

Serious Youth Violence

September 2019

In 2019, the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership undertook a Serious Case Review following an incident of Serious Youth Violence within the county; what quickly became apparent was that this incident was not in isolation.

Serious Youth Violence is on the increase across the entire country and it is vital that professionals are aware of these complex safeguarding issues and how to use that knowledge to influence their practice to support these vulnerable children.

It is often the most challenging, most difficult to engage children who are most vulnerable. Perpetrators are Victims too.

Interest in the learning event was high; approx. 90 practitioners from numerous agencies - including health services, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), addiction services, children's social care, education and Thames Valley Police - were in attendance to increase their knowledge and to identify ways in **which services can better work together to tackle Serious Youth Violence.**

Francis
Habgood



The learning event was opened by **Francis Habgood**, the newly appointed **Independent Chair for the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.**

Francis described the purpose of the event as an opportunity to:
"share the thematic findings from the recent Serious Case Review.....but most importantly, as a chance for agencies to ensure that their practices are working to add

value and make a difference *to the children of Bucks...."*

Keith Ibbetson began his career as a residential social worker in 1981 in Lambeth. For the next 16 years he worked as a social worker and manager in children's services in Hertfordshire and London. Since 1997 he has operated as an independent consultant in children's services, specialising in child protection, quality improvement initiatives and the development of preventative services. He has been involved in more than thirty Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), as panel chair, overview report writer or in briefing staff on the learning from reviews. A number of these reviews have focused on the issue of serious youth violence.

Independent
Author

Keith
Ibbetson



As the Independent Author for the Serious Youth Violence Serious Case Review, Keith began his presentation with the following caveat:

Whilst the learning from this review is incredibly beneficial for practitioners working with children, the safety of those individuals (and their families) involved in the review itself is of the highest priority to the Partnership.

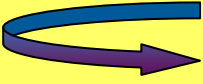
Therefore details of the specific incident will not be shared, either at the event or in the report, and all of the learning and recommendations from the review will be thematic, focused on the wider issue of serious youth violence as a whole.

Serious Youth Violence

The key focus of the serious case review presentation was the impact agencies can make for children with:



early intervention



information sharing



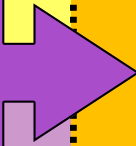
an awareness of history ; for the child and their family



It is also incredibly importance for practitioners to notice the

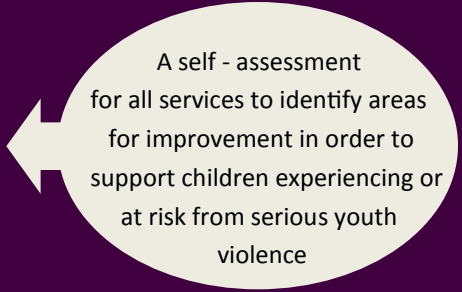
Risk Factors

for Serious Youth Violence early on in a child's development, for example....



- * Non - attendance to appointments with professionals
- * Early Exposure to Violence
- * Behavioural / Learning Problems in Primary School
- * Lack of engagement
- * Episodes of Going Missing
- * Non - attendance at school
- * Emerging anti - social behaviour

To ensure maximum learning from the event, delegates were asked to participate in a number of table based exercises; this encouraged.....



All feedback received on the day was collated and shared with Keith by the BSCP administration team; this multi - agency input has been of great value in focusing and targeting the recommendations from the review.

Please note, once the final Serious Case Review report has been finalised, it will be shared with those families affected by the incident before being published on the Partnership website.

www.bucksscp.org.uk/serious-case-review

Further Resources & Learning

Troubled Lives Tragic Consequences Tower Hamlet LSCB Review

Slough Locality Review: Gangs and Youth Violence

Croydon LSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Thematic Review

To learn more, please click on the links above.....

Serious Youth Violence

Reach Every Generation exists to shape a better future for tomorrow's generation, winning back those caught up in gang culture.

To do this, Reach Every Generation looks to equip frontline practitioners working with young people and their families on a daily basis, encouraging and empowering them to transform lives.



Rob attended on behalf of Gavin McKenna - Chair of the Serious Case Review Panel. The BSCP would like to thank Rob for giving up his time and providing our delegates with such an insightful and eye opening presentation!

The second half of the learning event focused on how agencies can better support children involved in, or at risk of, serious youth violence, and emphasised how earlier intervention can help prevent children from making those decisions in the first place.

"I firmly believe that a child-centred approach, building strong relationships and breaking down barriers will help children to engage with services that are trying to keep them safe.
The voice of the child is paramount"

Delegates were presented with some

Challenging Questions

to consider....

- * How do you respond less and intervene more?
- * How do you measure success?
- * What is your strategy for your agency to tackle Serious Youth Violence?
- * Is that strategy working?

followed by discussion on...

★ Signs that a child may be becoming involved in Serious Youth Violence.

★ The need to consider a child's behaviour Vs their lived reality.

★ How an understanding of a child's situation can positively impact on relationships built with services.

The Partnership was delighted to welcome 'Young Person A' to the conference.

A has a previous history of challenging behaviour and involvement with Serious Youth Violence; since becoming involved with organisations such as Reach Every Generation, A is changing their life around.

A took questions from delegates; their thoughtful and open answers provided those present with a genuine lived - experience and encouraged consideration as to:

- * the reality of a child's view of professionals
- * the effectiveness of how services engage
- * the impact of judgement and bias

Feedback from delegates have shown this experience to be **invaluable** and **will change the way we work with children at risk of SYV moving forwards.**



Serious Youth Violence

Francis thanked all those who attended this event; moving forwards, it is vital for services to inform their practice by looking through the lens of the children and families that they are working with.

Reflective Questions for Agencies

What is your strategy for responding to Serious Youth Violence and is it working?

Is the network information regarding children being shared?

Is contextual safeguarding being implemented?



How do we involve and engage parents of children at risk of Serious Youth Violence?

How do we begin to put preventative work in place?

What are **YOU** going to do differently?



For more information about the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, including full details of the changes to local safeguarding arrangements, you can visit www.bucksscp.org.uk

Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
Together... Keeping Children Safe

Introducing the New MARF
this replaces the existing MARF
The (County Council's) Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is launching a new online form for reporting concerns to children's social care
Please click here for further information...