

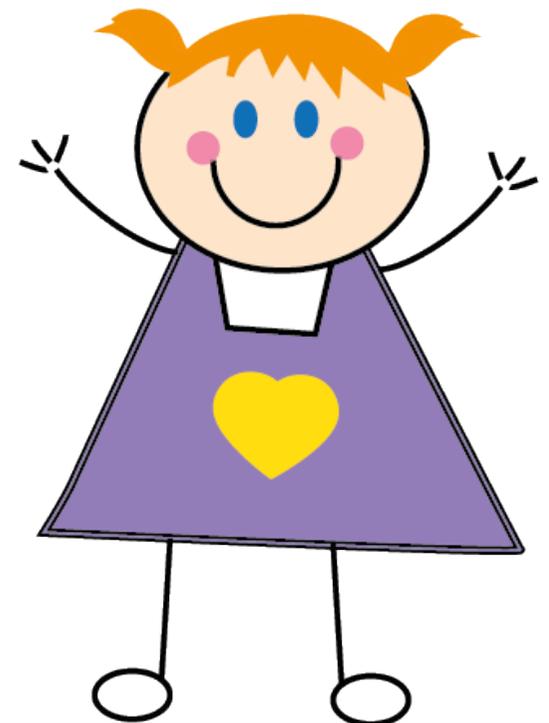
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Annual Report 2018-19



CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Buckinghamshire Demographics	4
The Work of the Board	6
Board Meetings	6
Subgroups	11
E-Safety Subgroup	11
Learning and Development Subgroup	14
Safer Employment Subgroup	15
Child Exploitation Subgroup	16
Policy and Procedure Subgroup	20
Performance, Quality and Assurance Subgroup	23
Child Death Overview Panel	26
Serious Case Reviews	27
Training	28
Who Attends	30
How Were We Funded?	31
What's Next for the Board?	31
Sources	32



FOREWORD

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) for 2018/19.

We have been busy making the changes needed to take us from the Safeguarding Children Board to the Safeguarding Children Partnership. Alongside this, there has been a great deal of hard work that has continued under our subgroups. This report sets out what the subgroups have been doing and how their work has benefited children.

Knowing that further work is needed to consistently deliver better outcomes for children and young people in Buckinghamshire, we have started the journey to having greater focus on the results of our partnership. To support that we have relooked at our scrutiny function and our role in driving good practice, making sure we know what the experience is for children in Buckinghamshire and that we are being a critical friend to partners. We have been working hard on our structures and ways of working so that we can understand more about the impact of our work in the wider workforce. This has enabled us to support the wider improvement journey for Buckinghamshire. Some of our work, such as multi-agency audits, workshops and learning events, helps us to widely disseminate our messages.

Taking account of the requirements of the national changes, there have been initial changes to our structures and ways of working, as well as changes in the membership and chairing of the Board's subgroups.

As we move from the Board to the new partnership arrangement and different way of working, there is no doubt we have all been committed to positive changes, to making best use of resources and the talents of the wide range of people who contribute to the work of the Board. Thanks are due to the support team who administer the work of the Board and to our partners for ongoing commitments, their time and energy.

We hope that this report gives you some insight into the work of the Board, where it will go next as we become a partnership in June 2019 and how to contribute to improving outcomes for children. We are committed to our work with our wider partners so please look out for conferences and learning events as well as the published arrangements on our website in 2019.

Fran Gosling-Thomas was the Independent Chair during 2018/19.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE DEMOGRAPHICS

6,000 babies are born each year and the current child population is:¹



32,390
0-4 years

36,950
5-9 years

35,460
10-14 years

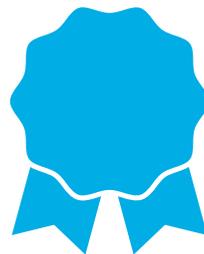
30,430
15-19 years



Buckinghamshire has a population of

540,050

(midyear estimate for 2018)



Buckinghamshire has much better educational attainment than the national average, a highly skilled workforce, and lower levels of poverty and unemployment. Buckinghamshire is ranked as the second least deprived county in England.⁶

The ethnic profile of Buckinghamshire is broadly similar to that of England and Wales, with the majority of the population of white ethnic origin (86% in 2011)². Of these, 5.3% are of non-British white origin. The largest non-white ethnic group is Asian/Asian British, accounting for 8.6% of the Buckinghamshire population (England & Wales 7.5%). Over 60% of the county's Muslim population is in Wycombe district area. The age structure in the non-white population is very different, with a much younger population compared to the white population.



20.9%

of children living in the area come from a minority ethnic group, compared with 21.5% for England as a whole.

18.2%

of primary school children have a first language other than English (England average: 21.2%) and in secondary schools the figure is 16.9% (England average: 16.6%).³



5.3%

9%

of Buckinghamshire households were classed as lone parent households with dependent children, compared to 7.1% in England.⁴

of babies (540 babies) were born to lone parents in 2015 in Buckinghamshire, with lone parent families more prevalent in these deprived areas of the county.⁵

9.5%



of children under 16 years of age lived in low income families in 2016, compared with 12.9% in the South East and 17% in England.

8.3%

of children in nursery and primary school were eligible for and claiming free school meals in 2019, compared to 15.7% in England.



5.3%

of children in secondary school were eligible for and claiming free school meals in 2019, compared to 14.1% in England.⁷

Buckinghamshire has a number of pockets of significant deprivation, with some areas in Aylesbury Vale falling in the second most deprived decile. The geography and location of the county also lead to some specific challenges. For example, across the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership area, 8.2% of households are in the most deprived 10% of areas nationally in terms of barriers to housing and services. This reflects low income relative to high housing costs and the distance to services in more rural areas of the county.⁸

Deprivation can have a significant and lasting impact on children and therefore it is important that agencies providing and commissioning services in Buckinghamshire understand local need and can target services accordingly.



Children living in the most deprived areas of Buckinghamshire are more likely to be underweight at birth and die in the first year of life than those living in the least deprived areas.



At the end of the first year of primary school, 41% of those living in the most deprived areas have a good level of overall development, compared to 69% in the least disadvantaged areas.



