



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 PURPOSE

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board/Partnership (LSCB/LSCP) for their area.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCB/LSCP's:

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Partnership for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board changed to the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) in June 2019 as ratified by the Buckinghamshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in line with the revised Working Together 2018 statutory guidance.

2 VISION AND VALUES

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."

Our 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 accept collective responsibility for our performance

3 FUNCTIONS

The purpose of the safeguarding arrangement is: -

- 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.

4 PRIORITIES

The priorities for the Buckinghamshire BSCP, and the actions the Partnership will take to achieve these, are set out in the BSCP Business Plan 2020-2023.

5 MEMBERSHIP

- Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Buckinghamshire College Group
- Buckinghamshire Council – Children & Families Service
- Buckinghamshire Council – Community, Health and Adults Social Care
- Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust
- CAFCASS (Children & Families Court Advisory and Support Service)
- Independent Schools
- Lay Members
- National Probation Service
- NHS England
- Oxford Health Foundation NHS Trust
- Primary Schools
- Public Health
- Secondary Schools
- Thames Valley Police
- Thames Valley Probation (Community Rehabilitation Company)
- Youth Offending Service

Advisers:

- Buckinghamshire Council – Cabinet Member for Children & Families
- HB Legal Plus
- BSCP Safeguarding Partnership Manager

A Vice Chair is elected from within the BSCP membership. This appointment will be reviewed on an annual basis.

6 MEMBER COMPACT

All Partnership Members should adhere to the BSCP Member Compact. This is an agreement between the BSCP and its individual members.

7 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Quoracy: The meeting will be deemed quorate if at least half of the Partnership members are present and either the Chair or the Vice Chair is present.

Frequency: Partnership meetings are held every 3 months.

8 GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Working Together 2018 states that in order to provide effective scrutiny Safeguarding Partnerships should be independent and not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.

The BSCP has a role in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of local partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The Partnership will hold organisations, individually and in partnership, to account for their performance in this respect. However, the Partnership is not accountable for their operational work and each Partnership partner retains their organisational lines of accountability for safeguarding.

The BSCP discharges many of its responsibilities on behalf of its statutory partners and as such is held to account by each of these organisations for its performance. The agreement of statutory partners is required for any work that has implications for policy, planning or the allocation of resources.

The Director of Children's Services should ensure that all appropriate local authority services engage effectively with the BSCP. The DCS is accountable to the Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Council, and where appropriate the Lead Member for Children's Services for the effective working of the BSCP.

The Chair of the BSCP must be independent of local agencies so that the BSCP can exercise its local challenge function effectively. The Independent Chair is appointed by and is accountable to, the Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire County Council. Where appropriate the Lead Member for Children's Services will also hold the Independent Chair to account for the effective working of the BSCP.

Document Control

Ratified by Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership:

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Safeguarding Partnership Manger