



Welcome to the 19th edition of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) 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 BSCP contact Joanne Stephenson, BSCP Business Manager: jstephenson@buckscc.gov.uk

The BSCP should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

BSCP (Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership)

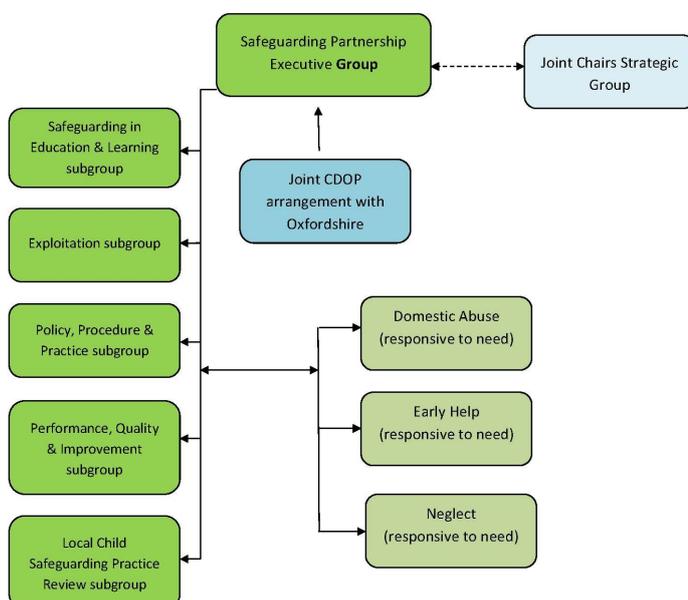
We have officially moved from a Board to Partnership!

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.
- Evidencing the outcomes and impact of the new partnership arrangement, including strengthening and reviewing its scrutiny and assurance processes.

Please see below link to view the paper that sets out the new local safeguarding arrangements for Buckinghamshire: –

<http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/About%20the%20BSCB/Paper-for-publication-Final-Buckinghamshire.pdf>



The new BSCP structure will be made up of an Executive Group, and will be served by a number of strategic sub groups. It will be an expectation that each sub group builds connectivity and joint working with Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adult Board sub groups. Through improved joint working and approaches a collective ambition of improving outcomes for children and families is more likely to be realised.

In addition to the sub groups the arrangement includes the use of responsive, time limited action groups which will be employed on a 'task and finish' basis in response to an identified piece of work.

New Independent Chair

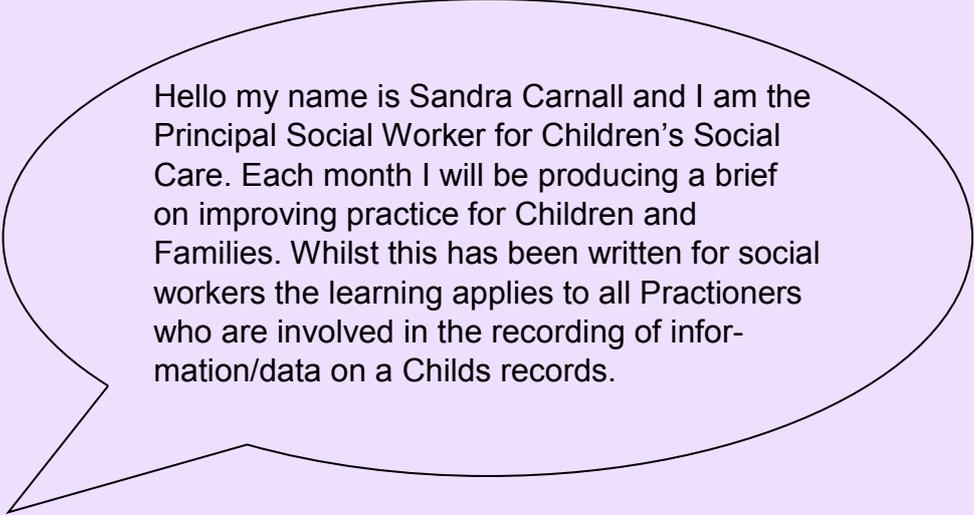
Former Thames Valley Police Chief Constable Francis Habgood has been recruited to the role of Independent Chair of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB). He took over in the new role on 1st August 2019.

