



Buckinghamshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Buckinghamshire multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

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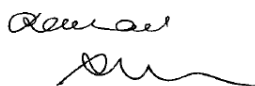
INTRODUCTION

This paper sets out the new local safeguarding arrangements as agreed by the statutory safeguarding partners in line with the revised “Working Together” statutory guidance. The arrangements have been developed by the statutory safeguarding partners following initial work by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and from ongoing collaboration with relevant agencies and partners. BSCB last met in November 2018 and have been engaging with partners on options for the new partnership since July 2018. From February 2018 a working group of representatives for the key partners began to meet to develop the model. Alongside this, a new unitary council for Buckinghamshire, which will cover the whole of the county area and replace the existing County and District Councils, will come into being on 1st April 2020. As part of the programme to create the new council the safeguarding partnership arrangements for children will be reviewed by the three statutory partners.

The safeguarding partners in relation to our local authority are defined under the Children Act 2004 (amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:

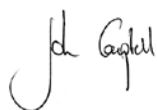
- i) Buckinghamshire County Council
- ii) Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- iii) Thames Valley Police

Appropriate representatives from these agencies have signed to agree to their part in overseeing, monitoring and driving the implementation of these plans:



.....

Executive Director of Children’s Services



.....

Chief Constable Thames Valley Police



.....

Chief Officer Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group.





Buckinghamshire Context:

Buckinghamshire is a county of contrast, with a predominantly rural north and a more urban South. Mid-year population estimates for 2016 projected a Buckinghamshire population of almost 535,000. Each year around 6,000 babies are born. The current child population is:

0-4 years 33,132

5-9 years 36,035

10-14 years 33,175

15-19 years 31,113

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 2012). 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. Children from minority ethnic groups account for 20.9% of all children living in the area, compared with 21.5% for England as a whole. In primary schools 18.2% of children and young people have a first language other than English (England average: 21.2%) and in secondary schools the figure is 16.9% (England average: 16.6%). In Buckinghamshire, 5.3% of households (10,550 households) were classed as lone parent households with dependent children, compared to 7.1% in England. 4.9% 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.

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. In 2014, about 10,500 (10.8%) children under 16 years of age lived in low income families, compared with 14.7% in the South East and 20.1% in England. The proportion of children entitled to free school meals is 6.4% in nursery and primary schools (the England average is 13.7%) and 4.4% in secondary schools (the England average is 12.4%).

Overall, a number of favourable socio-economic circumstances contribute to the better health and wellbeing of the Buckinghamshire population compared to nationally. However, Buckinghamshire also 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.

In this context, the changes required as a result of changes to Working Together enabled the key partners to begin to address some of the local drivers for change;

a) The findings of the Ofsted Single Inspection of the Local Authority in November 2017 (report published in January 2018) and the subsequent improvement direction issued by the Department for Education (July 2018). Future business plans of the new partnership will demonstrate how the



proposed arrangements will align with the Local Authority's improvement plan for Children's Social Care and deliver improved outcomes for children and families

- b) A drive to ensure that key decisions about funding contributions and the form and function of the support team to make most effective use of resources, including exploring options for joint functions with other strategic partnerships
- c) A drive to achieve sharper focus on shared priorities with other strategic partnerships, such as reducing the impact of domestic abuse, exploitation and neglect. Key existing Boards and partnerships include;
 - The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)
 - Safer Stronger Buckinghamshire (community safety) Board (SSBPB)
 - Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB)
 - Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse strategic group (DVA Strat Group)
 - Buckinghamshire Anti-slavery and exploitation network. (ASEN)
- d) A need to strengthen a family based integrated approach to business and to increase the voice of children, families and operational staff as a way of shaping the work of the partnership.
- e) An opportunity to better evidence the outcomes and impact of the new partnership arrangement, including strengthening and reviewing its scrutiny and assurance processes (given that Buckinghamshire has been judged to be inadequate by Ofsted on two consecutive occasions)
- f) An opportunity to be ambitious in thinking about what is possible, and the need to work differently in order to be able to make a positive, real and lasting difference for children and their families.

Buckinghamshire Current Safeguarding Values and Vision:

Vision -

"A strong and shared safeguarding culture across partners ensures every child and young person in Buckinghamshire grows up safe from maltreatment, neglect and harm. Children and their parents receive the right help and support when they need it, leading to better outcomes for children and young people."

Values

- We will be honest and clear about the difference we are making for children and young people.
- We will respectfully challenge each other to ensure we are making a difference.
- We will all take responsibility for helping each other to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- We will value difference to help us to improve.
- We will look to hold to account rather than to blame.
- Everything we do will benefit children and young people in Buckinghamshire
- We will be courageous.
- We are all in it together – as a Partnership we will accept collective responsibility for our performance.



The purpose of the new safeguarding arrangement is therefore,

- To better safeguard children and families by improving the impact of front line services
- To agree the vision, strategy and policy direction for safeguarding across all services
- To promote and encourage collaborative and integrated working at all levels of the workforce
- To build a confident workforce who are better able to recognise and respond to the needs of children and families at the earliest opportunity
- To share and make effective use of intelligence including the voices of children, families, experts by experience and data.
- To share, embed and measure the impact of learning that arises from the work of the partnership
- To offer appropriate challenge where there are areas which are not meeting the needs of children and families.

1. The arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to needs of children in the area

Our local safeguarding partners are known as the Executive partnership group and are identified as:

- Director of Commissioning and Delivery for the CCG
- Service Director Childrens Social Care, BCC
- Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, TVP
- Service Director, Education and Learning, BCC

The partnership will be served by a number of strategic sub groups;

- Performance , quality and improvement
- Policy, procedure and practice
- Local Child Safeguarding Practice reviews
- Exploitation
- Safeguarding in Education and learning
- Child death overview panel

All sub groups will require to evidence the outcomes of meetings including SMART actions and to account for how the meeting has benefited children. Sub groups will also be required to record whether there are any workforce or learning and development implications from the discussions. Sub group Chairs will be required to report into the Executive Group with key achievements and any escalations or blockages.

Membership for all the groups should include representatives who can identify resources within their services (such as staff to support policy reviews, attend learning events etc.). Representatives should also be at a level whereby they can take back constructive challenge to their own organisations and can disseminate learning.



Key areas of focus for these groups will include-

Policy, Procedure and Practice

- Addressing drift by increasing 'sign up' from partners agencies to ensure that policies are updated, amended and shared within clear time frames
- Refreshing the work plan to ensure a policy /procedure schedule which is more responsive to the needs of children and their workforce
- Developing the 'practice' remit of the group by developing impact measurements and extending the website to include toolkits/practice based materials
- Embedding better links to PQI and LCSPR sub group so that the impact of learning from those groups is reflected in the policies, procedures and practice.
- Identifying any learning and development themes and strengthening the voice of the child in its work.

Performance, Quality and Improvement

- Refreshing the work plan to make sure it reflects current risks and needs as well as capturing good practice
- Refreshing the approach to audits- ensuring we are using a range of methodologies and engaging with a more diverse audience including front line staff and serviced users
- Revising the section 11 tool to ensure we are capturing the 'real' picture of safeguarding in Buckinghamshire
- Embedding better links with LCSPRs and PPP sub groups, making communication between the groups clearer and more effective
- Identifying any learning and development themes and strengthening the voice of the child in its work

Local Child Safeguarding Practice reviews

- Ensuring new processes are implemented (such as including the rapid review process)
- Increasing the learning available to the safeguarding partnership from linked processes such as DHR's
- Becoming proactive rather than reactive, including commissioning approved providers so that we have trusted authors and chairs for reviews
- Ensuring that we scrutinise evidence of the implementation of recommendations from reviews
- Increasing collaborative work with CDOP to benefit from wider learning (where it doesn't meet the criteria)
- Building a strengths based approach e.g. consider use of serious success reviews
- Identifying any learning and development themes and strengthening the voice of the child in its work



Exploitation

- Building and using the area profile and scorecard
- Increasing the effectiveness of communication (to raise awareness and responsiveness to exploitation)
- Improving the experience of children who transition to adult services
- Building more effective relationships with communities
- Identifying any learning and development themes and strengthening the voice of the child in its work

Safeguarding in education and learning:

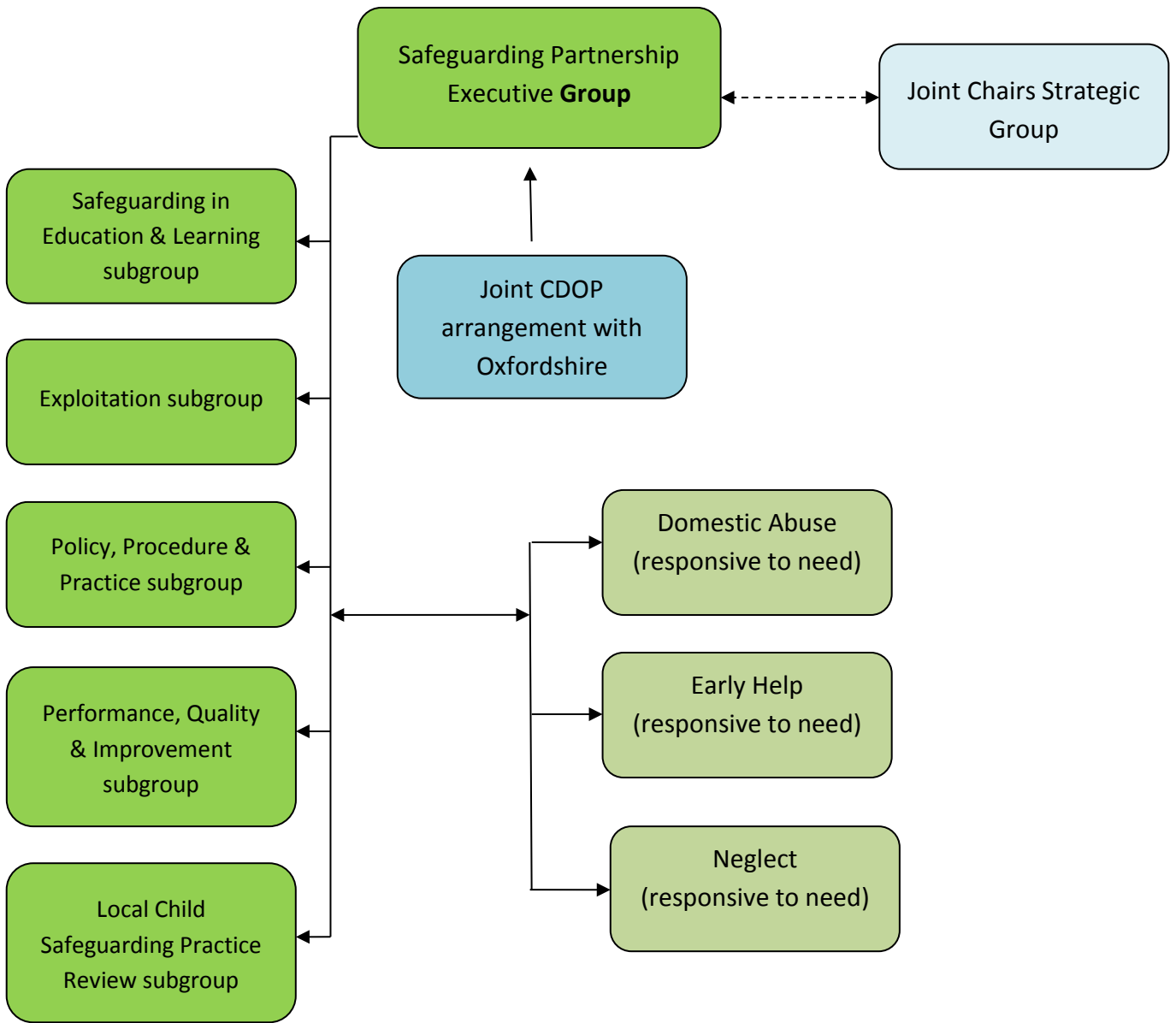
- Ensuring the partnership captures the views and intelligence held by schools, colleges and other learning providers
- Identifying and addressing specific needs such as training
- Enabling the effective dissemination of learning and key messages

It will be an expectation that each sub group builds connectivity and joint working with Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adult Board sub groups. Through improved joint working and approaches a collective ambition of improving outcomes for children and families is more likely to be realised.

In addition to the sub groups the arrangement includes the use of responsive, time limited action groups which will be employed on a 'task and finish' basis in response to an identified piece of work. This may include a peer audit, focus group, research or dissemination of a piece of learning. It is anticipated that these will be focused on our current business priorities as these are the issues that are impacting on children for example, domestic abuse, neglect and early help. The membership of these groups will be operational and include 'grass roots' practitioners, experts by experience, recipients of services.

In order to ensure that the work of the Boards is integrated effectively, the joint protocol (<http://bscb.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/5/Joint%20Board%20Protocol%202018%20final.pdf>) will be reviewed after publication of the model.

The structure is depicted in the diagram on the next page.





Geographical boundaries

The partnership will cover Buckinghamshire County boundaries but will work collaboratively with neighbouring areas where there is shared learning or cross boundary themes. Buckinghamshire has established working relationships with Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire Boards.

Relevant agencies the safeguarding partners will work with

The new partnership has sought to maintain relationships with previous Board partners and will seek to extend the relevant agencies actively engaged with the work of the partnership.

Relevant agencies have been chosen because they are actively engaged in the County and are integral to sharing information and improving the impact on frontline provision;

Education and childcare

Representatives from

- Independent schools
- Primary schools,
- Secondary schools
- Nursery's (early year's sectors)
- Buckinghamshire Family Information Service
- Buckinghamshire Community Childminder Network

Are an integral part of our sub groups and attend a review conference learning twice a year as well as sitting on case review panels.

In the next phase of implementation, the Education specific sub group will commence and will include representatives from

- Alternative provision (PRU's, Blueprint)
- Colleges
- Further education settings, including Buckinghamshire New University
- Academies (to be identified).

There will be a direct link from relevant education sector representatives to the Executive group as Buckinghamshire has agreed Head of Service level representation for Education as part of that group.

Buckinghamshire is currently undergoing a re-design of its early help provision; this will be implemented by September 2019. The planned family centres will be included in the partnership once roles and functions are agreed.



Health:

- Stoke Mandeville Hospital
- Trust Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children (CAMHS)Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Named Nurse for safeguarding children Buckinghamshire NHS trust
- Associate Director for Adult & Children's Safeguarding Buckinghamshire NHS trust
- Sexual health services
- Public health
- Cranstoun and ORB substance misuse services
- Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning group
- NHS England , Wessex and Thames Valley regions
- South Central Ambulance Service

Local authority

- Children's social care (including adoption and fostering)
- Adult social care
- Business Intelligence teams
- Early Help
- Childrens homes
- Commissioned services for children with disabilities (currently being retendered)
- Youth services
- District Councils; Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire and Wycombe. (The partnership is mindful of the move to a Unitary Council and the need to keep participation with the safeguarding partnership under review)

Police and Criminal Justice

- Thames Valley Police
- CAFCASS
- NPS and CRC
- Youth Justice Services (who are the current link to YOI and secure estate)
- British Transport Police

Voluntary, charity and faith sectors

- Women's Aid
- Action for Youth
- Action for Children
- Barnardo's
- PAFT
- Talkback
- (To be identified) faith sector representatives.



In order to maximise the impact of partnership working the partnership will actively link with a number of strategic Boards and forums. There will be continued work as part of the implementation of the Safeguarding Childrens arrangement to define roles with less well represented partners such as leisure providers. However, all the relevant agencies required on the schedule are active in one of the partnerships and their sub groups listed below;

- PEB and BASH (primary and secondary head teachers forums for Buckinghamshire)
- The three other strategic Boards (HWB, SSBPB and BSAB)
- The Childrens Partnership Improvement Board
- The Corporate Parenting Panel
- The Youth Offending Service Board
- Strategic groups such as DVA, Exploitation and Serious Violence groups
- Health Safeguarding meetings i.e. steering group meetings, Countywide meetings, Thames Valley Safeguarding meetings.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads forums
- Independent Schools Forum
- Safeguarding Named GP and designated professionals meeting- Thames Valley (quarterly)
- Early Years Forum

c) How relevant agencies and the partnership will collaborate and work together to improve outcomes

The partnership has agreed that it is essential to have a two way flow of information into and out of the Executive Group. To achieve engagement with the wide range of relevant agencies there will be;

- A revised and more responsive multi agency training offer
- A bi-annual partnership event focusing on themes affecting children and the safeguarding workforce
- Peer audits and challenge sessions
- Membership at a strategic sub-group level
- Active engagement with themed task and finish groups
- Attendance and representation at the Executive Partnership Group (including a schedule of reporting in ,presentations by partners and links in from other Boards and relevant groups)
- Agreed data and information sharing formats.
- Agreed lines of contact with members of the Executive Partnership Group, including a refresh of the escalation procedure and promotion of 'know your representative' via our newsletter



To enable the partnership to understand the impact on practice the partnership will require evidence from;

- Audits
- Child safeguarding practice reviews (recommendations and action plans)
- Performance data
- A schedule of agreed reports (e.g the LADO, CDOP and conference services annual reports)
- A schedule of reporting in from sub group Chairs against their annual work plan
- Qualitative and quantitative information from training
- **The views of operational staff**
- **The views of children and young people**

With regard to working effectively with other Boards and strategic groups, Buckinghamshire Joint Boards protocol, renewed in 2018, identifies the following areas where there are clear opportunities for taking a shared approach;

- Strategic risks
- Learning such as lessons from reviews
- Consultation
- Joint communication and engagement
- Intelligence

The partnership is currently reviewing the protocol in the light of required changes to the children's arrangements and the Executive will subsequently build this into its business planning.

d) Arrangements for Child Death Overview Panel.

Due to the statutory requirements regarding meaningful analysis of numbers of deaths, Buckinghamshire CDOP has agreed a partnership with neighbouring Oxfordshire. Implementation is well underway, with the first themed joint event agreed and scheduled for September 2019 and differences in current working practices identified with solutions. Day to day management for the CDOP staffing will remain with the Safeguarding partnership support team, supported by the CCG. The annual report will continue to be shared with the safeguarding partnership but will now also be shared with the HWB to support planning and commissioning decisions.

e) How the arrangements will include the voice of children and families

The new arrangement seeks to re-centre the voice of children and families at the heart of planning and measuring impact. Sub groups will be required to record and evidence how the voices of children and families were captured as part of their work plan and to measure their effectiveness, which will be shared in regular reporting into the Executive group.

Representatives from the partnership will build on their links to existing forums such as Buckinghamshire 'We Do Care' and Youth Council and SEND forums for children. The current safeguarding arrangement benefits from the voices of experts by experience in our exploitation work and has also recently commissioned insight from an expert by experience in the field of youth violence.



The executive group will require the partnership support team to seek relevant and user led contributions to the task and finish groups. Similarly the views of service users will be sought to 'sense check' the findings of audits, projects and also to contribute to audits. This will be led by sub groups who will agree the scope and requirements for the task and finish group and by the Performance, Quality and Improvement sub group who agree the form and content of audits.

How the arrangements will be funded

It has been agreed that the financial contributions will remain the same for 2019/20 as the previous year in order to provide continuity and stability during the implementation.

Contributions re set out below , the Board has previously benefited from a small income from training (approximately £20k per year) however, as part of the move to the partnership the training offer is being reviewed (see section 5) so this has not been factored in. The Board has always managed its fund effectively therefore, there is some contingency in year for increased costs e.g. the first bi-annual conference, increased serious case review work and transition events.

Agency/source	
BCC	£105,683
TVP	£24,290
Buckinghamshire CCG	£70,180
Probation CRC	£1,735
National Probation Service	£1,227
Wycombe District Council	£10,633
Aylesbury Vale District Council	£10,633
South Bucks District Council	£5,317
Chiltern District Council	£5,317
CAFCASS	£550
Oxford Health (CAMHS)	£8,000



2. Arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements and dispute resolution.

Buckinghamshire has agreed to appoint an Independent Chairperson to lead and consider the effectiveness of the children's arrangements and the current Buckinghamshire Safeguarding adults Board. It is intended that scrutiny is built into all layers of the arrangement in recognition of the need to improve and as a commitment to work together to achieve better outcomes for children and families.

It is acknowledged that individual agencies in Buckinghamshire are working on significant change and improvement agendas which can place a strain on resources. In order to make best use of time and contribution, the Executive will lead a cultural change from 'activity' based to accountability for outcomes.

In order to support the scrutiny function the Executive will seek to;

- Actively seek information from frontline staff and users of services
- Improve the data available to the partnership and demonstrate how the analysis impacted on decisions made to improve service outcomes
- Move away from long term drift and into tighter measureable timescales for improved outcomes

To role of the Chairperson will include;

- Ensuring the Executive has a current picture of the effectiveness of local safeguarding provision
- Holding partners to account in relation to effective leadership (Executive members, sub group members and individual agency members where appropriate) including responsiveness to actions and dissemination of learning
- Offering an objective view on disputes and escalations brought to the attention of the partnership (as per stage four of the BSCB procedures;

<http://bscb.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/5/Escalation%20Procedure%20Appendix%20C.pdf>

- Provide a link between the children's safeguarding arrangement and Adult Safeguarding Board
- Offer objective robust scrutiny and challenge

There are currently a number of ways in which Executive partners are subject to scrutiny with regard to their own agencies-

Health- Local providers submit regular data to the CCG for assurance purposes. This in turn is shared periodically with NHSE. Check and challenge takes place at each stage through an arrangement of meetings e.g. clinical quality review meetings, contract and performance meetings or other ICS/ICP forums as appropriate.

TVP-Within TVP there are a number of governance structures that manage safeguarding. Each area of vulnerability outlined by the College of Policing has an operational group led by a DCI that manages the implementation of strategy as well as identify operational issues that require change or training needs across TVP. These groups report into the Strategic Coordinator (Head of PVP) who has organisational responsibility for Vulnerability. Should there be issues of note, these are raised in the formal Gold level "Vulnerability Strategic Group" chaired by a Chief Officer. Through this structure and process TVP is able to monitor progression against threat, harm and risk as well as drive any



change to policy or process across the organisation. In addition to the force structure, each local LPA with BCC have their own governance arrangements through various performance and tasking meetings.

Children Services/ Local Authority. –governance feeds through the Children’s Select Committee, children’s services quality assurance framework regularly checks the quality of frontline practice and involves all levels of staff.

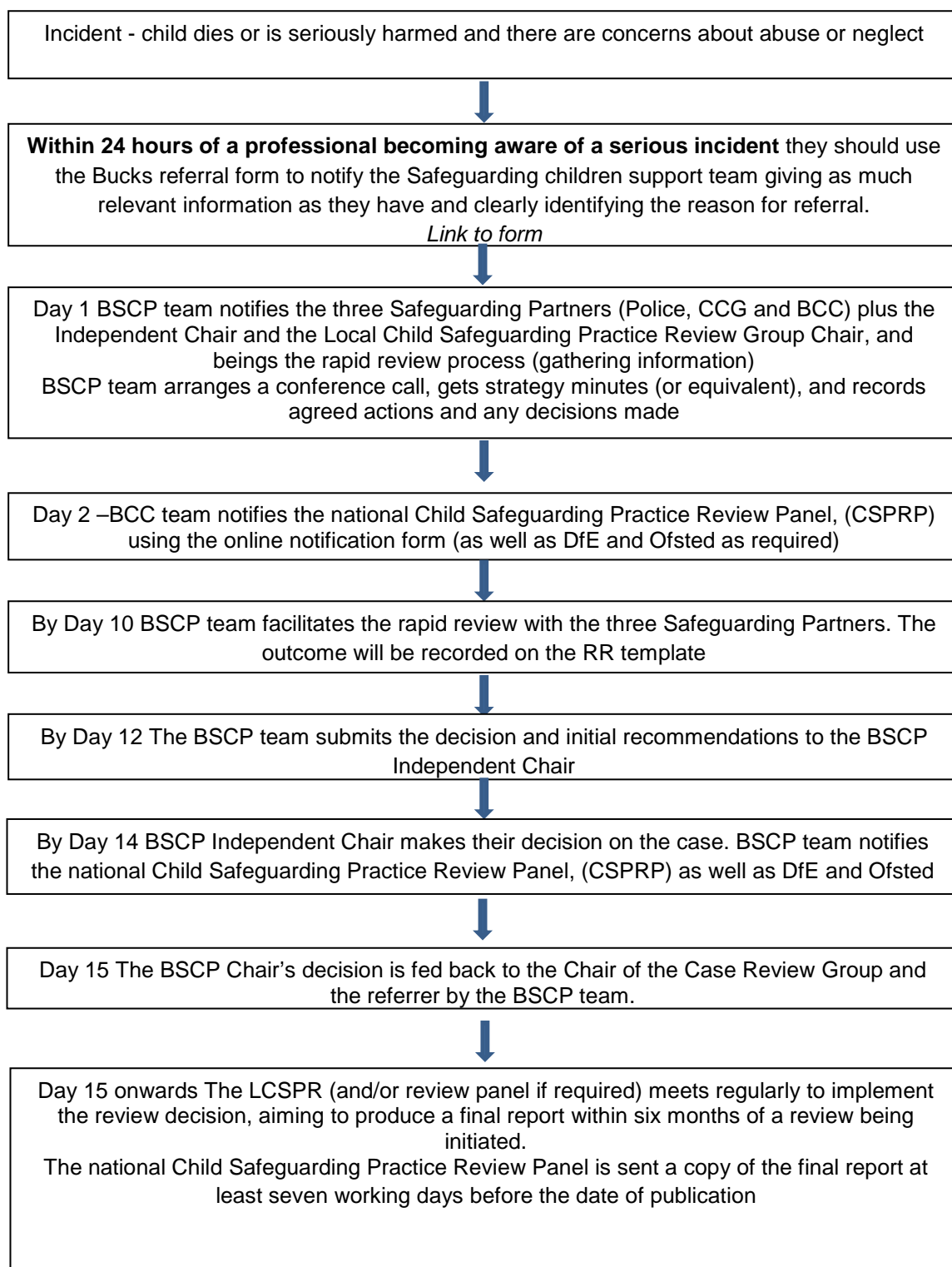
A robust schedule of audits (including the newly planned peer audits ‘reaching out’ into relevant agencies rather than being meeting based) form an important part of the scrutiny function. The partnership has agreed to undertake a section 11 audit jointly with the adults Board in September 2019 and it is proposed that this is less ‘form’ based and more an opportunity to engage with agencies and staff.



3. Arrangements for commissioning & publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews

The new arrangement maintains a local child safeguarding practice review sub group which provides scrutiny and oversight of ongoing reviews as well as recommending plans for the dissemination of learning. Buckinghamshire has already begun to convene rapid review meetings to take the initial decision which is reviewed, challenged or signed off by the Independent Chairperson.

The process for decision making is set out below:





Planning and commissioning reviews-

The current practice review sub group now receives regular updates about relevant SARs and DHRs in order to ensure we are benefiting from learning about context, families and communities.

The sub group, members of the rapid review group and partnership are committed to ensuring the maximum impact from a review. This includes greater consideration about –

- Decision making, whether a serious case review is required , whether learning from the rapid review can be acted upon quickly
- Methodology -how to best generate learning in terms of participation, audience, whether a reflective or practice review could be effective
- Dissemination of learning – the partnership has a number of existing mechanisms to update a wide audience such as our newsletter and we already undertake workshops and challenge sessions. In addition we have the first planned bi-annual event which is focused on the themes from our last ten years serious case reviews and one off ‘masterclass’ events such as an event planned around youth knife violence. We also have a ‘serious case review’ section on our website which is ongoing.
- Integrated learning- for example the partnership has agreed a thematic review of DHRs where domestic abuse was a primary issue and children were present or affected.

Greater integration between Boards increases the reach to relevant practitioners.

All LCSPR action plans are overseen by the sub group and updates are shared with the Executive partnership. The sub group will also be accountable for sharing and agreeing the dissemination of relevant learning such as national learning.

Buckinghamshire safeguarding partnership has committed to using a guiding principle a set out on page 7, version 21 of the practice guidance -

“What has happened ,what could have been done to prevent abuse or neglect- is there typicality in the response of agencies/contextual factors-what changes to the way in which agencies operate could help to reduce abuse /neglect – have agencies changed their practice as a result of this learning “

4. How the safeguarding partners will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help

Led by the Performance, Quality assurance and Improvement sub group, as part of the transition, there is an ongoing root and branch review of data shared with the partnership. The partnership will have an agreed set of indicators from a wide range of agencies (including the three statutory partners) accompanied by narrative and analysis. This will be shared with and scrutinised by the PQI group who can seek clarifications and form recommendations for the Executive group including any emerging risk areas and any areas of excellence that can be shared. In addition the exploitation sub group has as part of its work plan an area scorecard. The purpose of both sets of data is to ensure that the partnership;

- Has a current, multi-agency picture of the journey of children through services /agencies
- Is able to identify and foresee issues and risks (moving away from reactive decision making)
- Is able to evidence the impact of required changes to process and practice (e.g. as a result of audits , case reviews or incident)
- Is able to take an informed approach to advising the partnership about where to focus activity and whether work plans are likely to have an impact.