Children and young people from more disadvantaged areas have higher admission rates to hospital for a range of conditions, including chest infections and asthma, injuries, self-harm and substance misuse.⁹



There is a strong link between levels of deprivation and the likelihood of children having contact with Children's Social Care. Local analysis indicates that children in deprived areas are 2.5 times more likely to be on a child protection plan than the Buckinghamshire average.¹⁰

THE WORK OF THE BOARD

This year the board agreed its business plan and strategic leads for each priority:

- Domestic Abuse: Thames Valley Police
- Neglect: NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG)
- Child Exploitation: Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- Early Help: Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) Education and BCC Early Help
- Partnership High Level Improvement Plan: BCC children's social care

- The Board transformation plan BSCB and key partners: Thames Valley Police (TVP), BCC, BCCG

The Board met four times before starting to reform as part of the new arrangements required in the [Wood Report](#).

The newly formed Executive Group met for the first time this year to start planning the new structures. Please check our website to get the updated structure, priorities and plan for implementation.

BOARD MEETINGS

(Click on the dates for more information)

15 May
2018



10 July
2018



25 Sept
2018



27 Nov
2018



7 Feb
2019





15 May 2018
Board Meeting

What did we do?

- We looked at the data around domestic abuse (DA) and how we could collect and scrutinise data.
- We discussed our risk log – risks to children were focused on neglect and non-accidental injuries to babies.
- We heard updates from colleagues tackling child protection and modern slavery.
- We updated the Board about how we were progressing in line with the Wood report.

What difference did that make for children?

- We recognised a need to get better at evidencing what was going well and to identify things that were not working (data).
- We shared information about the current needs of children so that services could respond to them better.



10 July 2018
Board Meeting

What did we do?

- We heard about a planned review by heads of service on the subject of exploitation.
- We requested that the DA action plan be shared with the Board to understand our role within it.
- We continued to plan what data we would collect and how we would scrutinize it.
- We responded to the risk log review and heard that the Performance, Quality & Assurance (PQ&A) subgroup have commissioned an audit to look at the experience of children and families where Non-Accidental Injury (NAI) has been identified, and recommendations made in Serious Case Reviews (SCR) concerning NAI to see what progress has been made.
- We discussed merging the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) with Oxford. Working Together 2018 (WT) guidance clearly states that each CDOP should be carrying out 60–120 death reviews each year and Buckinghamshire does not currently meet this level (currently around 40 per year). WT states that in this case CDOPs need to join together to meet the criteria and have sufficient cases to learn lessons from.
- We presented the first paper on the proposed new model (from the working group). The Board agreed to accept this new working model but wanted more detailed proposals.
- The Business Plan was then reviewed and agreed by the Board, strategic leads agreed.
- We reviewed the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) action plan and shared feedback with colleagues from the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
- A report was shared with the Board regarding re-referrals into children social care following a recent audit carried out by the PQ&A subgroup. They looked at re-referrals over a period of six months to check for reasons why. As a result, we created a [learning log](#) that could be shared with partners.
- We reviewed the CDOP annual report and requested further details about rise in suicides.

What difference did we make for children?

- We ensured that our priorities and how we looked at data were more focused so that we could understand whether we were meeting the needs of children.
- We created learning resources so that a wider group of professionals who support children could benefit from the work of the Board.



What did we do?

- We received an assurance report from health colleagues on the prevalence of FGM in the county.
- We presented two possible models of dashboard (data) and debated what questions do we actually want answering on behalf of children. We agreed to look at other areas (best practice).
- We checked progress on our risk log and identified that children who were looked after were not receiving health assessments in the required timeframe. This became a priority area.
- We received a further report on new arrangements including a structure chart and agreed that the partnership would be called Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- We heard the findings from the review of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) SCR, issues included:
 - » Communication and coordination of relevant updates and reports about the details of several recommendations
 - » Absence of impact and outcome measures to know what difference has been made and if anyone is better off
 - » Lack of 'grip and pace' to progress several recommendations

- » Lack of clarity about subgroup ownership and accountability
- » Absence of the user voice.

Parents and survivors have said:

- There needs to be a simple but strong and effective message to raise awareness of the issue.
- There had previously been an Exploitation Conference held and they would like this to be repeated as soon as possible.
- At the conference they would like both local voices to be heard as well as national representation.
- Some other areas use an 'Experts with Experience Panel' to review any policy changes, etc. to ensure the voice of the victims/survivors is heard and incorporated.
- They would like a mentoring scheme to be developed so that those who have been through the process could support those who have just entered into it.
- The Board was concerned about this report and agreed that the recommendations should be monitored by the child exploitation subgroup.
- We tightened the way we worked by agreeing that the terms of reference (TOR) for all subgroups should ensure that there are clear timescales and an

escalation process if these are not being met. It was agreed that all subgroups should demonstrate clear reference to the principles and findings outlined in the CSE review report.

- We agreed to sign off the [action plan](#) from the Baby Q task and finish group.
- The Board agreed to sign off the Baby S SCR report and also agreed that publication would be delayed until the end of the criminal proceedings.
- We heard from the findings from the [CDOP annual report](#) that the review time for cases was better than the national average. There had been an improvement in the Rapid Response process and that links with other CDOPs had been made.
- We received an update on the Early Help review which aimed to ensure services are delivered appropriately and proactively.
- We were updated about a Thames Valley wide bid for funding from the Home Office regarding youth violence and early intervention.
- The Family Nursing Partnership Annual Report was provided to Board Members for information.



27 Nov 2018
Board Meeting



What difference did that make for children?

- We scrutinised and held ourselves to account for some of the successes and delays in implementing the CSE SCR action plan. We planned to ensure all actions were completed.
- As part of that scrutiny we heard the voices of families and stayed informed about a wide variety of service areas. This ensured that we could understand the experiences of children in different parts of our partnership.



What did we do?

