

First Partnership Conference for Safeguarding Partners



June 2019

Purpose of the Event...

The first Conference under the new Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) model was an opportunity for local practitioners to learn about the changes to local safeguarding arrangements, as well as to consider themes which have emerged from a decade of local Serious Case Reviews.

Over 100 practitioners attended the event from across the Children's Workforce, with representation from:

Bucks Healthcare Trust * Education/Schools * Addiction Support Services * Thames Valley Police * Probation
Bucks Fires & Rescue Service * Young Carers * Childcare Providers * Local Authority Children's Services

Speakers...

Julie Davies, Head of Children's Quality Standards and Performance at Buckinghamshire County Council and Chair of the Performance & Quality Assurance Sub Group of the BSCP, opened the conference by welcoming attendees to the event and setting out the focus and expectations of the day.

Julie was followed on stage by **Gilly Attree, Chair of the Performance, Policy & Practice Sub Group of the BSCP**.



"We should be investing more in our children, not less...."

Gilly was representing the **Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)** - one of the three key partners for the new BSCP model. Gilly's presentation provided the audience with a clear overview as to the future plan of the CCGs; both in terms of the organisations long term plans for sustainability and transformation, and investment into services.

The BSCP were delighted to welcome **Michelle Plaisted - Kerr - Training and Development Manager from Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse** - who presented an oversight into the issue of "Domestic Abuse and Families"

Michelle's motto: *"It's not what you know, it's who you know"*.

Working together
is key to
effective support
for families.

Reducing the Risk
of Domestic Abuse



Michelle has over 20 years experience in the field of domestic and sexual abuse.

For the past 10 years, she has been developing and delivering on our Domestic Abuse Champions Network across the Thames Valley.

The company has trained over 3,000 champions.

Domestic Abuse has been identified as one of the **key factors** in multiple SCR's in Buckinghamshire over the **past 10 years...**

Following a short refreshment break, **Nick John - Executive Partner for Thames Valley Police** - spoke about the role of the TVP as another of the three key partners within the new arrangements.

Nick provided attendees with an understanding as to how the TVP Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) structure works within the local authority; acknowledging that PVP is one cog making up part of the whole multi-agency partnership wheel.



"As part of the safeguarding workforce we all share priorities for issues such as:

*Impact of domestic abuse * Voice of the Child * Meeting the needs of vulnerable people * Exploitation..."*



First Partnership Conference for Safeguarding Partners

Speakers . . .

The morning session was rounded up with an engaging talk by **Alex Britton** on "Understanding Parental Learning Disabilities". Alex is the **Head of Advocacy and Practice Development at Talkback**, where she has led engagement and advocacy projects for people with learning disabilities over the past 10 years.

Alex, who has over 30 years experience working with people with a learning disability and autism, has trained in self advocacy, Positive Behaviour Support and Gentle Teaching approaches, as well as Intensive Interaction.

Talkback's roots are in self advocacy; in *empowering people with a learning disability and/or autism to have their voices heard and to have choice and control over their lives.*

Talkback provides support and self-advocacy projects to reduce loneliness and isolation, and to promote resilience, independence and autonomy; they aim to break cycles of so-called challenging behaviour through working with individuals to learn about their communication, their experience and their world.

Talkback's training, research and consultation work has influenced health, social care and education agendas, both locally and nationally, pioneering ways to place people's experience at the heart of service development.



The afternoon was kicked off with an in-depth look at the issue of "Child Criminal Exploitation".

This hard hitting presentation from **SPACE** focused on the dangers for young people entrenched in County Lines and looked at ways in which professional intervention can better support these vulnerable adolescents and their families.

What is County Lines?

'County Lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs.

These dealers will use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as 'deal lines', to take orders from drug users.

Definition from National Crime Agency 2019

Since its conception, SPACE has supported numerous families effected by County Lines by providing guidance and advocacy, campaigned for changes within the current professional response and provided training to equip professionals and the wider community who encounter County Lines by sharing lived experience and insight.



Delegates were given an opportunity to feedback and ask questions directly to all of the events presenters, as well as the Executive Partners (and their representatives).

This exercise was incredibly thought provoking and highlighted the united and determined response from across the children's workforce to better understand the issues impacting on children currently working with services and to identify ways we can all look to better support those who are most vulnerable within our community.

The conference was closed by **Richard Nash, Service Director for Children's Social Care, Buckinghamshire County Council and Chair of the Exploitation Sub Group of the BSCP.**

"In response to the wider issues of Exploitation, the Swan Unit has been restructured into the new Exploitation Hub".



The BSCP would like to express its thanks to all those involved in the Conference; it was a truly insightful day.

www.reducingtherisk.org.uk

www.talkback-nclude.com

www.bespace.co.uk



First Partnership Conference for Safeguarding Partners

Feedback is essential for the continued success of our events. Below are some of the comments received from delegates at the conference.

Excellent speakers. Good subject matter and relevant to issues with young people...
Great venue and food selection.

Very informative content. Multi - agency tables enabled useful discussion and networking. Well organised and good to have panel session....

Very well organised event....

Q&A end of session was an effective discussion and engaging....



What Went Well?

The conference was very well run and the speakers were very strong.....

Domestic Abuse presentation was excellent. A good balance of anecdote and information backed by science. SPACE presentation was shocking but informative....

Very informative - the voice of the young person clear and strong....

All worked well. Good speakers, most was relevant to the role or as a parent / grandparent. Domestic Abuse talk and networking. Thought provoking...



Expected more info about the change from BSCB to BSCP and the future....

Resources available to address the issues discussed. More audience participation to keep people engaged...

...I thought the County Lines experience presentation was very interesting, however I also thought the assumptions of some social care practice maybe isn't reflective in reality to the extent that was suggested...

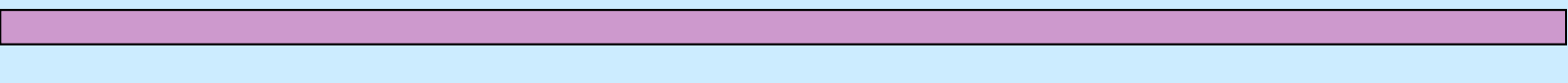
I would have like to have heard more about the strategies that the police are using to combat child exploitation and partnership working....



What could be improved?

Would a 'seating plan' ensuring different agencies sit together be a practical way to ensure discussions on tables isn't limited to an individual service?..

Some presenters could have had more focused presentations making them more impactful... Perhaps a presenter who could demonstrate how anti - slavery, CSE and CE were all linked....



First Partnership Conference for Safeguarding Partners

New knowledge will make me look out for potential things going on in people's lives....
Today's speakers all educated on many points to consider.....

Engaging with young people on a daily basis at different levels of vulnerability, this knowledge and information will help inform mine and my teams work and improve the support we are able to give....

To look at the gaps and aim to source funding to better support people whether that be from exploitation or as a parent...

The Domestic Abuse Champion was very inspiring. I would like to sign up myself and suggest others do too...

How will you use the knowledge and information shared?

The County Lines information was excellent and will enable greater depth of conversation between commissioners and providers of exploitation support for CYP.....

In my day to day role to draw upon and serve as a foundation for greater learning on these topics.....

Increase awareness of issues faced by parents with a learning disability - the need for repeated explanations and checking for understanding in the work that you do.
Increased awareness of the devastation caused by County Lines.
The need for improved partnership working with parental involvement...

Info from SPACE to assist in advice given to parents of CYP we work with, and for signposting.....

Am already making contact with people I have met today...

Consider someone's lived experience. Understanding in to various services available to tackle these issues.

Be more pro - active in the children and youth work with which I am involved as a private individual. This is in response to the issue of youth exploitation.

First Partnership Conference for Safeguarding Partners

As well as learning from subject experts, conference delegates were given the opportunity to network whilst visiting the extensive market stalls - run by agencies invited to promote their services due to their connection to either the new arrangements and key priorities for the partnership model, or the knowledge and support they offer to those affected by key safeguarding factors identified as significant for Local Serious Case Reviews.

Early Years Services



www.earlyyears.buckscc.gov.uk/

To learn more about these locally available services, you can visit the websites included on this page...

Family Resilience Service



Since 2nd Sept. 2019, FRS has integrated into the Family Support Service.

www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/

One Recovery

www.onerecoverybucks.org/



Switch Bucks

<https://www.cranstoun.org/service/switch-bucks/>



Bucks Family Information Service



www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/home.page

Women's Aid

www.aylesburywomensaid.org.uk/idva/



www.wycombewomensaid.org.uk/



For more information about the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, please visit:
www.bucksscp.org.uk/