



## Introduction

Welcome to the 11th 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 Matilda Moss, BSCB Business Manager: [mross@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mross@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.

## Help Tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

### Those campaigning against FGM often refer to the next few weeks as 'cutting season'...

This marks a time of year when many young girls are taken abroad to have FGM performed so that they can 'heal' over the long summer period to try and avoid detection when they return to school.

There is low reporting of FGM by victims or those at risk. **Frontline staff are therefore crucial in identifying those who are at risk of FGM.** Some particular signs to look out for ahead of the summer holidays include:

- Young girls attending for inoculations to travel to countries with high FGM prevalence
- Young girls talking about travelling home for 'special' ceremonies or rituals
- Families planning absence from school that would extend the summer holiday period

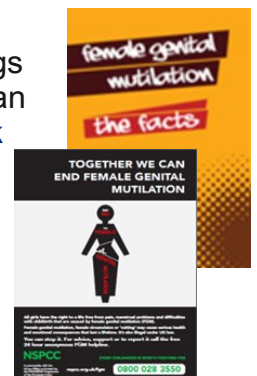


There is now a Buckinghamshire wide **strategy and practice guidance** around tackling FGM. We would encourage relevant staff to ensure they are familiar with the guidance, which provides further detail on spotting the potential signs of FGM, and how to respond.

### Raising awareness of FGM: Resources

Help us raise awareness of FGM by displaying these resources in public facing settings such as GP surgeries, Children's Centre's, nurseries and schools. All the resources can be downloaded using the links provided, or please contact [cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk) and we will provide you with copies free of charge.

- ✓ Female Genital Mutilation: The facts (leaflet): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-leaflet](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-leaflet)
- ✓ Together we can end FGM (poster and wallet card): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/be-the-mother-who-ends-fgm-poster](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/be-the-mother-who-ends-fgm-poster)



### Further information

- ✓ Buckinghamshire strategy and practice guidance: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/)
- ✓ Government Statutory Guidance on FGM: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation).
- ✓ Government FGM Resource Pack: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack)
- ✓ A statement opposing FGM is available in 11 languages and can be taken abroad to explain the criminal status of FGM in the UK: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation)
- ✓ ActionAid FGM resources for schools (KS3 & KS4): [www.actionaid.org.uk/school-resources/resource/female-genital-mutilation-fgm-teaching-resources](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/school-resources/resource/female-genital-mutilation-fgm-teaching-resources)
- ✓ Free on-line Home Office training is available via the BSCB website: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses/)



## Private Fostering Questionnaire

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and carer for 28 days or more.

**It is the responsibility of everybody whose work brings them into contact with children and young people to report private fostering arrangements by ringing the First Response Team on 0845 4600 001.**

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is running a survey to explore levels of awareness around private fostering amongst anyone working with children and families. The results will be used to support future Board and Local Authority activity to raise awareness of private fostering.



At the end of the survey there is some signposting to further resources around private fostering.

### Further information

- ✓ If you have any questions about this survey please contact Matilda Moss, BSCB Business Manager ([mmoss@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mmoss@buckscc.gov.uk))

The survey can be accessed at:  
[www.research.net/r/bscbprivatefostering](http://www.research.net/r/bscbprivatefostering)

It will only take a couple of minutes to complete and will stay open until  
Friday 4th August

**Please encourage colleagues within your organisation to respond**

## Fabricated or Induced Illness

Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer, (most often the child's biological mother) exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.

The individual inducing illness in a child may do so in a variety of ways, including:

- Claiming a child has symptoms which result in unnecessary investigations / treatment / use of unnecessary equipment (e.g. crutches, wheelchairs)
- Fabricating a child's past medical history
- Alleging that their child has a psychological illness
- Deliberately inducing symptoms in a child by administering medication / other substances
- Interfering with treatment by overdosing / omitting medication / tampering with medical equipment etc.

The BSCB has recently published a revised Fabricated or Induced Illness Procedure and we would ask that this is highlighted to relevant staff within your organisation. We have also produced a short factsheet which can be downloaded for use in training, team meetings etc to support knowledge around FII.

### Further information

- ✓ Revised Fabricated or Induced Illness Procedure & Factsheet: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/)

## Snapchat Maps



Concerns have been raised about a new Snapchat feature that reveals the location of the user. The feature displays a map of nearby friends, showing their latest location gathered using a smartphone's GPS sensor. Users of the app can also search for locations such as individual schools, with the app displaying public photos and videos sent by students.