In a press statement Francis Habgood said: "I have spent my whole career protecting the most vulnerable members of our society, so I am delighted to be able to carry on doing this work in my home county. I look forward to ensuring that those organisations that safeguard children and adults do so in the most effective way and work closely together. I am grateful for the work that my predecessors have started and am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead."

There is a full article in the Bucks Free Press which can be found here:

https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/17725727.ex-thames-valley-police-chief-appointed-into-safeguarding-role-in-bucks/?utm_source=Publicate&utm_medium=email&utm_content=...&utm_campaign=Daily+Media+Summary%3A+Tuesday+25th+June+2019

Principal Social Worker (PSW) Brief



Hello my name is Sandra Carnall and I am the Principal Social Worker for Children's Social Care. Each month I will be producing a brief on improving practice for Children and Families. Whilst this has been written for social workers the learning applies to all Practitioners who are involved in the recording of information/data on a Child's records.

PSW Brief August 2019

Through the work of the Practice Development Team and Service Audits, Case Recording has been highlighted as an area for improvement.

Fundamentally, case recording documents the day to day life of the child. It tells the child's individual story, including the strengths within the family, the areas where support is required, and states any concerns raised.

Case recording is essential for hypothesising, analysing and planning. It forms the basis for the child's chronology, assessments and any formal reports needed.

Case recording assists in making sense of the available information, ultimately impacting on decision making, asking what is going on within the family. Have we got the right plan for the child? Description without analysis makes it hard to understand how and why some critical decisions have been made.

Cont'd.....

PSW Brief Cont'd

A 'Good' child's record should be able to show what's happening for a child at any given time. This means that a manager, new social worker or the Emergency Social Work Team can pick it up and immediately understand what a child needs.

What makes good case recording -

- The reader needs an up to date concise summary that shows the reason we are involved, what the concerns are, what the plan is for the child and the social worker's professional analysis and evaluation.
- The child is always at the centre of case recording, their names need to be spelt correctly and their relationships clearly explained. When recording a visit to the child, the record is about the reason for the visit as well as its contribution to the assessment/plan. The importance of not just what happened or was said, but what this means for the child.
- The records should clearly reflect the child's experiences and the impact on them of any failure to properly meet their needs. Avoid social work jargon and ensure the plans are bespoke to each child and family.
- Parental views on the child's experiences need to be obtained and recorded, including their level of engagement and motivation to change.
- The child's wishes and feelings and their understanding of what is happening in their life needs to be explicitly recorded, and how they were obtained. Ensure you have recorded your observations, particularly for young or non-verbal children. Ask yourself would someone reading the file get a sense of the child's personality, opinions?
- Language is important. Anything that implies victims were to blame for any abuse they suffered during childhood can compound the impact of the abuse. Avoid comments about 'lifestyle choices' and children 'placing themselves at risk'.
- Information should be recorded as close to the event as possible. Case records can lose their validity if written days later. If a disclosure is made by a child, write it down as soon as you can and ensure this is in the child's own words.
- Decision making needs to be clear about why the decision has been made, who made the decision and what the outcome for the child and family will be. Assessments and Plans need to be updated to reflect the decisions made and the next steps.

In conclusion, case recording is a complex, yet necessary social work skill with lots to consider. Being reflective and thoughtful will ensure you are respectful and sensitive when writing about the child and their family.

Sandra Carnall, Principal Social Worker. August 2019.

Introducing the New MARF



Buckinghamshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership
Together Keeping Children Safe

The (County Council's) Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is launching a new online form for reporting concerns to children's social care. This new form will replace the existing MARF referral form in September and can be used by both professionals and the public – anyone who may have a concern about a child's welfare.

