



**Buckinghamshire**  
**Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Business Plan April 2020 – March 2023

## Foreword

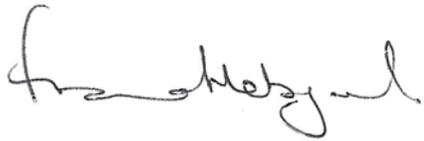
The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) replaced the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in 2019. The new arrangements place the joint responsibility for safeguarding children and young people on the Council, the police and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The changes must be more than just a change of name as we seek to strengthen our local delivery and build on the improvements that have been made in recent years.

The change to the Partnership and a review of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults' Board (BSAB) provided an opportunity to review the chairmanship of the two boards and their respective business units. As a result, a decision was made to appoint a single Independent Chair for BSAB and BSCP and to merge the business units together. I was delighted to be appointed as the Chair in August 2019 and I am pleased to say that the new business unit is in place at the start of April 2020.

This Plan and achieving its effective implementation is probably the most important thing done by the BSCP. The Plan draws from national statutory requirements, more local policy needs and lived experiences in order to protect children and young people. Throughout the plan there is a strong and consistent focus on listening to the voices of children and young people and taking a family-centred approach. I hope that future plans actively embrace what children and young people who have experiences of using the multi-agency safeguarding services say to us, and that the plan is more co-produced in future years.

In this document, BSCP sets out the strategic objectives and priorities it wishes to adopt from April 2020 right through until March 2023. Each year the Partnership will produce an annual report which sets out what has been achieved against its plan and what we need to refocus on in future years. As has been demonstrated by the Covid-19 crisis, we have to be flexible to respond to new challenges. However, the priorities of multi-agency working, listening to and working with our communities and safeguarding children and young people have never been more important. It is good to see existing relationships working well and new networks being formed which will be beneficial beyond this crisis.

This plan is not just for the Partnership and the business team who support it, but for all leaders, managers and practitioners in any of our partner organisations. Our purpose is simple – to be effective as a partnership of statutory organisations tasked with protecting children and young people. Please assist in actively promoting this Strategic Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Habgood', written in a cursive style.

Sir Francis J S Habgood, QPM  
Independent Chair for Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults' Board

## OUR VISION

To work together to enable children and young people in Buckinghamshire to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse. To ensure our approach is focussed around “talk to me, hear my voice” and it is central to everything we do.

## OUR AIMS



Working Together 2018 is statutory guidance that provides children’s safeguarding with a legal framework, setting out the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners.

From a statutory perspective the three legally required bodies are:-

- Buckinghamshire Council
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Thames Valley Police

A range of other partners will also support the Vision and Aims of the Business Plan.

This Business Plan describes the activities the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children’s Board (BSCB) will be undertaking from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The Business Plan will be implemented through the work of the BSCB sub groups which will focus on specific objectives. These activities will be monitored throughout the year and progress will be reported on annually in the BSCB Annual Report.

The Business Plan contains four priorities that will support the work of the BSCB, Sub Groups and Multi Agency working. The “outcomes” listed within each priority will ensure that we achieve our Aims and thereby our Vision, to provide a voice to those individuals in need of support and demonstrate the difference we will make to our local communities.

**“Talk to me, Hear my voice” Ensure the child or young person is at the centre of the approach adopted across Children’s Services**

1	Action Required	Lead	How	Outcomes (what we will achieve)
1.1	Adopt a think family approach to the safety, well-being and development of children and young people as the overriding priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSCP</li> <li>• BSCP sub groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That agencies consider how to work with and support the whole family and the benefits of sharing information between adults and children’s services to have better informed view of the needs, risks and circumstances</li> <li>• Bi Annual conferences centred around subjects that identify specific learning and development needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable vulnerable children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes</li> </ul>
1.2	Carry out Safeguarding Children’s Reviews in line with Care Act requirements, taking into account specific actions developed from those at the centre of the review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCR sub group</li> <li>• BSCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robustly ensure SCR’s completed and action plans are embedded and changes practiced</li> <li>• Implement changes around the rapid review process, commissioning of authors and capturing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce number of SCR’s by learning and changing the way we do things to ensure children and young people are safe and supported</li> <li>• Provide a focused approach to</li> </ul>

			intended outcomes from recommendations and actions	recommendations that demonstrate real change to processes and learning that is seen to be impacting on the life's lived by children and young people
1.3	Undertake activity supported through the Children's Partnership Arrangements 2019 and Thematic SCR written with regards to serious youth violence. Establish links with multi faith groups and hard to reach communities to ensure full engagement across all children and young people in Buckinghamshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSCP</li> <li>• Multi faith and hard to reach groups</li> <li>• Education and Learning sub group</li> <li>• CSP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with black and minority ethnic communities to prevent and reduce violent crime (recommendation for SCR on serious youth violence)</li> <li>• Connecting with hard to reach communities by ensuring that "front door" services such as the MASH are easily accessible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building trusting relationships with children and young people to ensure they have the appropriate safeguarding support</li> </ul>

