



Welcome to the 17th edition of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Information Update.

Please share this as widely as possible across your organisation. If you have any feedback, suggestions for improvement, or want to discuss anything else relating to the BSCB contact Joanne Stephenson, BSCB Business Manager: jstephenson@buckscc.gov.uk

The BSCB is a statutory partnership responsible for coordinating local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensuring these are effective.

Changes to the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

Why are we changing things?

Revisions to the Statutory Guidance, Working Together enabled us to change our LSCB. In addition the most recent Ofsted inspection of the Local Authority meant that we could not continue to run our LSCB in the same way. The changes agreed for Buckinghamshire will mean that we can focus on: -

shared priorities with other strategic partnerships, such as reducing the impact of domestic abuse, exploitation and neglect, a family based, integrated approach to business and evidencing the outcomes and impact of the new partnership arrangement, including strengthening and reviewing its scrutiny and assurance processes

What are we doing?

To comply with the new Statutory Working Together guidance, from September 2019, Local Safeguarding Children Boards will be replaced by new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three safeguarding partners. We are working on the transition to this new arrangement, and are required to publish the details of the changes by 29th June 2019. Locally this will mean that we are making changes to the way the partnership is structured. This includes introducing a new Executive Group, having fewer but more inclusive sub groups and introducing short term, outcome focused working groups where needed. This will provide an effective safeguarding model with an efficient use of partners knowledge, skills and time.

To stay connected, we are also planning two safeguarding partnership events per year. These events will ensure all partner agencies are kept up to date and offer opportunities for you to share your views and experiences on the impact that the safeguarding partnership is having in delivering against its key priorities. Our first event under the new partnership, Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP), will be taking place on **Tuesday 25th June 2019** at The Oculus, The Gateway, AVDC offices. Please keep checking our website for further details.

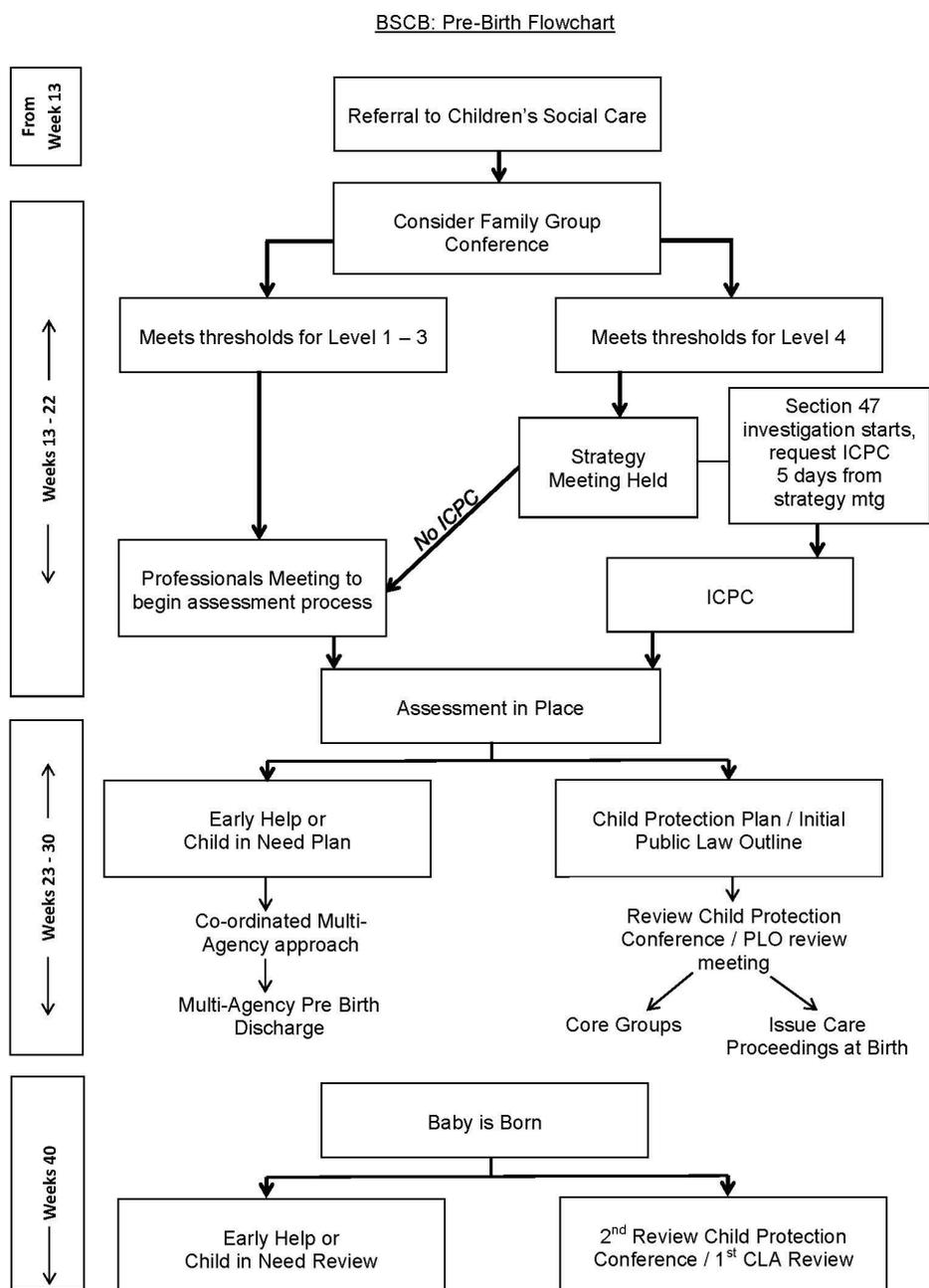
What happens next?

We will agree our business plan by 31st March 2019. We will publish our new safeguarding partnership arrangement by 29th June 2019. We will publish the dates for multi-agency safeguarding training (Everyone's Responsibility and Working Together) from April 2019 (further details about our training offer will be in our published arrangements). We will fully implement our arrangement by September 2019.

Pre-Birth Procedures & Guidance

Section 1.6 of the BSCB online procedures manual has recently been updated <http://bscb.procedures.org.uk/ykqhp/assessing-need-and-providing-help/pre-birth-procedures-and-guidance> to create one process flowchart .

We know that pre birth planning can be vital for keeping children safe and improving their life chances. A lack of consistent understanding of when and how to progress pre birth assessments (including when to refer) has been a key feature in a number of serious case reviews involving babies who sustained non accidental injuries (see serious case reviews W,C,D,K,L,M,E,Q <https://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/serious-case-review/>). Please see below the new flow chart ,it can be helpful to think about how you would apply it in your organisation.



CASPAR

CASPAR: Current Awareness Service for Practice, Policy & Research

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: First National Review

Edward Timpson, Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, in a letter to the Secretary of State for Education has announced that the first national child safeguarding practice review will commence in March 2019. The review will focus on adolescents in need of state protection from criminal exploitation.

Source: [Gov.uk](http://gov.uk) **Date:** 20 February 2019

Child Sexual Abuse

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has published findings from an analysis of personal accounts from victims and survivors of child sexual abuse made as part of the Truth Project. Findings from analysis of 1,697 personal accounts made in the period June 2016 to November 2018 include: 55% reported that they did not tell anyone about the abuse at the time it was happening; 11% were under four years old when the abuse started, and 31% were between 4-7 years old when it began; 86% of survivors told the Truth Project that the abuse had a negative impact on their mental health; 21% reported that the sexual abuse took place in schools. IICSA has also published new experiences of child sexual abuse from the Truth Project, as part of an anthology dedicated to survivor experiences in England and Wales.

Source: [IICSA](http://iicsa.org.uk) **Date:** 19 February 2019

Further information:

[Truth Project dashboard February 2019](#)

[Experiences shared](#)

Online Risks: Vulnerable Children and Young People

Internet Matters has published a report highlighting the online risks different groups of vulnerable children face and the support they need. Findings from a study of 2,988 children and young people aged 10-16 from the annual Cybersurvey by Youthworks show that: 58% of young carers and 48% of those in care said they had been cyberbullied compared to 25% of those with no vulnerabilities; 40% of young people with self-reported mental health difficulties report having been cyberbullied in contrast to 23% of those with none; and children and young people with hearing loss are five times more likely than their peers to say that the 'internet often left me with thoughts and feelings that were upsetting'.

Source: [Internet Matters](http://internetmatters.org.uk) **Date:** 12 February 2019

Language Guide Challenges Care System Jargon



Young people have helped produce a new publication that challenges jargon used in the care system according to a recent report in Children & Young People Now. Please see the following link for the full report: - https://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2006452/language-guide-challenges-care-system-jargon?utm_content=&utm_campaign=060319_Update&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2006452%2Flanguage-guide-challenges-care-system-jargon

Something for all agencies to reflect on!

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland is a child sexual abuse prevention campaign and Helpline. It is run by the [Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#), the only UK-wide child protection charity dedicated solely to reducing the risk of children being sexually abused.

They support adults to play their part in prevention through providing sound information, educating members of the public, training those who work with children and families and running their Freephone confidential Helpline.

Their [Helpline](#) is available to:

- adults worried about the sexual behaviour of other adults or children and young people
- those worried about their own sexual thoughts or behaviour towards children, including those with concerns about their online behaviour
- friends and relatives of people arrested for sexual offending, including internet offending
- any other adult with a concern about child sexual abuse - including survivors and professionals

They believe that child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable, and urge anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse to seek help. By working together we can prevent child sexual abuse.

EXPLOITATION TOOL KIT

Buckinghamshire like every other area in the country are faced with the challenge of tackling the issue of children going missing, being abused through exploitation and being trafficked. These issues are a priority for both the Safeguarding Children Board and the partnership that exists to protect our children.

It is with this in mind that we have been working with our partners in TVP Missing Persons Unit and the Swan Unit to develop our approach to children and young people who go missing and are at risk of exploitation and create a team that focuses on these issues.

There is often a direct correlation between missing and exploitation and we need to get better at intervening earlier to safeguard children and young people, to prevent them from becoming criminalised, and to target perpetrators of abuse.

As part of the development we have created a Team Manager post, 4 social work posts, and a child and family support worker who has been funded by the board for one year. We are also ambitious in our journey and are working with a parent advisor to bring about services and support for families and survivors of exploitation.

We have an agreed exploitation tool that can be used by partner agencies where there are concerns around exploitation. This tool can be used alongside the established referral process and should be attached to the MARF when referring to First Response and sent to Secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk.

The tool can be found on the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board website.–
<http://bscb.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/5/Exploitation%20Indicator%20Tool%20%26%20Pathway.pdf>

If you require any assistance with the Tool please contact Anna Jones, Team Manager Exploitation Hub on 01296 387638.

Look out for further updates about awareness raising sessions that will be held across the County regarding the tool and services for those affected by exploitation.

National CSE Awareness Day - Monday 18th March 2019

"I do not want any family to go through what my child and our family has suffered. So my message to every parent out there is: make sure you understand the signs of abuse in a child or teenager, stay alert to it, and most important if you are worried about your child, no matter how insignificant it might seem – talk to someone who can help."

This warning comes from a Buckinghamshire family who have gone through the terrible experience of CSE. The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board is echoing their message to mark National CSE Awareness Day on Monday, 18 March – know the signs of abuse to keep children safe against child sexual exploitation.

Please help spread the word on this awareness drive by wearing red on the day and posting your messages on social media.

"Please you can't be sure it won't happen to your family; read up about CSE – it will help keep your children safe"

quote from a family member

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity. The better we are at spotting the signs of CSE, the more we can do to protect young people at risk.

National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day encourages all of us to think, spot and speak out against abuse and to adopt a zero tolerance approach to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children.

Child sexual exploitation can happen when a child or young person is tricked or forced into doing something sexual in return for something - like attention, money, drugs, gifts or alcohol. It is illegal, although young people might not always see it that way because they are groomed and manipulated by their abusers. By the time the child realises something is wrong, they may feel trapped - too frightened or ashamed to tell other people. Online grooming and exploitation is another very real danger – helping young people stay safe on the internet is more important than ever.

"The pain and shame never leaves me"
quote from a survivor

Another survivor of CSE in Buckinghamshire told us: "I don't really remember the turning point from being in my classroom at school in that steady safe environment, to being out made to commit crime, sexually exploited by older men and going through the courts /youth offending system, but all I remember is - that that period of my life is not one that I have recovered from, 19 years later."

You can support the national campaign via social media by writing a personal pledge on your hand, taking a photo and posting it on social media such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram – please use the hashtags #HelpingHands and #CSEDay19.

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National CSE Awareness Day - Monday 18th March 2019

This year you can also 'wear red' on 18 March to show your support and help spread the word to reduce the abuse of children.

Fran Gosling-Thomas, Chair of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board said: "Grooming and sexual exploitation can happen to any child or young person, both in real-life and online, and it is vital that we can recognise the warning signs. The safeguarding of children and young people in Bucks is everyone's responsibility, so please stay alert to the signs of child sexual exploitation. We can all play a part in keeping our children safe."

Warren Whyte, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, added: "If you see something that doesn't seem right, please don't assume someone else will report it. Contact our Children's Social Care team, or talk to someone about it. It could be nothing - but it may also save a child from becoming a victim of exploitation."

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board will become Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership from September. It includes a number of agencies who work with children and young people across the county and the upcoming changes will help it strengthen its partnership working, leaving it better placed to deliver the best outcomes possible for children and young people in need.

Please visit the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board website to find out more about spotting the signs of CSE and who to report any concerns to.

<https://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/parents-carers/child-exploitation/>

Find out more about National CSE Awareness Day at www.stop-cse.org

How to get help or report a concern:

If you are concerned about a young person you can contact the First Response Team (Children's Social Care) on 01296 383962 or email: secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999. Alternatively contact your local police on 101 who will have a dedicated team you can talk to about child sexual exploitation.

Buckinghamshire also has a countywide 'R-U-Safe?' service for young people run by Barnardo's, which is able to offer advice and support to any young person worried about these issues. Email: rusafe@barnardos.org.uk, text 07546 075 638 or visit <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/rusafebucks>

ChildLine also offers support directly to children and young people – contact them on 0800 1111 or visit their website <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

We hope you found this newsletter informative - if you would like to provide any comments (positive or negative), or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email: amartindale@buckscc.gov.uk.