you have any feedback, suggestions for improvement, or want to discuss anything else relating to the BSCP contact the Safeguarding Partnership Manager, Vince Grey at Vince.Grey@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The BSCP should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

Message from New Safeguarding Partnership Manager

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the new Safeguarding Partnership Manager for the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership. I joined the team at the beginning of February this year and will be providing cover in the role whilst the previous team manager is on maternity leave. My working background has been in policing over a 30 year career. During the last 5 years in policing I was involved in adults and children's safeguarding as part of a wider portfolio so I have some knowledge of the safeguarding world. That said, there is a lot to learn with regards to the new role and I am very much open to any conversation that you feel is appropriate to the work either I or my team undertake. Our "office" is on the fourth floor of the NCO building so please feel free to visit us if you wish.



In the December newsletter Sir Francis Habgood, the Joint Independent Chair for the safeguarding adults board and Safeguarding children's partnership outlined the changes that had taken place in the way that we worked due to changes in legislation and structure. My role, and that of my team, has now combined what was two separate Boards in adults and children into one joint team. We seek to support the Independent Chair in his role and work closely with a range of other Partners to establish good working practices including compliance, policy, practice, quality and performance. The team also support a number of sub groups who are undertaking some of this work and managing safeguarding reviews in both adults and children as well as the Child Death Overview Panel.

The team is relatively newly formed and the team members are changing. At this point I would like to say a huge thank you to some members of our team who are leaving or already left the team in the last few weeks. Hillary Walker, Ally Martindale, Julie Marshall and Ann McKenzie have all been instrumental as to how the team has worked hard to achieve all our aims and supported Partners in a wide range of activities. The team wishes them all well in any new endeavours. By the end of March we will also have 2 new members of staff starting with us replacing those that have left. As I mentioned previously the team are undergoing a period of transition into our new role within adults and children's safeguarding and we will endeavour to pick the reins up pretty quickly and support the voice of the adult or child in all that we do.

Coronavirus

As an Adults Safeguarding Board and Children's Safeguarding Partnership we hope that everyone is as safe and well as they can be and where ever possible adhering to the latest Government guidelines around Covid 19.

We have added some information to our website with regards to advice and guidance about how to stay safe and well and also be mindful of those individuals who are using this situation to their own gain through the commission of fraud and scams. There is a useful link to Trading Standards attached with regards to this.

Click on the image below to view our information sheet, please share as widely as possible: –.



Guidance for Contacting the BSCP Team

Following recent Government guidance a decision has been made for support staff within the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board to work from home.

Where possible please contact the team via e-mail in the first instance.

For urgent matters where you need to speak to a member of the team please call: –

- **Vince Grey** (Safeguarding Partnership Manager) on 07890 398035: or
- **Christine Hutson** (Partnership Administration Officer) on 01296 387146

Community Volunteers During COVID-19 Outbreak

Please also see the following link to view a Government safeguarding factsheet , designed to address specific concerns that people involved in supporting their community may have at this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-factsheet-community-volunteers-during-covid-19-outbreak>

Principal Social Worker (PSW) Brief

What is professional curiosity?

Professional curiosity is the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening with an individual or family. It is about enquiring deeper and using proactive questioning and challenge. It is about understanding one's own responsibility and knowing when to act, rather than making assumptions or taking things at face value.

Developing skills in professional curiosity

- Be flexible and open-minded, not taking everything at face value. Check your own emotional state and attitudes. Prepare yourself for managing risk and uncertainty and processing the impact it has on you and how this may impact on your decision making.
- **Think the unthinkable; believe the unbelievable. Consider how you can articulate 'intuition' into an evidenced, professional view.**
- Use your communication skills: review records, record accurately, check facts and feedback to the people you are working with and for. Never assume and be wary of assumptions already made.
- Use case history and explore information from the person themselves, the family, as well as other professionals (triangulation).
- Pay as much attention to how people look and behave as to what they say.
- Actively seek full engagement. If you need more support to engage the person or their family, think about who in the network can help you. Consider calling a multiagency meeting to bring in support from colleagues in other agencies.
- Take responsibility for the safeguarding role you play, however large or small, in the life of the person in front of you.