<b>Neglect, Exploitation &amp; Abuse</b>				
<b>2</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcomes (what we will achieve)</b>
<b>2.1</b>	Working within a multi-agency setting to combat serious youth violence, promoting alternatives to young people at risk of being drawn into serious crime that may include violence, exploitation and abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSCP</li> <li>• CSP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure working with partners to provide a joint approach around violence for example TVP violence reduction unit's pilot</li> <li>• Seek engagement with young people to hear their voice through forums such as Youth Voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding and reducing the risks that children and young people are living with</li> <li>• Children and young people influencing decision making in the community and feeling empowered to speak out and improve safeguarding outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>2.2</b>	Establish the Education and Learning sub group as per Children's Partnership Arrangements 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSCP</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with Education and Learning sub group to define a work plan whereby neglect, exploitation and abuse are leading aspects of improving services to children and young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing processes for learning from early years to adolescent, to ensure better lived experiences</li> </ul>

2.3	Embed Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Protocol 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MASH Exploitation Hub</li> <li>• BSCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt the Protocol's Principles to support multi agency working, to combat and disrupt sexual and criminal exploitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people in Buckinghamshire to be able to live without fear of exploitation, criminal or otherwise</li> </ul>
2.4	Review of Threshold document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a review of the current document in line with feedback from partners. Once agreed publish new document</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide clear signposting for agencies into services for children and young people and a process of escalation in risk/service</li> </ul>

Ensure smooth transitions within Children's and Adult Services				
3	Action Required	Lead	How	Outcomes (what we will achieve)
3.1	Joint working between Services to ensure a smooth transition from children to adult services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PQ&amp;I sub group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce regular case discussions, seeking to ensure smoother transitions, including clearer communication around referrals and assessments</li> <li>Develop a process of greater integration between children, adult and transitions teams in the management and handover of young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased levels of communications between teams, understanding of work being/needed to be undertaken</li> <li>Care Leavers feeling involved in their life decisions, leading to a reduction in anxiety and young people feeling supported and empowered</li> </ul>
3.2	Support the introduction of the Thames Valley Alliance regarding the regulation of accommodation provided to young people aged 16+ in Buckinghamshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations Manager Children's Service Commissioning jointly with TVP</li> <li>BSCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce an alliance that will commission, inspect and monitor 16+ provisions within the Thames Valley Region. This partnership would be known as the Thames Valley Alliance (TVA)</li> <li>Ensure all accredited providers are vetted to a high standard and engaged with the review of provisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist in the reduction and the risk associated with the commissioning of inappropriate companies. This can be achieved through the correct research and vetting of provisions.</li> <li>To sponsor, promote and collaborate to produce an agreed accreditation scheme for unregulated</li> </ul>

				accommodation in Buckinghamshire to support young people in transition
3.3	Schools in Buckinghamshire to provide clear transfer arrangements within Buckinghamshire and other Local Authorities. Identifying any child who has demonstrated behavioural problems, thus ensuring a successful integration into secondary school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Children's Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt recommendation 4 made in the Thematic SCR on serious youth violence</li> <li>• Manage any safeguarding issues and providing the support mechanism needed to make this a success for the child or young person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a successful integration into secondary school</li> </ul>

Training and Development				
4	Action Required	Lead	How	Outcomes (what we will achieve)
4.1	Publish the Learning and Development Business Plan 2020/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop robust learning and development plan meeting statutory requirements and local needs</li> <li>Develop multi agency training to support networking opportunities across partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create training opportunities and training pathways to support and guide multi agency partners and the third sector</li> <li>Achieve greater learning and shared knowledge across multi agencies</li> </ul>
4.2	Explore and develop a range of approaches to achieve meaningful involvement and feedback from children and young people within our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory Partners</li> <li>Education and Learning sub group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with children and young people in forums such as Youth Voice</li> <li>Activity to be led by the Education and Learning sub group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local children and young people are fully engaged to ensure their voice is central to everything that we do</li> </ul>
4.3	To raise awareness with education and child care providers to improve early identification of vulnerable children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory partners in Education/ Social Care/ YOS</li> <li>BSCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and implement recommendations from SYV Case Review (Ibbetson)</li> <li>Revision of training practices and delivery within Education to support understanding of wider safeguarding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage children to achieve their best in education, are ready for work and have essential skills for life</li> <li>Early identification and support is</li> </ul>

			issues	achieved through multi-agency collaboration
4.4	Learning is taken from working in unforeseen circumstances such as Covid 19, to enable and embed working practices for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All partner agencies with a lead being in the Education and Learning sub group and CSC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop processes to remain in contact, thereby supporting and working with children and young people. For example the use of technology to conduct front line activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that engagement still takes place and that children and young people are not left exposed without support mechanisms</li> </ul>

Business Plan Author :- Vince Grey

Safeguarding Partnership Manager

Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Business Plan V 1.0 Commencement Date 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Business Plan Review Date 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 for updates leading into April 2021. The Business Plan to be then reviewed in February 2022/23

Business Plan to be Reviewed and updated by the Safeguarding Partnership Manager

### **Glossary**

BSCB Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board

SCR Serious Case Review

PPP Policy Procedure & Practice

QPI Quality Performance & Improvement

YOS Youth Offending Service

CSC Children's Social Care

MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

CSP Community Safety Partnership

TVP Thames Valley Police