While the feature is designed to help friends meet up or attend events together, it has raised fears that it could be abused.

The UK Safer Internet Centre said: *"It is important to be careful about who you share your location with, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where you live, go to school and spend your time. Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat - giving your location to a precise pinpoint on a map - we would encourage users not to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person."*

**Social Media Alert**

**TOP TIP:** To hide your location from friends, you can turn on **ghost mode** in Snap Map. Pinch the screen when you are in selfie mode to bring up Snap Map. Then, click the settings icon in the top right hand corner and set the phone to "ghost mode". Then Snapchat will stop sharing your location.

## Supporting Effective Practice

### Child Protection Conferences: Key Expectations

A Child Protection Conference brings together family members (and the child where appropriate), advocates and those professionals most involved with the child and family to make decisions about the child's future safety, health and development.



#### Expectations for all professionals attending conference

- All reports for Initial Child Protection Conferences must be shared with parents 2 working days before conference; reports for a Review Child Protection Conference must be shared with parents 5 working days before conference. These must be shared by the author or their agency.
- Please send your reports to [secure-childprotection@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:secure-childprotection@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk) no later than 48 hours before the conference to enable the Chairperson to prepare for the meeting.
- All professionals must attend Professional Reading Time, which takes place for the first 30 minutes. You must bring enough printed copies of your report to share amongst the professionals. This is time to read the reports and not to discuss the case.
- Should you wish for a student or observer to attend, please seek the parent's permission and discuss this with the Conferencing Manager (Caroline Ash: [carash@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:carash@buckscc.gov.uk)) in advance of the conference.

#### Further information

- ✓ BSCB Child Protection Conference Procedure: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/)
- ✓ Conference Service Annual Report: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/annual-reports/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/annual-reports/)

### Core Groups: New Arrangements

The purpose of a Core Group is for all attendees to work with the family on the outcomes and actions identified in the Child Protection Plan and report back the progress made by the family against these outcomes and actions. Whilst it is expected that the social worker attends Core Groups, on any exceptional occasions when they are unable to attend, the remaining Core Group members must continue with the meeting and send an update on the outcomes and actions of the Child Protection Plan to the social worker within 2 days.

From September 2017, there will be changes made to the way Core Groups are recorded and the minutes document will no longer exist. Instead progress will be recorded against the actions on the Child Protection Plan and this will be circulated as the record of the meeting. This is to ensure focus is on achieving outcomes for the child.

#### Further information

- ✓ BSCB Procedure for Core Groups: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/)
- ✓ BSCB Leaflet on supporting effective practice in Core Groups: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Individual%20Case%20Management/Core-Group-Leaflet-2.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Individual%20Case%20Management/Core-Group-Leaflet-2.pdf)



A Guide to:  
Effective Core  
Groups

Leaflet developed by

### Learning Opportunity: Child Protection Conferences - Supporting Effective Practice

- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 12.30-1.45pm (Mezzanine Room 3, County Hall)**
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 12.30-1.45pm (Council Chamber, Wycombe District Council)**
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 12.30-1.45pm (Knight Hall, Green Park, Aston Clinton)**

These sessions are aimed at managers of front-line professionals who are involved in Child Protection Conferences. They are open to colleagues working in any agency in Buckinghamshire.

The sessions will be an opportunity to:

- Hear about some of the headlines from the [Child Protection Conference Service Annual Report](#)
- Explore ways you can support effective practice in relation to Child Protection Conferences
- Share your own experiences, including any challenges or barriers to effective practice

These sessions are free of charge, and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Refreshments will not be provided, but please feel free to bring your lunch. If this is a popular format, then we will seek to offer further dates.