Never be concerned about asking the obvious question, and share concerns with colleagues and managers. A 'fresh pair of eyes' looking at a case can help practitioners and organisations to maintain a clear focus on good practice and risk assessment, and develop a critical mindset.

How managers can support professionally curious practice

Managers can maximise opportunities for professionally curious practice to flourish by:

- Playing 'devil's advocate' – asking 'what if?' questions to challenge and support practitioners to think more widely around cases. Question whether outcomes have improved for the person and evidence for this.
- Present alternative hypotheses about what could be happening.
- Provide opportunities for group supervision which can help stimulate debate and curious questioning, and allow practitioners to learn from one another's experiences. The issues considered in one case may be reflected in other cases for other team members.
- Present cases from the perspective of other family members or professionals.
- Ask practitioners what led them to arrive at their conclusion and support them to think through the evidence.

Sandra Carnall, Principal Social Worker. January 2020.

'It Was Hard to Escape – Safeguarding Children at Risk from Criminal Exploitation'

The national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have published their first national review, entitled 'It Was Hard to Escape – Safeguarding Children at Risk from Criminal Exploitation'. The report aims to identify what might be done differently by practitioners to improve approaches to protecting children who find themselves threatened with violence and serious harm by criminal gangs.

The work of the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel draws on the notifications, rapid reviews, practice reviews and serious case reviews that they receive every day. These give a contemporary and detailed overview of incidents of serious and fatal child maltreatment across England. The Panel is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which they believe raise issues that are complex or of national importance.

Our children face a number of challenges to their safety and wellbeing today – none more complex and damaging than criminal exploitation. Being drawn into exploitative situations, where children can be both victims and perpetrators of serious harm, can have severe consequences for them and for their families, friends and communities.

The safeguarding system is facing organised criminal businesses that are skilled at identifying and entrapping children in their activities. Their business model depends on the exploitation of children, using coercion, control and manipulation to push them into criminal activity.

The review found local practitioners working hard to understand and respond to challenges which seem to grow and change daily as the operation of gangs and their exploitation of children become ever more sophisticated. It also found some evidence about what might help children in these circumstances but also found gaps in local strategic understanding and practice.

To read the full report please follow the link;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-at-risk-from-criminal-exploitation>

National Child Exploitation Awareness Day

National Child Exploitation Awareness day took place on 18th March. Child Exploitation (CE) involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18. The National Child Exploitation Awareness Day aims to highlight the issues around CE, encouraging everyone to **think, spot and speak** out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children developing inappropriate relationships with other children.

NWG Exploitation Response Unit (formerly National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People) are committed to the fight against CE and support victims and their families who are subjected to Child Sexual Exploitation.

Please see the following link to NGW's website for further information including resources: -

<https://www.nwgnetwork.org/awareness-day/>

Next Addition

At the time of putting our Newsletter together, we are limited with regards to articles we can provide due to the Coronavirus. We hope that everyone is keeping safe and well during this challenging time.

We will bring you up to speed with what the Partnership has been working on in our next Newsletter including: -

- Details of our next BSCP Partnership Event on Contextual Safeguarding, due to take place later in the year.
- Planned changes to our website inline with the accessibility guidelines.
- The new Threshold Document. The Threshold document that had been published on our websites is currently under review due to feedback from a range of multi agencies. We appreciate that this document is an extremely useful aid and is used to signpost people into what action needs to be carried out with regards to engaging with and managing vulnerable people. We are working to make the necessary improvements and updates to the revised Threshold document and we will make it available as soon as we can. Unfortunately the current Covid 19 situation has delayed this process



Serious Youth Crime

Please see the following link to download “A review of how the CPS handles serious youth crime” undertaken by HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmcpsi/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/Serious-youth-crime-1.pdf>

We hope you found this newsletter informative - if you would like to provide any comments (positive or negative), or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email: bscp@buckinghamshire.gov.uk