- We continued to check progress against our risk log. From this and the child protection conferencing report we discussed the issue of professionals gaining an understanding that they need to share reports with families before conferences. We also identified the need to look at pre-birth assessments and whether they are consistently understood and made use of.
- We received assurance regarding domestic abuse from Safer Stronger Buckinghamshire Partnership Board (SSBPB), but having further questions we agreed to request an agenda item at their Board.
- A new risk was highlighted regarding the disbanding of the Prevent Board and the removal of some Prevention Officer posts. We received assurance that the Local Authority had a county-wide remit to the Prevent agenda which would continue.
- We shared a detailed arrangement plan for new partnership arrangements, which had been updated to include the twice yearly safeguarding partners information events.
- We were sad to say goodbye to both Carol Gorley, who has been a Board Administrator for five years, and our Independent Chair, Fran Gosling-Thomas, who advised Board members that after four years she would be standing down as Chair of the BSCB. Both Fran and Carol were thanked for their hard work during their time with the Board.

What difference did we make for children?

- We ensured that we linked with other Boards so that we could work together better where there was an identified area of risk.
- We ensured that we understood and sought assurance on changes or plans that could affect the experience of children in services.
- We demonstrated that we wanted to be part of improving the experiences of children receiving services.

7 Feb 2019
Board Meeting



What did we do?

- We agreed the proposed partnership model and agreed that domestic abuse should be a cross board first priority for this group.
- We agreed what we required from our data dashboard.
- We scrutinised the risk log and decided that there needed to be an emphasis on a specific risk and evidencing the outcome. This will be agreed within the subgroups to ensure that the risks are as up to date as possible and we are clear what good looks like.
- We agreed there would be future updates about the relationship between the improvement plan and the risk log/business plan for this group.
- We agreed that we wanted information from each subgroup about progress against their current work plan, so that the Executive could get a shared understanding of the work of the partnership.
- We agreed that this group will take the lead in ensuring that learning from reviews is communicated to their services.

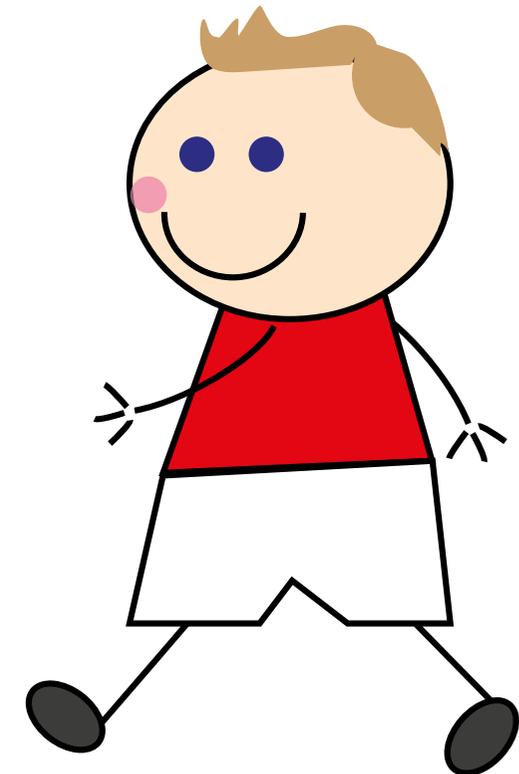
It was agreed that the executive group would retain the current business priorities:

- » Domestic abuse
- » Neglect
- » Child exploitation
- » Early Help
- » The Partnership High Level Improvement Plan
- » The Board transformation plan

In addition, it was agreed that the group needed to have a terms of reference and business plan going forward.

What difference did we make for children?

We continued to ensure that our focus was on the areas that impact children the most. We started the process of ensuring our new model improves our scrutiny and assurance function.



SUBGROUPS

To support and inform the Board we continued to have a number of subgroups. Pages 10 - 24 sets out what our subgroups did and what difference that made to children.



E-SAFETY SUBGROUP

To ensure there is a coordinated partnership approach to e-safety (click on the dates for more information).

5 June
2018



18 Sept
2018



11 Dec
2018



5 June 2018
E-safety Meeting



What did we do?

- We created a map of e-safety activity with the help of students, parents and professionals across Buckinghamshire during 2017-18. This showed that there was an increase in training provided to parents and professionals, and a reduction in direct training provided to students.
- We learned about the presentations McAfee give to companies and at corporate events in order to target parents /carers as attending school parents' evenings was not reaching enough people.
- We learned about the Facebook sheet of apps being used by teenagers that parents may not be aware of (a copy of this is attached to the minutes). At least one new app is produced each day (some statistics can be found [here](#)).
- We had two presentations from McAfee. The first outlined the work that McAfee does with school students and adults, part of which included their sponsorship of Bletchley Park and the e-safety display there. The other presentation covered the pack they use with 11 – 14 year olds (there are several packs to suit differing age groups).

- We promoted and rolled out a cybercrime theatre project.
- We discussed the plans for the E-Safety Conference for students on 6 July 2018, which is aimed at secondary school students, ideally those in their school councils. There are spaces for 100 students. The speakers/presentations for the day have been confirmed (apart from SWGfL) and they will be:
 - » Katie King, who is Director of Transformation at Digital Leadership Associates, and Founder of AI in FM and content marketing agency Zoodikers. Katie will give the keynote address (focusing on the positives of the internet for careers etc.)
 - » Two workshops looking at cyberbullying, the dark web and other negative aspects of the internet. The students will be split into year groups for the workshops, one for Years 7 – 9 and the other for the older students.
 - » Equaliteach, who will focus on fake news and how students can interrogate the internet to ascertain the truth.

What difference did that make for children?

We were better informed, ensured that presentations, resources and events, such as plays and conferences, reached as many children as possible.



18 Sept 2018
E-safety Meeting



What did we do?

- Learned from a speech given by the Home Secretary Sajid Javid that the time from a first contact to a child being sent sexual images is now approximately 45 minutes and there are thought to be 80,000 groomers across the UK.
- Discussed referrals into the county regarding radicalisation and the links to online safety.
- Reviewed the current work plan: all actions had been completed and RAG rated green.
- Subgroup members agreed that a lot of the actions from the last work plan were effectively business as usual and should continue.
- Agreed further Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) training session for professionals. Currently 20 people have signed up.
- Heard about the success in procurement of European funding for approximately 175 million euros to develop and promote an online safety resource for children with autism.

