



Welcome to the 14th 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.

Children's Services are retained by BCC

In November 2017, following an Ofsted inspection, Buckinghamshire County Council's Children's Services were deemed to be 'inadequate'. As this followed an 'inadequate' result from the 2014 Ofsted inspection the result of having two consecutive outcomes at this level was that a Children's Commissioner, John Coughlan, CBE, was appointed by the government to spend 3 months reviewing BCC's strategy for improving their children's services. One possible outcome of this could have been that children's services in Buckinghamshire would have run under an 'alternative delivery model' but Mr Coughlan concluded that the County Council were working hard to improve the situation and that this scenario was not needed. Some of his findings were that:

- A significant amount of work is required to establish and normalise good social work and child care practice across the organisation
- Good early progress is being made but unquestionably this engagement needs to be made more systematically and then sustained relentlessly
- Previous officer leadership had driven a hard and data based approach to performance management which didn't take sufficient account of the quality of practice
- Changes to practice are already being implemented, supported by changes in performance and quality assurance
- Changes are being driven at pace but nobody should be under any illusions that there are quick fixes as the scale of the necessary improvement is significant
- There remains more to do in directing the corporate strength towards better co-ordination of business support, commissioning and performance information but the council starts from a strong place under the current leadership.

To read the press release and the full report see the link below:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/news/buckinghamshire-county-council-retains-its-childrens-services/>

The commissioner's recommendation to the DfE is that there should be no alternative delivery model in Buckinghamshire. The current direction of travel should be endorsed in terms of the internal leadership's improvement planning. That said, he recommends that some external support should be commissioned, possibly under the joint brokerage of the local authority and DfE. A primacy should be placed on the support and development of front line managers and staff, balancing a firm application of consistent high standards with a systematic range of mechanisms to ensure they are closely involved in and own the improvement process.

If you have a concern about a child contact First Response on 01296 383962 or secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk (if child is at serious risk phone the police)

Children In Need - Emergency Essentials Grants

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED
EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS



Family Fund
Helping you, helping others

Business
Services

BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Grant Programme Administered by Family Fund Business Services

Information for Partners of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board:

Laura Cope is a Partnership Manager working on the BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Grant Programme & within her role she proactively develops and manages relationships with a diverse range of professionals and organisations across the UK who work with vulnerable families and young people so that they can make applications for grants on behalf of families they work with.

Emergency Essentials grants are for children and young people living with severe poverty as well as having additional pressures such as domestic violence, disability or poor health in the family. They can deliver or fund critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children's beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations

The grant is a referrer only programme. The Partnership Manager for Buckinghamshire is Laura Cope and she would like to work with organisations & professionals to ensure more local vulnerable families are benefiting from the grant.

You can find out more information about what being a referrer for the fund means in these guidelines: https://www.familyfundsolutions.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CiN_FFBS_Guidance_for_Referrers.pdf

You can also find more information on their website: <https://www.familyfundsolutions.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

If you would like any help, advice or support, please contact the team using the following details:
Email: Laura.Cope@familyfundsolutions.co.uk or Phone: **01904 550011**

Water Safety

Around 400 people needlessly drown in the UK every year and thousands more suffer injury, some life changing, through near-drowning experiences.

Putting this into context, one person dies every 20 hours in the UK. Drowning is also the third highest cause of accidental death of children in the UK.

Learn how to keep you and your family safe with water safety advice from the Royal Life Saving Society UK which can be found at: <https://rlss.org.uk/water-safety/>



E-safety info on Vloggers



Live-streaming, YouTubers and influencers...

What's all the fuss about?

Many children and young people follow vloggers (video-bloggers) on YouTube or even enjoy live-streaming their own lives. From make-up tutorials to music reviewers and online gamers, these vloggers can have more of an influence over young people than some of their own friends.

Famous vloggers often promote products with the likes of #ad and #sponsoredpost showing that they are being paid to do so.

Parent Zone are publishing a series of articles related to the live-streaming phenomenon including information about live-streaming site Twitch, some popular vloggers and the power of influencer marketing on young people.

[Twitch: everything you need to know about the live-streaming site](#)

[Vlogging, YouTubers and Influencer Marketing: all you need to know](#)

Staying Safe Online

- The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a [blog](#) outlining ways in which parents and carers can help keep their children safe as they start to spend more time online during the summer holidays. Tips include: have positive conversations with children about the internet; take the opportunity to learn more about the apps, games and services children are using and find out about their reporting and blocking features; and make a family agreement about how all family members use the internet.
- CEOP's Thinkuknow has launched [Band Runner](#), an interactive game for 8-10 year olds to help build their knowledge, confidence and skills to stay safe from risks they might encounter online. The game is hosted on the area for 8-10 year-olds on the [Thinkuknow](#) website.

Relationships & sex education & health education- consultation

The Department for Education (DfE) is seeking views on draft regulations, statutory guidance and a regulatory impact assessment for relationships and sex education and health education in schools in England. The guidance will become compulsory in all schools across England from September 2020. Proposals include: all schools will be required to teach compulsory relationships education in primary school; relationships and sex education in secondary school and health education (about physical and mental health) in all state funded schools.

Lessons will also help young people keep personal information private, navigate the virtual world, challenge harmful content and balance online and offline worlds.

The [consultation](#) closes on 7th November 2018 and is aimed at:

- Headteachers
- Teachers and other school staff (including governors)
- Other educational professionals
- Voluntary and community organisations
- Any other interested organisations and individuals
- Parents and carers
- Young people

Further information:

[Relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education: draft for consultation \(PDF\)](#)

Assessing Neglect—The Graded Care Profile Assessment Tool

Neglect is a key priority for the Safeguarding Board as we are aware that around 60% of children on a Child Protection Plan locally are under the category of Neglect. We need to work together to identify Neglect as soon as possible in order to prevent the long term harm that it can do to a child. The Graded Care Profile Assessment Tool provides practitioners with a framework to identify good enough parenting and levels of potential Neglect that children may be subjected to and can be used from universal services through to child protection cases.

A BSCB training course is being held in using this tool on the following date:

- 9.15 - 4.30pm on 11th October 2018 at Disraeli School, High Wycombe

Further dates will be available during 2019 once our online booking system goes live.

For more information about the Graded Care Profile 2 Assessment Tool please see this [video](#) or visit our [website](#).

To book a place you need to complete an [application form](#) (download on left hand side of page) and send it to the BSCB Training team.

This training is currently being offered **free of charge** to those that attend.

Home Alone?



The NSPCC has released figures from its helpline looking at calls from people worried that young children had been left at home unsupervised by a parent or carer during the summer holidays.

Figures show that 849 referrals were made to the police during August 2017 by the helpline, a third of which were for children aged 5 or under. The [NSPCC website](#) includes tips and a tool to help parents and carers decide whether or not to leave their on their own for the first time this summer.

Young Carers

Action for Children and Carers Trust have released [findings from a survey](#) of 270 young carers under the age of 18 looking at how they spend their summer holidays.

Findings show that: 47% of young carers spend more than four hours a day during the summer caring for a relative; 68% said they feel more stressed or worried during the holidays; and 57% worry about talking about what they did in the summer break when they go back to school.

For more information about young carers go to the Young Carers Bucks [website](#).



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: cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk.