

## BSCB ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

### THE BSCB AND ITS PURPOSE

- Exists to make sure children and young people are kept safe.
- Helps organisations across Buckinghamshire to protect children by making sure they have good arrangements!
- Board members work with many organisations that work with young people and children... e.g. schools, hospitals, voluntary organisation and the police.



#### OUR 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.”*

Buckinghamshire



Safeguarding  
Children Board



#### OUR VALUES:



- *We'll 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 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 Board we accept collective responsibility for our performance*

# OUR PRIORITIES

It's been a difficult year – in April 2014, the Board members agreed 16 priority areas to work on... The Board was then inspected by Ofsted who gave us a rating of inadequate as they felt the Board wasn't effective. In January 2015, we decided to focus on a smaller amount of priorities to help us improve the performance and the impact of our work.

*(Click on the priorities for more detail)*



# PRIORITY 1: EARLY HELP

## What does this mean?

Children and their families get the right help and support as soon as possible, before their problems become more severe.

This could be support to help manage things like low self-esteem, mental health issues or school attendance. Or it could be help to deal with issues in the family and home, such as domestic abuse or being a young carer.

## What difference have we made?

- We have asked different organisations to use the same assessment tool (the Outcomes Star) when they work with children and families. This means organisations can share information more easily and that children and families take an active part in their assessment and understand the progress they are making.
- Helping all organisations that work with children and young people know what they should do if they are worried about a child.

## What are we doing next?

This year we have done lots of work to put the right processes in place. Next year we need to collect more evidence about the difference this is making for children and young people. We will use data to help us to do this, but we will also look at what children, young people and their families are saying about the help and support they receive.

# PRIORITY 2: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## What does this mean?

CSE is a form of abuse in which young people are tricked or pressured into taking part in sexual activity in return for something – like attention, love, food, shelter, cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, gifts or money. We want to make sure that all children in Buckinghamshire are protected from CSE.

## What difference have we made?

- Developed the R U Wise 2 It campaign to raise awareness of CSE amongst children and young people. We have worked with children and young people to help us design this campaign.
- Delivered the play Chelsea's Choice to over 7,800 year 8 and 9 pupils. This was so popular that we will make sure that all secondary schools can run the play for free again from October 2015.
- Developed new CSE training for staff working with children to help them spot the warning signs and know what to do. This has been so popular that we have had to put on extra courses.

## What are we doing next?

We have been doing lots of work to support children and young people but we also want to look at whether there is enough support for parents. We need to use data and information better to help us understand how well we are protecting children and young people. We also want to make sure that all organisations working with children and young people give the right kind of training to their staff about CSE.

# PRIORITY 3: CHILD'S VOICE & JOURNEY

## What does this mean?

We want to make sure organisations that work with children and young people listen to what they say, and that this makes a difference to the way services are provided.

## What difference have we made?

- Consulted with young people on the BSCB website. As a result of this the Board has agreed to create a separate microsite for children and young people.
- Have become involved with the Youth Voice Steering Group so that we can hear from young people directly about what is important to them.
- Our E-Safety and CSE Sub Groups are involving children and young people collaboratively to influence their work.

## What are we doing next?

We need to get a better understanding of how the views of children and young people are being listened to across organisations within Buckinghamshire, and what difference this is making. The Board also needs to think about what it can do differently to make it easier for children and young people to engage with the work that we do.

# PRIORITY 4: NEGLECT

## What does this mean?

We want to make sure that all children can meet their full potential, and that appropriate support is provided where there is evidence of neglect.

## What difference have we made?

- Have published neglect guidance for staff to help them recognise neglect and know what to do.
- Working with partners to make sure that everyone knows that they have a responsibility to report any concerns they have about a child so that support can be provided quickly.
- Agreed that all partners should use the same tool to assess neglect so we are all using the same measure for the quality of care being given to a child.

## What are we doing next?

We need to make sure we are clear about how different organisations are identifying and dealing with neglect and that we are all working with the same definition of neglect.

# **PRIORITY 5: INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BOARD**

## **What difference have we made?**

- Produced a toolkit to help organisations recruit people who will be safe to work with children and young people.
- Ensured that schools and libraries have appropriate systems in place to block inappropriate web content.
- Helped professionals working with children and young people understand how to keep them safe by providing policies, procedures, guidance and training.
- Made a number of improvements to practice following on from serious case reviews where children were seriously injured or died.

## **What are we doing next?**

Our budget is made up of contributions from all of our partners. As many of our partners face cuts to their own budgets we will need to ensure the Board has enough funding to carry out its duties. We also want to think about how we can provide training to staff in different ways – for example podcasts, videos and shorter bite-sized sessions.