The new form is available on the County Council website at [https://account.buckscc.gov.uk/service/Report a concern about a child](https://account.buckscc.gov.uk/service/Report_a_concern_about_a_child) and on the [Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#)

The new form brings a number of key benefits which will enhance overall safeguarding work:

- Seamlessly guides through the referral process, encouraging the referrer to provide appropriate information about the child and their situation and will ensure that there is adequate information to support safe decision making
- Ensures that the referrer is guided to the most appropriate service for the child in accordance to the threshold document
- Ensures the child that is being referred lives in Buckinghamshire and if not will direct the user to the correct local authority
- Establishes a clear understanding of what the referrer's expectation is around safeguarding a child
- Encourages a professional to make the parent/guardian aware that a referral has been made about their child

It's important that you start using the new online referral form now. Referrals received on the old referral form will still be accepted until 29 November 2019; however any referrals received after this date on the old form will be returned to be re-submitted on the new form.

The Traveller Movement

Please see below link to view "A Good Practice Guide for improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Children in education". It is a useful document on how professionals, particularly schools can support GRT children and their parents

http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter Uploads/TTM-Good-Practice-Guide-Education_web.pdf

The report outlines good practice in the education of GRT school children. It interviews schools, provides case studies, and includes an overview of the findings from Traveller Movement's three year education and advocacy project.

Missing and Exploitation Hub

What is it?

The Missing and Exploitation Hub is a multi-agency team made up of partners from Childrens Social Care, Thames Valley Police, Barnardo's, Health and Education as well as a family worker, provided by the Bucks Safeguarding Partnership. The team support victims of all forms of exploitation and can work with and sign post those in need of support up to the age of 25.

Why has it been developed?

The Exploitation Hub has evolved from the SWAN unit which was established to support victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The exploitation of young people has evolved and what is known is that CSE rarely happens in isolation and as such the Local Authority and its partners needed to take steps to ensure that children involved in all forms of exploitation are supported. There is a strong link between children missing and children being exploited both the LA and police recognised that these areas needed to be joined up and not looked at in isolation of each other and as a result, the Missing and exploitation Hub was formed.

How to refer:

Children and young people are referred to the exploitation HUB by completing an exploitation tool and MARF, this tool can be accessed through the safeguarding partnership link: <https://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/concerned-about-child/professionals-report-a-concern/>

What happens next?

Once a tool is completed the child will be discussed by all partners at a Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting to identify risk. Based on the identified risk, a multi-agency prevention plan will be formulated. Social care's role in this is to recognise risks to the child that warrant statutory intervention and complete targeted direct work with the young person with a view of reducing this risk. Our Family worker supports parents to help them understand what is happening to their children and give them strategies to try to manage this, as well as being a point of contact so that parents feel listened to and not alone. Our Partner Agencies all play a role in the key elements of the young person's development and may have specific tasks in the prevention planning.

What you should do:

If you feel a child is at risk of exploitation please complete the exploitation tool and MARF and send to the MASH so that the risk to the child can be fully explored and supported. If you are unsure and would like to speak with someone, please contact the MASH and ask to speak with a member of the HUB.

Building Suicide - Safer Schools & Colleges Workshop – May 2019

The building suicide-safer schools and colleges workshop was held on 13th May 2019. This workshop was held to consolidate the launch of the Buckinghamshire Suicide Prevention and Postvention Guide for Schools and Colleges produced in August 2018. The workshop was delivered by the Papyrus Charity (experts on suicide prevention and policy in schools) to 30 attendees from 24 secondary schools and colleges.

The Buckinghamshire Suicide Prevention and Postvention Guide for Schools and Colleges was produced to assist schools and colleges in Buckinghamshire to develop a schools/college-wide approach to suicide prevention and to respond effectively to any death by suicide within the school or college community. This local guide was developed based on the framework of the Papyrus Charity's "Building Suicide-Safer Schools and Colleges" guide for teachers and staff. The workshop was a half-day session aimed at senior leadership and management teams to support the school/college in the development of their own suicide prevention policies and as part of a whole school/college approach. Each attendee was provided with a summary of the key points of the workshop, a copy of the Buck Suicide Prevention and Postvention guide and a copy of the Papyrus toolkit for developing a suicide prevention policy.

