

Purpose of Event...

Held on 11th December 2019, and hosted by the Independent Chair of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership & Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adult Board - Francis Habgood - this year's conference challenged partners to think about how we can better recognise & respond to **'the voice of the child'**

The event was held as part of our commitment in involving partners in the new arrangements.

For more information about the changes from Board to Partnership, please visit: www.bucksscp.org.uk/about-the-bscb/



Francis
Habgood



We welcomed 100 colleagues from Health Services, Schools, Thames Valley Police, Local Authority Children's Services and the Voluntary Sector.

Sadly, one of our speakers - Jenny Molloy - was not able to attend on the day due to ill health, but the BSCP is already in discussion with Jenny to rebook for the new year. You will be able to find out more about this forthcoming event by signing up to our newsletter or by checking out our events page: www.bucksscp.org.uk/training/

Speakers...

Dr Lesley Ray

Our first speaker of the day - Dr Lesley Ray, who has been the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children in Buckinghamshire for almost 15 years - has recently taken on the role of Designated Doctor for Looked After Children.

She had worked as a local community Paediatrician for 13 years before setting up a specialist assessment clinic for children suffering, or at risk of, neglect and emotional abuse, and she has previously presented her learning from the clinical at several BSCP conferences.

Dr Ray made all of our attendees feel very nervous and thoughtful with her "tell me a secret" exercise, and used powerful drawings and animations to take her audience into the perspective of a child and consider how services can often record what they **think** they see.

When seeing and hearing children....

- ⇒ use direct observation of babies and young children by a range of people and make sense of these observations in relation to risk factors
- ⇒ see children and young people in places that meet their needs – for example, in places that are familiar to them
- ⇒ see children and young people away from their carers
- ⇒ think about the language you use and the questions you ask
- ⇒ ensure that the assessment of the needs of disabled children identifies and includes needs relating to protection.



Speakers . . .

Maxine Scrimshire

Dr Ray was followed by Maxine Scrimshire - Child & Family Worker for the Exploitation Hub.

Maxine tested the audiences knowledge of current 'slang' and street language relating to exploitation; its safe to say there were a lot of surprises in the room!!

If you didn't get the chance to take part in this exercise, keep an eye out for future exploitation roadshows in the new year www.bucksscp.org.uk/training/external-training/

Luke Rodgers

Alongside his inspirational story as a care leaver, the establishment of Foster Focus has seen Luke win multiple awards for his work; Foster Focus was placed in the top 10 list for the best global companies in 'youth development' by the International Youth Foundation.

Luke challenged his audience to remain authentic in their intentions and reminded them that *"you will never know the impact you have until the young person is ready to embody it themselves"*

Through insight and storytelling, Luke assured those present that all of us can change a child's life in a moment if we *"remain authentic, based on intention with the young person at the heart of what you do"*.

Luke's personal story gave the audience real insight into the difference our words and recordings can make on the lived experiences of children.

Not everyone
UNDERSTANDS
the system....



Luke Rodgers was recently recognised on the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours List for British Empire Medal (BEM) for his commitment to children & families

Lemn Sissay

Our final speaker of the day was Lemn Sissay - a BAFTA nominated award winning writer, international poet, performance playwright, artist and broadcaster

Lemn is the Chancellor of the University of Manchester and an Honorary Doctor from the Universities of Huddersfield, Manchester, Kent and Brunei - which makes him Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr. Lemn Sissay!

Through excerpts from his book "My Name is Why", and by sharing personal experiences, Lemn reminded us of the positive power we hold as part of our corporate parenting responsibilities.

He urged us to stay aware of the prejudices and problem focused approach often taken to children who are looked after, and to show how well we can take care of children.

It was a powerful reminder to *"use our skills and our intrinsic instinct to help and understand children"*, to steer away from a punishment structure and to always think

"what would I do if this was my child?"

Lemn Sissay was awarded an MBE for services to literature by the Queen and won a Pen Pinter Prize in 2019.



If you Google Lemn Sissay, all the returning hits will be about him; there is only one Lemn Sissay in the world and there was certainly one one Lemn in the room!