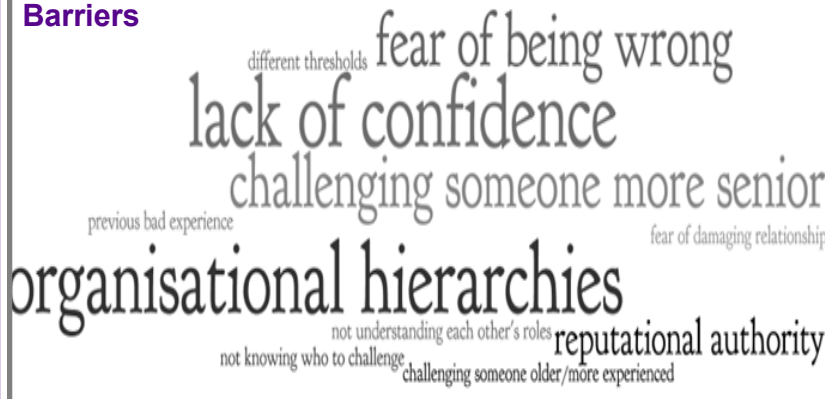
➡ **To book a place, email [cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk)**

## Learning from Serious Case Reviews

### Effective Challenge and Escalation

The protection of children will always be an area in which there may be differences of opinion about the best course of action. It is very important that all those working with children and families feel able to air their views and constructively challenge the action of others.

#### Barriers



The Serious Case Review for [Baby M](#) highlighted a lack of professional challenge and recommended the BSCB should explore the systemic issues behind this. To do this, we set up four half-day multi-agency sessions to collect evidence about the problems underpinning or preventing professionals from challenging one another. The sessions were also an opportunity to undertake some active problem solving, and to extend and develop the skills in managing professional challenge for those that attended.

Factors which either inhibited or facilitated appropriate and effective professional challenge clustered around the three areas of **personal, professional and organisational** issues.

#### Enablers



The BSCB is taking a number of further actions in response to these events, including reformatting the training we provide around challenge and escalation. However, whether you are a manager or a front-line professional, there are also things you can do to promote effective professional challenge.

#### For example:

- Are you / your staff aware of the BSCB Escalation Procedure and where to find it?
- Are there things you can do to help professionals understand each other's roles or have time to reflect together? This could involve inviting a professional from another agency to come and talk about their role at a team meeting, or supporting multi-agency supervision or case discussion.
- If you are a manager, how well do you understand the organisational culture in your agency? Does supervision provide a way for staff to raise and discuss concerns? Do staff feel that manager's listen to them and value their views?
- Would you / your staff benefit from attending multi-agency training to explore these issues?

#### Further information

- ✓ Key learning points from Escalation Workshops: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/) **Please share this within your agency.**
- ✓ BSCB Escalation, Challenge and Conflict Resolution Procedure: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/)
- ✓ If you are interested in attending half day multi-agency training on supporting effective challenge and escalation, please contact [bscbtrainingteam@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:bscbtrainingteam@buckscc.gov.uk)

## Safer Working Practice

West Berkshire have recently published a Serious Case Review (SCR) relating to sexual offences by two individuals connected to a secondary school. Whilst the recommendations in the SCR are specific to West Berkshire, much of the learning is also relevant to agencies working in Buckinghamshire.

The review highlighted a number of key learning points relating to safe working cultures within organisations, and also how to ensure that arrangements for responding to allegations against adults who are in a position of trust are effective in protecting children from abuse.

The following 3 learning points are relevant across all agencies.

SCR Learning Point	What can you do?
<p><b>Effective escalation and challenge:</b> Safe cultures rely on transparent, clear procedures and active encouragement by senior managers for practitioners to raise and escalate concerns both within and between agencies. In this case, not all concerns were effectively escalated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure you are aware of the BSCB Escalation, Challenge and Conflict Resolution Procedure: <a href="http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/">www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/</a> and that this is promoted within your agency.</li> <li>Review learning from our Escalation Workshops (see previous article) and think about the barriers and enablers to challenge within your own agency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safer recruitment:</b> Not all agencies had embedded robust recruitment processes.</p>	<p>Consider your agency's processes in relation to our updated Safer Recruitment Toolkit: <a href="http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/safer-employment/">www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/safer-employment/</a></p>
<p><b>Safeguarding training:</b> Across a number of agencies staff did not have a level of up to date safeguarding training that was relevant to their role.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the BSCB training pathway and think about whether your own training / your team's training is up to date: <a href="http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/">www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/</a></li> <li>The BSCB offers a range of multi-agency training that can be used to refresh or improve knowledge, skills and confidence: <a href="http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/courses/">www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/courses/</a></li> </ul>

A number of more specific learning points were identified that are of particular relevance to those working in schools, including in relation to the crucial role that school governors play as part of the safeguarding governance framework. The report highlighted how important it is that governors are able to access sufficient, high-quality safeguarding training. The report also highlighted the need to consider the level of accountability, experience and expertise required for the role of safeguarding governor.

We would encourage all partners to consider the key learning points from this review in relation to their own agency, and where necessary take any action required to strengthen practice.

### Further information

- ✓ Our SCR Learning Log highlights the key learning from this review: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/serious-case-review/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/serious-case-review/)
- ✓ The review can be read in full at: [www.westberkslscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/](http://www.westberkslscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/)

## New Resources: Safer Recruitment and Employment Practice

The BSCB has published two new toolkits to support organisations working in Buckinghamshire to implement effective safeguarding arrangements:

- **Child Protection Policy Toolkit:** [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/local/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/local/)

Supports agencies to develop or review their own single agency Child Protection Policy. It includes information on the key areas of safeguarding which should be considered, example statements and links to further information and resources.

- **Safer Recruitment Toolkit:** [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/safer-employment/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/safer-employment/)

This updated toolkit is aimed at anyone involved in the recruitment of staff or volunteers who will work with, or provide services for children or adults with care and support needs. It provides guidance, tools and templates to help organisations ensure all staff and volunteers are safe to work with children or adults with care and support needs. The toolkit has been jointly produced with the Safeguarding Adults Board.

## Focus on: i-HOP

### i-HOP: Supporting all professionals to work with the children and families of offenders

There are an estimated 200,000 children each year in England and Wales who have a parent go to prison. This is more than the number of children who are looked after in care. Research shows that these children are at a higher risk of poor mental and physical health, negative school experiences, housing and financial disruption, stigma and isolation. Despite this, there is no robust national system for identifying or supporting them.

All professionals who encounter children and families can help to identify, safeguard and encourage the children of offenders to reach their full potential. [i-HOP](#) is Barnardo's national online knowledge hub which supports practitioners and strategic level workers to do this. The free i-HOP directory signposts to targeted local and national services, events, practice examples, practical tools, research and policy. For example the local service '[Children Heard and Seen.](#)' as recently featured on BBC's South Today programme, is listed. They provide home visits, activities for young people, mentoring and much more!

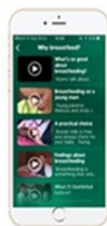
i-HOP's new [Practitioner's Guide to supporting children and families affected by parental offending](#) is a fantastic free resource packed with practice tips and tools. The guide complements [Barnardo's practice training](#) - it's easy to book on or arrange a session for your workplace.

The i-HOP [Quality Statements and Toolkit](#) enables services to self-assess and develop an action plan for work with this potentially vulnerable group. We would love to share your completed action plan templates with i-HOP website users! Please send them to [i-hop@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:i-hop@barnardos.org.uk).

Sign up for the [FREE monthly i-HOP e-newsletter](#) and follow us on twitter [@barnardos\\_ihop](https://twitter.com/barnardos_ihop) for updates to support your work with the children and families of offenders.



## Can you help to promote our new Baby Buddy app?



Baby Buddy is your personal baby expert who will guide you through your pregnancy and the first six months of your baby's life.

Have you downloaded it yet?

Sponsored by  
NHS  
Aylesbury Vale  
Clinical Commissioning Group  
NHS  
Children  
Clinical Commissioning Group

Available free:  
best  
beginnings  
Google play  
Available on the  
App Store

Do you or your team come into contact with young mothers-to-be or new young mums – particularly those from BME communities? If so, can you help spread the word to **let** them know about the support and help available on Baby Buddy? It's a unique and free smartphone app which has been created with mums, midwives and doctors so you can be sure the information – both local and national – is reliable, accurate, and is available 24 hours a day.

The app sets out to be a personal baby expert who will help guide mothers-to-be through

pregnancy and the first six months of baby's life. Now Buckinghamshire's NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) – the GP-led organisations who plan and pay for local healthcare – are rolling out Baby Buddy across the county.

Young women can download Baby Buddy to receive daily information to support them and to help them to look after baby. Any mother-to-be or new parent can download it free from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). There's more information on [the CCGs' website](#). For those who don't have access to a smartphone there is also a web version of the app [online](#).

**Updated MARF:** We've made a small change to the wording on the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) to make the information on reporting a concern outside of office hours clearer. **Please make sure you are using the latest version:** [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/)