The feedback from attendees was very positive and in terms of next steps, an updated guide incorporating shared learning will be circulated to schools during the start of the next academic year.

Fearless



Fearless is a site where you can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality.

What makes this site different is they also provide you with a safe place to give information to them about crime - 100% anonymously.

They're available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - 365 days a year.

Professionals Training

To raise the profile of Fearless.org amongst professionals working with young people they are offering free training covering the following themes:

- Review and recap of Crimestoppers
- Introduction to our youth brand and activity
- Equip you with all of their available tools & resources

The training is suitable for anyone working with young people. In the past they have trained Safer Schools Officers, sports coaches, school nurses, teachers, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, youth workers and YOT workers.

Please visit their website for further information: - <https://www.fearless.org/en>

Jubilee River Water Safety

The family of a teenager who drowned in the Jubilee River has warned people to stay out of the water as the weather warms up.

Dajarn Daly was just 17 years old when he went into the shallows of the weir at the river to cool off on a searing hot day in July last year. However, he lost his footing and was dragged into deeper and very cold water and lost his life.

Slough Borough Council has worked with the guardian of the Jubilee River, the Environment Agency, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Thames Valley Police to discourage people from getting into the river, to prevent another life being lost.

Fences have been extended in places to physically prevent people getting to the river bank and new information and warning information boards will be put up at strategic points to make people aware of the dangers.

Dajarn's mother Shantel and grandmother Denise, both of Wexham Lea, welcomed the efforts to warn people how dangerous the man-made river is - especially as the warmer weather arrives.

“On Dajarn’s 18th birthday we had a barbecue to remember him but he should have been celebrating.”
(Shantel)

“No one should go in the water there. It is really dangerous. The weir is shallow and looks inviting but Dajarn was swept away into deep and cold water.

“We had spoken to him about swimming there and he said he was ok and that the water only went up to his waist, but he was taken by the current into deeper colder water.

“No other families should have to go through what we did that day, Dajarn hadn’t come home which was unusual for him and we heard someone had drowned in the river. We knew it was him, we went to the police station and they told us.

“We live without him every day.

“Parents tell your children about the dangers, it is never too early to warn them of the dangers, and adults don’t go into the water as children could follow.”

(Denise)

Cont’d.....

Jubilee River Water Safety

Natasa Pantelic, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said because the river is man-made the sides are steep and the water is deep and very cold which can lead to people going into cold water shock very quickly.

“We want people to stay safe as the weather gets warmer and that means not getting into the water at all,” said Cllr Pantelic.

“I would like to thank Dajarn’s family for sharing their tragedy to try and prevent another young person losing their life.

“The river is a large expanse of water which is extremely cold even in the hottest of days. It does not matter if people think they can swim, the temperature of the water affects the heart and breathing within seconds.

“The weir looks shallow and looks like people would be able to paddle or cross from one side to the other. But the river level and flow can change at any time because it is a flood relief rather than a natural river.”

Three weeks after Dajarn’s death a 22-year-old man also drowned after going into the Jubilee River to swim. Three years earlier Michael Scaife, 20, died while swimming in the river in Datchet.

The Berkshire Coroner ruled at an inquest earlier this year Dajarn’s death was accidental.

On average more than two people die every day and more than 700 drown every year in the UK and Ireland according to the Royal Life Saving Society UK which aims to reduce that number.

Of the deaths 52 per cent of accidental drownings happen in open water with 80 per cent being male. A third of deaths happen in the summer with the highest proportion of drownings occurring in people who are aged between 20 and 29 years old.

The advice is to stop and think and look for the dangers and always take heed of nearby warning signs. In an emergency others should call 999 and those in the water are encouraged to float on your back or someone should throw in an object which is buoyant. It is also important that safety devices are left in their rightful place along the river bank and not vandalised for when they are actually needed.

Slough Borough Council is also providing school children with bespoke safety information about all the potential dangers of Slough’s waterways.

For safe swimming use The Centre, Farnham Road, or Langley Leisure Centre, Parlaunt Rd.