What difference did that make for children?

- We recognised that we needed to get better at evidencing what was going well and also spotting when things were not working (data).
- We shared information about the current needs of children so that services could better respond to them.

11 Dec 2018
E-safety Meeting



What did we do?

- Wycombe District Council told us about their work in assemblies speaking to over 2000 secondary school pupils about online grooming and social media propaganda for the extreme right wing and Daesh. We have talked to young people about critical thinking skills and not impulsively liking or sharing posts or memes without checking the source, whether it be a group or individual. I have used the example of Donald Trump retweeting Britain First, who supported the murder of Jo Cox MP.
- Discussed Islamophobic online content and how young people may not appreciate the historical context of some of the materials. This was seen as an emerging concern for children in Buckinghamshire.
- Discussed the issues that children may face when gaming (e.g. fortnite) and issues of online exploitation involving requesting and sharing explicit images.
- Sungroup members agreed that they would try to hold more joint presentations so that the police can cover the legal side of issues when McAfee present to schools and young people. They planned to discuss this further outside of the subgroup meeting.
- Heard about the pre-school programme to teach three year olds about e-safety (using

[Smartie the Penguin](#) story book to do this).

- Discussed changes to staffing to support Prevent and whether this created a risk for children (due to changes in Home Office funding). Wycombe Community Safety Partnership is proposing to fund one of the posts so that Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training can continue in the area.
- Agreed the production of a guide for refuges, specifically for people affected the use of smart technology (i.e. Alexa) in relation to domestic abuse (the use of apps can enable control of heating, lighting, security). This would need to include a guide about settings and how to block devices.
- Agreed that this group would not be a subgroup under the Board due to the move to the new partnership structure, but that it was important the new partnership needed to stay linked into this group.

What difference did we make for children?

More children, including those at a younger age, were able to benefit from learning about online safety, and more professionals had shared information about the issues that were affecting them.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUBGROUP



The Learning and Development (L&D) subgroup seeks to make sure that the professionals working with children and young people in Buckinghamshire have the necessary skills to ensure children and young people access the right help at the right time.

The L&D subgroup held one meeting and concluded their work on 18 October 2018.

What did we do?

Reviewed the work plan and agreed that:

- Joint learning events were now taking place with the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Chairs of the various Boards are looking to introduce a joint pathway outlining services.
- The 2017-2018 L&D Framework was finalised and published on the website. This will be reviewed under the new arrangement.
- The Multi-Agency (M/A) Training Pool remains in constant flux due to high staff turnover within agencies and also the suitability of candidates being put forward for this role. Managers and agencies were asked to carefully consider the staff they put forward for this role in future. The group reshared the BSCB Partnership

Agreement, which outlined the essential requirements individuals should have, including the following:

- » Training/facilitation experience and skills with groups.
- » A minimum of two years professional experience working specifically with child protection issues, as a member of a statutory or voluntary agency.
- » Experienced in attending and contributing to child protection conferences.
- » Current knowledge of child protection policies and procedures in Buckinghamshire.
- » Up to date on government agendas.
- The group agreed that multi-agency training should be kept but there is a need to review the M/A Training Pool membership, commitment of members and challenges faced.
- Single Agency Child Protection Training Support Group (SASG) was reviewed and although the general feeling from those who do attend is that these meetings are invaluable, many members do not attend and have very little contact with BSCB in general. The group discussed how to escalate this with managers to ensure that the Board and the new arrangement has the resources it needs.

- The group agreed that the one day 'Everyone's Responsibility' and the two day 'Working Together in Safeguarding Children' courses will continue to promote Early Help, and Early Help is also referred to in other courses.
- The group was informed about the move from a Local Safeguarding Children Board to a Multi-Agency Partnership for safeguarding arrangements with three key partners.
- Going forward, Learning and Development will not be a group in its own right but will be a fixed item in all the groups.

What difference did that make for children?

- Children could be assured that the people who were training staff who work with them are up to date, committed and share an understanding of the need to act as early as possible.
- Children and their families benefit from a more joined up approach which will help us to meet their needs better.
- Ensuring that staff are properly trained in safeguarding will now be something that all subgroups will have to discuss.

SAFER EMPLOYMENT SUBGROUP



This is a multi-agency group whose purpose is to support best practice and seek assurance that:

- Appropriate recruitment, selection, vetting or checking, training, monitoring and supervision arrangements are in place for people working with children and young people, on either a paid or voluntary basis.
- Safeguarding allegations against members of staff or volunteers are thoroughly and proportionately investigated and that all appropriate lessons are learned.

The Safer Employment subgroup meeting was held and the business of the group concluded 19 September 2018.

What did we do?

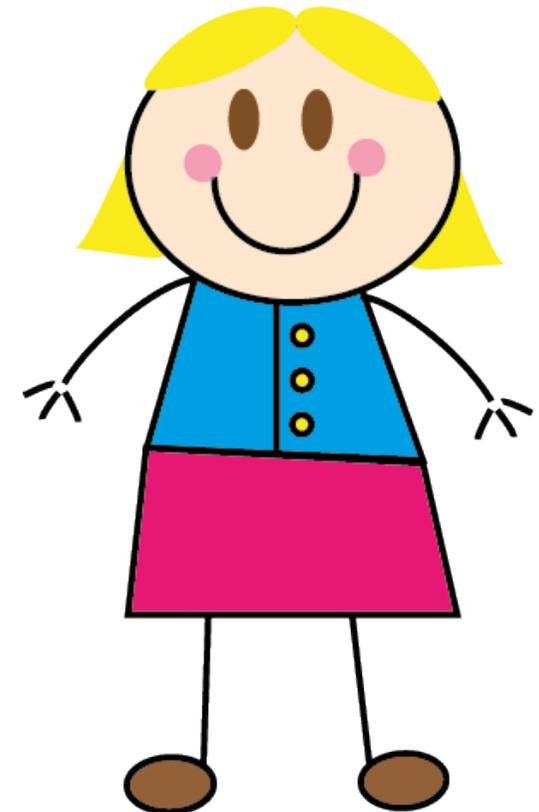
The group reviewed the work plan for 2017-18 and any actions not RAG rated green.