The full agreed data set in relation to Early Help is not yet available to the partnership as services and processes are under consultation. However the Head of Service for early help is working positively with the partnership to ensure we reach an agreement about what will be shared and timescales.

5. How inter-agency training will be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact and how they will undertake any multiagency and interagency audits

The training offer is currently in transition as part of the move to the new arrangements. The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) have delivered full day, face to face training for over 15 years, relying on partner agencies to provide suitable people to offer their services as multi-agency trainers. This has been a valued offer and the partnership is mindful of its effectiveness as a way of engaging agencies with the work of the (former) Board. However, there has been a reduction in resource (trainers to support this) and so it has been difficult to spend time on the essential part of the offer; understanding and evidencing impact on practice.

Therefore, we have reviewed our offer with a view to –

- Targeting the learning themes we have evidence are significant (via serious case reviews, SARS and Ofsted inspections)
- Reducing duplication and increasing coordination of training offers across a variety of workforces.
- Moving away from a solely ‘chalk and talk’ model of delivery into joint commissioning of subject experts, lunchtime workshops, use of technology etc.

In order to do this will we offer a more varied multi-agency offer by-

- Developing better use of integrated partnerships – agencies who are already delivering training can provide details so we can devise and advertise a training ‘catalogue’
- Leading a strategic training group; looking at creating clearer agreed pathways for staff, opportunities for joined up working and shared commissioning, agreeing quality assurance programmes.
- Joint commissioning of training between partners and Boards (achieving economies of scale and increasing the reach to relevant agencies).
- Distinguishing our offer between knowledge (e.g. subject led such as ‘domestic abuse’ which has been the main focus to date) and underpinning skills. Themes such as professional curiosity, holding honest conversations and observation skills have come through repeatedly in serious case reviews and SARs therefore, require increased focus.
- Increasing our quality assurance role to ensure quality and consistency of message within single agency training.

The Performance, Quality and improvement sub group has an agreed annual schedule of audits and reviews. These are undertaken in a variety of ways including peer audits, multi-agency file audits, practice reviews and by engaging independent auditors. The learning is currently shared with our



training leads to ensure it is integral to any delivery and also to contribute to an understanding of the effectiveness of training messages.

Outcomes from audits are shared in summary form on our website for all partners, learning is shared in our newsletter and key messages are reported to the Executive group.

6. Safeguarding partners annual report ;

The partnership has agreed to continue to publish an annual report which will include as required;

- What has happened as a result of the change from Board to partnership,
- Information about the change to child safeguarding practice reviews, how that has worked and what the outcomes have been from recommendations and actions plans (including national reviews)
- The work of all parts of the partnership, working groups, sub groups, what was achieved in line with the work plans and what that meant for outcomes for children.
- A report on the training offer and the impact of it.
- An analysis of any barriers, blockages, and risks
- Ways in which the partners have sought and made use of their engagement with children and families to improve the work of the partnership.

7. Thresholds

The partnership have agreed that along with the section 11 engagement and review piece of work in September 2019, we will also lead a multi-agency review of the threshold document. This is in line with the implementation of the new Early Help provision. It is proposed that this is done using a series of workshops including service user groups as well as sector specific e.g. education, health and police.

8. Priorities for 2019/20 and next steps.

The partnership is agreed that the issues affecting children in Buckinghamshire remain-

Domestic abuse

Getting the right help at the right time (early help)

Exploitation

Neglect

In addition the partnership sees as a priority the need to support the work of the Ofsted Partnership Improvement Plan and to ensure the effectiveness of the transition from Board to multi agency arrangement.

Crucial to our next steps is the appointment of the Independent Chair (expected July 2019). To continue to drive the transition we will -

- Establish the education focused group
- Complete discussions with some of the relevant agencies linked by other structures but not directly involved e.g. faith sector representatives



- Hold the first bi annual conference
- Plan the s11 and threshold review engagement sessions.
- Review and evaluate the revised arrangements 6 months post implementation to coincide with wider partnership conferences.
- Review the safeguarding arrangements along with any changes as a result of the move to Unitary.