Please click on the below link to view a water safety leaflet compiled by Slough Borough Council :-

<http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter Uploads/Water-safety-poster.pdf>

Are You Aware of Our Resources Page?

Have you viewed our Local Practice, Guidance and Resources page on our website?

<https://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/local-practice-guidance-and-resources/>

The resources that have been selected support the work of the BSCP and it's policies and procedures (currently available in the [online manual](#))

Whilst some of the resources have been developed within Buckinghamshire, others have been produced as part of a national campaign, or have been sourced and shared (with consent) from other Local Authorities or LSCBs.

Recent resources include: -

Lift the Baby

(VIDEO accessible on lift the baby website: developed by Berkshire CCGs)

<http://www.liftthebaby.org.uk> This video has been created by Berkshire CCGs to highlight the 'safe sleep' message for Dads and their babies.



Rethinking "Did Not Attend" – Was Not Brought

(VIDEO: developed by Nottingham LSBC, sourced from YouTube)

<https://youtu.be/dAdNL6d4lpk>

Learning From SCR's

We have recently publicised the following events on our website: -

BSCP Learning from Serious Case Reviews - the under 5's age group

These sessions will look at what lessons from the serious case reviews can be applied to Buckinghamshire following the tragic deaths of two Northamptonshire Children. They will take place on: -



Thursday 26th September 7.15pm – 9.30pm Bucks County Council Offices, Ayles

Monday 14th October 9.45am - 12.00pm or 12.45pm – 3.00pm Exhibition Suite, Ayles

BSCP Serious Youth Violence Learning Event



This event will provide an overview of a Serious Case Review undertaken by Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership following an incident of serious youth violence in the county. The event will take place on: -

Tuesday 24th September 2019 from 9.30am until 4.00pm at The Vineyard Centre, Gatehouse Close, Aylesbury

Please visit our website for more details and to book a place via our online booking system

<https://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/>

Children's Services Update - Tolis Vouyioukas

New Family Support Service to launch

We are delighted to update you on Buckinghamshire County Council's new Family Support Service, which launches on Monday 2 September.

The new service has been carefully designed to provide better, more targeted support for vulnerable families who face a range of issues or more complex challenges, as part of a wider, partnership early help offer. Our proposals, which were subject to a wide consultation, will see children, young people and families being supported earlier by the right service at the right time.

Families supported by the new service will have a lead professional who, depending on the level of need, can coordinate a team around the family to support them to address the issues they are facing – with the ultimate aim of helping them to overcome their problems leading to happier and healthier lives. In addition, youth and early years practitioners will also provide individual support to young people and parents of young children.

Open-access universal sessions and health services for early years children and parents will be delivered through a network of 16 Family Centres across the county, which will also offer a range of support for parents and children up to age 19 (25 with SEND).

The 19 former children's centres which are not being retained by the Council as part of the new service, will be used for alternate provision, primarily for early years benefit and community use.

Why are we doing this? - We know that rising numbers of children are being supported by children's social care and we want to reverse that trend by improving our early help offer so that we do all that we can to get support directly to families who need it before things get worse.

We also know that the majority of families who have been using our Children's Centres over the past few years do not need the kind of targeted help that the new Family Support Service will provide.

Our aim is to shift the focus to supporting the most vulnerable children and families as soon as issues arise, providing whole family support, while still providing a network of Family Centres to deliver a universal offer and work alongside our partners such as health for the benefit of families with younger children too.

Thank you - A large number of staff, many within our dedicated Children's Services teams, have been working incredibly hard to get us to this point and I thank everyone who has contributed to this process. It has been a prolonged and challenging period of change which is now coming to an end thanks to their commitment. I know we have gone through a period of uncertainty and I thank staff for their continuing dedication and enthusiasm for the new service and its ambitions.

We are confident our new Family Support Service will improve the lives of the Buckinghamshire families who need us the most and that this, as part of our partnership approach to early help, is the best way that we can help them overcome their challenges to become more self-reliant, healthier and happier. I look forward to giving you more updates as we move through our launch period.

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.