One of these was the need to set up a group looking at Client Transport Safeguarding. The group identified a suitable meeting which was being led by the local authority and would now be attended by a member of the BSCB support team.

It was agreed at the meeting that the workplan could be closed. The governance for safer recruitment in the new structure, in relation to keeping policies and training under review, will be agreed in the new arrangements.

What difference did that make for children?

- The BSCB completed all of its agreed pieces of work, which meant that children could be assured that a wide range of agencies are signed up to ensuring their safety.
- Children can benefit from a more consistent approach to safe recruitment and to recruitment which has paid attention to lessons learnt from national sources.



CHILD EXPLOITATION SUBGROUP

The Children and Young People's Exploitation subgroup is a multi-agency forum which aims to:

- Support the strategic development of an effective and coordinated multi-agency response to all forms of child and young people's exploitation, including actual or likely significant harm due to child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation ('county lines'), modern slavery, trafficking, radicalisation, exploitation as a result of being

lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and in respect of being a missing child/young person.

- Provide assurance about the way agencies are working individually and collectively to safeguard and support children and young people at risk of exploitation.
- Oversee and monitor the delivery of any multi-agency action plans and recommendations designed to safeguard and protect children, including children and young people with disabilities, who are at risk of harm as a result of exploitation.

(Click on the dates for more information).

23 May
2018



4 Sept
2018



12 Nov
2018



16 Jan
2019



26 March
2019





What did we do?

- We agreed to develop some clear best practice guidelines about creating and using videos as a method of raising awareness with young people.
- We revised the terms of reference to ensure that the group kept up to date with the needs of children.
- We revised the workplan and decided to identify the three key priority areas for children:
 1. To carry out a review of all CSE SCR recommendations, which included meeting key partners responsible for delivering these actions, and consulting with a group of survivors and their families to obtain their perspective and test out the findings of the CSE SCR action plan.
 2. To create a profile using the the VOLT (Victim, Offender, Location and Themes) model as a framework. It was felt that it was necessary to establish what exploitation looks like locally to enable more specific targeting when providing support and raising awareness.
 3. To agree a scorecard so that we could evidence and scrutinise what impact we are having on the profile priorities.
- The meeting also sought assurance about the work around taxi driver training. From September 2018 all drivers and Passenger Assistants (PAs) that work on Client Transport Services will hold a Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) ID badge. This badge confirms that:
 - » The holder has been recruited in line with BCC safer recruitment processes.
 - » The holder has undergone an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.
 - » All new and renewed DBS checks have been risked assessed to ensure the holder is suitable to hold a BCC ID badge and work on client transport contracts.
 - » All applicants have attended a basic communication assessment and have demonstrated they can communicate effectively in English, (reading, written and spoken) so they can better communicate with parents/carers, passengers, establishments and emergency services.
 - » All drivers and PAs will have completed a three to four hour standard safeguarding awareness session and completed a brief assessment around their understanding of the subject.
- Only once all the above have been met will the driver or PA be issued a BCC ID badge, which will remain valid for three years, after which the entire process begins again.
- The meeting heard about some 'mystery shopping' activity in the Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire areas regarding Hotel Watch. These activities are carried out every six months using police cadets as the young people. There had been positive improvements for hotels that had previously failed the scheme.

What difference did that make for children?

- Children would be able to see much clearer what the purpose of the group is and what we want to scrutinise.
- Changes have been made which will help to make children safer in BCC licensed taxis.

4 Sept 2018
Child Exploitation
Meeting



What did we do?

- We agreed the work plan and decided who was leading each aspect. The review of the previous serious case review would be led by senior managers to ensure that the partnership had done what it said it would do.
- We discussed the role of the awareness raising group which looked at the engagement and communications aspects of this work. A mapping had been undertaken but direction was needed to now use this information. The group also agreed that we needed to review the RUWise2it website and social media content, making use of the voices of young people.
- The group benefited from a visit by members of the CSE National Working Group: Steve Baguley, Head of Safeguarding in the CSE Response Unit of the National Working Group and his colleague, Kev Murphy, attended to update the subgroup meeting on CSE and exploitation generally across the country. They shared up to date research and resources that the group could share more widely.
- We kept a high level of challenge on the issue of a recommendation on the CSE SCR action plan which has not yet been completed.

- Safeguarding/CSE training for taxi drivers, who are licenced by the district councils, had been developed but had not yet been implemented or evaluated.
- We received an update on the Hotel Watch scheme and were made aware of establishments who had not performed well.

What difference did that make for children?

- We understood that the materials and approaches we take on this subject need to be better informed by children and young people.
- On behalf of children, we pursued a high level of scrutiny into areas where there had not been as much progress.

12 Nov 2018
Child Exploitation
Meeting



What did we do?

- We welcomed a new chair to the group.
- We received information about the recent review into the Swan Unit, which was set up following the CSE SCR to deal specifically with CSE-related referrals, and found that it no longer reflected the needs of children and families. The focus on CSE meant that often other forms of exploitation were not considered. A plan which should see a move to an exploitation hub was due to complete by March 2019.
- We maintained scrutiny into the outcome of the review of the CSE SCR. Agencies who had taken part in the review were invited to a meeting with the BSCB Chair, Fran Gosling-Thomas, in early December so that they could discuss at what stage they were with the recommendation and what evidence they could provide to show that changes have been made and established.

What difference did we make for children?

We maintained grip and pace on the scrutiny so that children could be assured that we fully completed the action plan we signed up to.

16 Jan 2019
Child Exploitation
Meeting



What did we do?

- We received an update on the ongoing dialogues between the local authority (and chair of the subgroup) and the district councils with regard to taxi driver training.
- We agreed about the engagement of a consultant to look at the impact of exploitation-related Board work, such as previous serious case reviews, policies and procedures. They will be undertaking a deep dive audit of children's experiences of services when they have been identified as subject to or at risk of sexual exploitation. It is part of a 'distance travelled' audit the group requested.
- We heard about the CSE SCR review meeting which took place 13 December, chaired by the BSCB Independent Chair. It was explained that the Board is currently reviewing the pace and robustness of previous SCRs across a number of themes.
- We looked at a list of actions relating to the CSE plan which required input from the group. These were discussed and the action plan was updated with the information from the meeting.
- We heard that interviews had started for the Swan Unit/family worker role.

- The group started to scrutinise the new communications plan and agreed with the proposed spend for 2019 (taxi sticker campaign) and promoting the numbers for reporting. It was agreed that agencies would need to measure the impact, e.g. any increase in reporting. We agreed that we need SMART business objectives from the subgroup in order to drive communications activity in 2019/20.

What difference did that make for children?

- We kept up the scrutiny so that children could be assured we had made use of the learning from the serious case review.
- We started to produce new ways of raising awareness that would make a clearer impact for children.

26 March 2019
Child Exploitation
Meeting



What did we do?

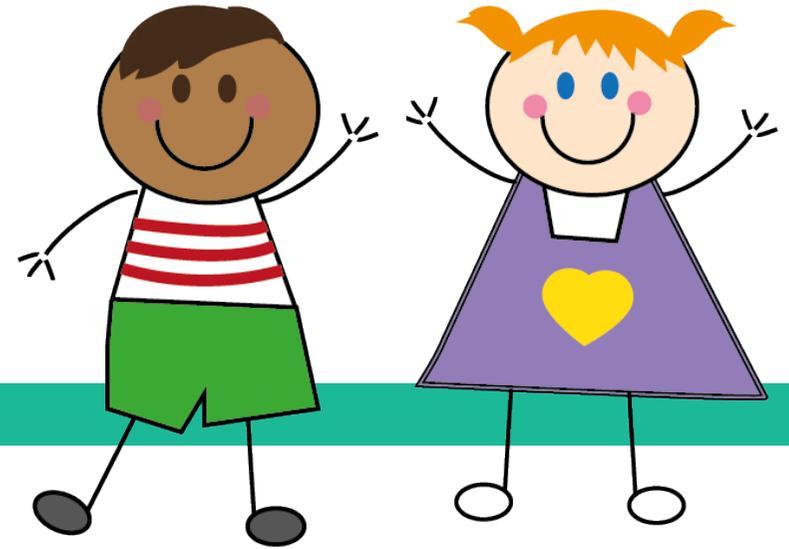
- BSCB team started planning multi-agency workshops to raise awareness about definitions and services related to exploitation.
- We heard about the introduction of ELPIS (data analysis system focused on missing people) which would make best use of data about missing people and we agreed that we needed to adopt that in Buckinghamshire.
- We shared information from the contextual safeguarding network to broaden our understanding of the issues that children face in relation to exploitation.

What difference did we make for children?

- We made sure that we planned workshops for as many relevant people as possible, to ensure that we all understand what exploitation is and why it is important to act on it.
- We agreed to make use of evidence-based tools so that we can respond in the best ways to the needs of children when they are vulnerable.

POLICY & PROCEDURE SUBGROUP

To ensure there are up to date multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures for Buckinghamshire which are easily accessible and well embedded across partner organisations.



(Click on the dates for more information).

8 May
2018



3 July
2018



18 Sept
2018



20 Nov
2018



28 Feb
2019



8 May 2018
Policy & Procedure
Meeting



What did we do?

- We looked at improving attendance and engagement in this work, including improving engagement with the voluntary sector. We agreed that hearing the voice of the child was key.
- We shared the update from the [neglect conference](#) and as a result agreed improvements that were needed in our neglect policies and guidance.
- The subgroup reviewed all items identified on the forward plan as due for sign off/verbal update at the March meeting.
- We finalised the escalation procedure and made that available on our [website](#).
- We finalised the “[Children Living in Households Where There is Substance Misuse Guidance](#)”.
- We fully updated and signed off the [joint protocol](#) between Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Safer Stronger Buckinghamshire Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

What difference did that make for children?

A number of key pieces of guidance were made available. This meant that anyone working with children could better understand how to respond to their needs and how to appropriately challenge things if they did not agree. Having information publically accessible helps to ensure children are safeguarded in a range of settings.

3 July 2018
Policy & Procedure
Meeting



What did we do?

- We reviewed all our compliance and information sharing policies in relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). As a result, the wording in all our policies was updated.
- We shared and discussed the Domestic Abuse Strategy so that we could offer feedback from a children’s perspective.
- We continued to receive updates for our delayed reporting policy.

What difference did we make for children?

We spent time ensuring that we understood the new GDPR requirements so that we were sharing and storing data appropriately.



18 Sept 2018
Policy & Procedure
Meeting

What did we do?

- We were invited to review and feedback on a proposed Local Area Policy for the provision of a needle exchange programme for young people under 18 (including young people under 16). The subgroup supported this sensitive and considered piece of work which was seeking to safeguard some of the most vulnerable children.
- We considered a revised copy of the Early Help Strategy prior to the start of the consultation.
- We received amendments to our Honour Based Violence/Forced Marriage Guidance from subgroup members. This was then updated and [published](#).
- We looked at a good example of an [Unidentified Adults Toolkit](#) from Hampshire and agreed that, as this related to learning outcomes from serious case reviews, it would be valuable to share with Buckinghamshire colleagues. We were later able to upload this.

What difference did that make for children?

We supported the implementation and sharing of key policies and tools which, by signing off such policies and adopting toolkits from other areas, we sought to improve knowledge and insight to benefit practice.



20 Nov 2018
Policy & Procedure
Meeting

What did we do?

- We gave feedback on a session held specifically for staff in the new Young People's Substance Misuse Service. While this received positive feedback, it also reinforced need for the promotion of safeguarding tools and better integrated working between statutory and specialist services.
- We agreed to extend the remit of this group to include practice as part of the move towards the new arrangement. The TOR and plan would also be reviewed to reflect this.

What difference did we make for children?

- We increased the reach of the group by training substance misuse workers, ensuring that children who access those services are supported by staff who are up to date and aware of the procedures in Buckinghamshire.
- We challenged ourselves to ensure that under the new arrangements we will look at how changes in policy affects practice and, accordingly, what difference that makes to children.



28 Feb 2019
Policy & Procedure
Meeting

What did we do?

- We stayed informed about the BSAB transitions audit.
- We heard about the new local child safeguarding practice reviews process.
- We discussed how we would fulfil the new practice element of our work: we would seek to understand what happens when policies and procedures are published. How are they embedded? How can we evidence the impact on front line practitioners and the children/families they support?
- We discussed some of the challenges in getting timely updates on policies and looked at two different providers to help us do this.

What difference did we make for children?

We ensured that, going forward, our work will capture the impact of policies and guidance by making better use of the voice of the child.

PERFORMANCE, QUALITY & ASSURANCE SUBGROUP

To coordinate quality assurance and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by BSCB partner agencies, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



(Click on the dates for more information).

1 May
2018



26 June
2018



11 Sept
2018



13 Nov
2018



5 March
2019



1 May 2018
Performance, Quality
& Assurance Meeting



What did we do?

- We took a detailed look at the data on the current dashboard.
- We looked in detail at what audits we were planning and how we will undertake them. We decided to do four focused audits per year led by subgroup members and using a variety of methods, such as case studies, table top and online. This model will promote an open and honest discussion and will allow agencies to identify ways to improve their processes for safeguarding children.
- We agreed to create a proforma to support this audit model. All sessions will be required to agree recommendations and develop a clear and concise action plan. We agreed that all appropriate frontline staff are invited to attend these sessions and subgroup leads will allocate responsibility for updates on all recommendations.
- We learned from the completed audit 'Children with Disabilities', and the BSCB support team agreed to develop a learning sheet for the website along with an action plan which will be shared with the Board.
- We looked at some challenge questions raised by child exploitation group and from CDOP. There were a number of issues that were identified, including the transition from children to adult services and how the young

person felt about these changes, as well as information sharing between agencies and a noted reliance on parental reporting.

What difference did that make for children?

We made sure that the issues we planned to examine were ones affecting children the most and we looked at ways to make sure we capture their voices more clearly. We took notice of what other groups were raising with us and looked at how our work might get assurance on these issues.

26 June 2018
Performance, Quality
& Assurance Meeting



What did we do?

- We signed off a completed audit regarding children in need and reviewed the draft learning log for the children with disabilities audit.
- We discussed a report that was shared following some workshops we commissioned on information sharing, and talked about how it related to the audit plan.

What difference did we make for children?

We agreed to share learning with our partners following an audit so that people who work with children can have access to the same information.



11 Sept 2018
Performance, Quality
& Assurance Meeting

What did we do?

- We continued to scrutinise the CSE SCR actions to ensure progress was made.
- We agreed that SCRs, like audits, need to have clear and measurable recommendations, which can be achieved and evidenced by agencies. These recommendations should be child-focused, with improvements in outcomes for children as key consideration.
- We looked at how the SCR subgroup and PQ&A work together. The PQ&A role is to seek assurance from the reviews that lessons are being learnt and that practice is improving.

What difference did that make for children?

We ensured that the actions that had been agreed to benefit children were progressing as planned.



13 Nov 2018
Performance, Quality
& Assurance Meeting

What did we do?

- We took feedback from a peer review, with Hampshire having undertaken a health check on the CDOP group.
- We discussed a planned review of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) /Swan Unit processes as cases were taking too long to review.
- We reflected on a planned learning event following an escalation to the Board. Facilitators had been identified and the content agreed.
- We reviewed the move to partnership arrangements. It was agreed by the subgroup that a full review on how we work as a group would be hugely beneficial moving forwards.
- We discussed membership, attendance and expectations reviewed by the Chair.

What difference did we make for children?

- We kept up a level of scrutiny in order to be assured that the partnership was working effectively for children.
- We agreed to look at our own processes and expectations so that this group could ensure we were benefiting children.



5 March 2019
Performance, Quality
& Assurance Meeting

What did we do?

- We agreed further improvements to our data collection to ensure that:
 - » the data collated should only be information that is already collected via agency systems.
 - » the data should focus on the five key priorities agreed for the new partnership in 2019/20: Domestic Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, Transitions and Early Help. The dataset should pull together a clear and considered overview of these issues on a local level.
- We focused in this meeting on the journey of the child through children's social care data including Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) data.

What difference did we make for children?

We sharpened our focus on the data that agencies collect in order to better understand the current experience of children and increase the amount of data available to the Board.

CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL

The death of a child is always tragic and leaves families with a sense of shock, devastation and loss. However, it is important that we review child deaths to see whether we can learn any lessons to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of other children, or to improve the support for bereaved families. As set out in Working Together 2015, the BSCB has a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which fulfils this function.

PANEL MEETING	NO. OF CASES REVIEWED	HIGHLIGHTS
11 May 2018	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a recent death, which was not notified to CDOP, a case study was written for circulation to all GP practices to help them to think about when they may need to share information they receive.
6 July 2019	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel invited a member of the suicide prevention group along to hear what the group was doing to help prevent young people taking their own lives in Buckinghamshire, and what resources there are to support schools around this. New guidance, Working Together 2018, was launched and the panel looked at various models for CDOP and agreed a proposal to be put to the new safeguarding executive partnership to take CDOP forward.
21 Sept 2018	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A representative from Hampshire CDOP attended the panel meeting to conduct a peer review.
16 Nov 2018	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A significant rise in number of deaths in this period caused concern but there appeared to be no pattern and all were unavoidable. A representative from Berkshire CDOP attended the meeting to improve cross-border working. The new Child Death Review Guidance has been published and the panel looked at this in detail to see what changes needed to be made to current working practices to ensure compliance.
18 Jan 2019	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Freedom of Information (FOI) request was received and completed.
15 March 2019	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed to change panel meeting days to Tuesdays to facilitate attendance at panel by the CCG Named GP and Coroners Officer. Further work has been undertaken with Oxon CDOP in preparation for joint working from 1 April.
TOTAL	24	

WORK OF THE BOARD

In addition to our priorities and meetings, there are pieces of work the Board undertake as part of our business; administering and supporting serious case reviews and ensuring training is provided and quality assured for partner agencies.

SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS

Working Together 2015 states that a Serious Case Review (SCR) must be undertaken by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) where:

- (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- (b) either — (i) the child has died, or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.



8

subgroup meetings were held (the frequency increased due to demand and increased emphasis on implementing learning).

3

large scale reviews were held.

- A review, in partnership with the local authority, including partner agencies, of the actions from the Stony Dean serious case review (published July 2009). The review was held on 6/12/18.
- We reviewed all the evidence against the action plan arising from the CSE SCR (published April 2017). The review was held on 13/12/18.
- A thematic review of 12 serious case reviews published by BSCB from 2009-2019, which were broken down into two themes. The reviews that came about as a result of suicide and non-accidental injuries in babies. The review was held on 6/2/19.



We commissioned learning materials as a result of the Baby Q review which will be on our website in 2019.



We planned our first partner conference around the recurring themes from the thematic review of ten years of serious case review – these were domestic abuse, parental learning disabilities and exploitation.



We signed off a SCR report which cannot currently be published.

TRAINING

We notified the new National Panel for Child Safeguarding Practice of reviews of five new serious case reviews – (see the practice guidance, terms of reference and information about reviewers [here](#))

Family T	23/07/2018
SYV	15/10/2018
Baby N	16/01/2019
Child AA	13/03/2019
Baby V	14/01/2019

To read any of our serious case reviews please visit:
<https://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/serious-case-review/>

41

full day courses offered by the BSCB Training Team in 2018-19.

624

attendees.



7

were cancelled either due to trainer illness (2), independent trainer no longer being available (1) or low enrolments (4).

The courses offered were:

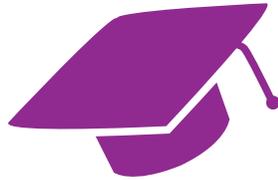
- Everyone's Responsibility.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Protecting Disabled Children.
- Neglect.
- Working With Challenging Families.
- Domestic Abuse and Child Protection.
- Parents with Mental Ill Health.
- Child Protection.
- Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Family Outcomes Star.



In addition, the Children Board also commissioned an independent trainer to deliver four sessions on information sharing which was offered in conjunction with the Adults Board. 54 people attended these sessions.

13 awareness-raising/bespoke training sessions offered by the BSCB Training Team in 2018-19.

102 attendees.



2 were cancelled either due to low enrolments.

These sessions included:

- The Role of the LADO.
- Good Practice for Child Protection Conferences.
- Child Protection Conferences – Manager’s Responsibility.
- Child Sexual Exploitation - a bespoke session for a Buckinghamshire County Council children’s home.



What went well:

- Good multi-agency attendance.
- Positive feedback from attending delegates.
- The efficient use of resources resulted in a significant contribution being made to the overall board budget.



What didn't go so well:

- The evaluation aspect of the online booking system does not provide useful information.
- Trainers in the training pool are diminishing and there is a lack of commitment from some on the pool (e.g. one course per year).



In January 2019, our online booking system went live. There have been a few glitches as with any new system but on the whole it is working well for administering bookings.

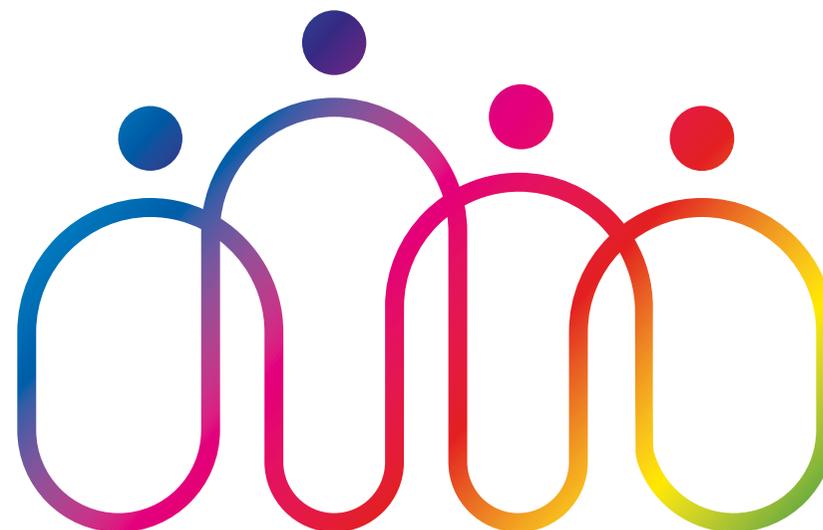
HOW WERE WE FUNDED?

We are funded by contributions from partner agencies. For 2018/19 these were:

Buckinghamshire County Council	£155,683.00
Thames Valley Police	£24,290.00
Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group	£70,180.00
Probation Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)	£1,735.00
National Probation Service	£1,227.00
Wycombe District Council	£10,633.00
Aylesbury Vale District Council	£10,633.00
South Bucks District Council	£5,317.00
Chiltern District Council	£5,317.00
CAFCASS	£550.00
Oxford Health (CAMHS)	£8,000.00

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE BOARD?

We are becoming Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and will be publishing our new arrangements in June 2019.



Buckinghamshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

SOURCES

- ¹ Mid-year population estimates 2018. Available from: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesqualitytools
- ² 2011 Census
- ³ 2018 data from Local Authority Interactive Tool. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait
- ⁴ 2011 Census
- ⁵ Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016/17: From The Very Beginning. Available from: <http://www.healthandwellbeingbucks.org/jsna-dphar>
- ⁶ 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Available from: www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/community/research/deprivation/
- ⁷ 2018 data from Local Authority Interactive Tool. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait
- ⁸ 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Available from: www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/community/research/deprivation/
- ⁹ Buckinghamshire Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014/15. Available from: www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/2672362/1405_Bucks_Council_Report_FINAL_v2.pdf
- ¹⁰ Customer Segmentation presentation (June 2014) Buckinghamshire County Council Research Team

