



Welcome to the 13th 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](mailto: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.**

### Reporting a concern? New number to use

Buckinghamshire County Council have decided to move away from using 0845 numbers and have changed the 0845 4600001 number used to contact Children's Social Care to a local number.

The number to call now is:

**01296 383962**

Please ensure you use this number for future contact whenever you need to discuss a concern about a child (anyone under the age of 18 years).

For concerns relating to allegations against staff or volunteers etc. you should still contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) via 01296 382070.



### Domestic Abuse - new powers in effect

Domestic abuse comes in many forms, shattering the lives of victims and their families, and in recognition of this the government has put forward proposals for new laws which would transform their approach to this terrible crime.

On 8th March the government launched a [consultation on domestic abuse](#), seeking new laws and stronger powers to protect and support survivors. They want to hear from *'all those who have been affected by abuse, from survivors, frontline professionals, charities and the public, to gather views on how, together, we can best put a stop to it once and for all'*.

The planned tough new approach will include new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to better shield victims against further abuse by enabling courts to impose a range of conditions on abusers. These could be compulsory alcohol treatment, attending a programme to address their underlying attitudes or addictions, and using electronic tagging to monitor them. Under the proposals, breaching the order would become a criminal offence.

They have also proposed the creation of a statutory aggravating factor in sentencing, similar to those already in law for hate crimes, for domestic abuse to toughen sentences when it involves or affects a child. They are also looking to create a Domestic Abuse Commissioner to hold the government to account.

Economic abuse will be recognised for the first time as a type of domestic abuse, covering controlling circumstances in which victims have finances withheld, are denied access to employment or transport, or are forced to take out loans and enter into other financial contracts.

**This consultation closes on 31st May.**

## Neglect Conference - 22nd March 2018

On Thursday 22nd March 2018 the BSCB held a full day conference looking at various aspects of Neglect.

82 delegates from a variety of agencies attended this event, which was the second neglect conference held by the BSCB, the previous one having been held in 2013. The event took place at the Adams Park Conferencing Centre in High Wycombe and the majority of the audience were front line practitioners.



The event was opened by **Fran Gosling-Thomas**, Independent Chair of Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board and she explained the need for all agencies to work more effectively at identifying and responding to the early signs of neglect.

Various organisations attended to host workshops or give presentations including Action for Children, Sue Woolmore (Sandstories), the NSPCC, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire County Council, Bucks Clinical Commissioning Groups and Oxford Health.

The BSCB has completed several pieces of work with regard to neglect including:

- writing a multi-agency strategy to tackle neglect
- revising the neglect guidance
- running several audits
- being a licenced provider of Graded Care Profile training.

For a more detailed look at the workshops and presentations from this conference please go to the [BSCB website](#).

## Neglect Assessment tool - Graded Care Profile

The Graded Care Profile is an assessment tool that helps professionals ascertain if a child is suffering from neglect. Training in using this NSPCC assessment tool is available through the BSCB training team and it is recommended that all front line practitioners are aware of how to utilise this.

Go to: <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/courses/> for training dates.

## Safe! Support for young people affected by crime

SAFE! are offering a number of Protective Behaviours courses and a specialised CSE course.

The Protective Behaviours course is a two day course and is delivered by leading experts in the field and aims to equip learners with sufficient knowledge and understanding to use the Protective Behaviours Process as part of their professional practice.

The CSE course is a specialised prevention programme called '*Feeling Safe: Knowing Me and Knowing You*' and is designed to educate about the subject of (Child) Sexual Exploitation incorporating the Protective Behaviours Process. It is not a course to teach people about CSE - it is for those who have already completed CSE training. It provides participants with an 8 session programme that can be completed either with groups of young people or working with individuals.

To access the CSE course participants need to have done the Protective Behaviours training.

To find out more or to book a place contact SAFE! on [safe@safeproject.org.uk](mailto:safe@safeproject.org.uk) or 01865 582495

## Youth Service event

On the 18th April 2018, supported by Buckinghamshire County Council's Youth Service, a group of young women and their youth worker joined other young people from across the UK to attend a Body Image Fixers day conference.



Young people came together to share their thoughts and call for action to change attitudes and improve support so that society can tackle a growing crisis.

During the day-long event designed to lift the lid on one of this generation's greatest challenges, around 100 young people discussed the context and key relationships that form the backdrop to young people's struggle with body image.

The young people explored the issue in five areas of life including school, work, healthcare, the media and home to define a set of proposals to improve the future for other young people.

## Children's Centres - update

Children's Centres across Bucks were threatened with closure earlier this year following a decision by Buckinghamshire County Council. However, it has now been agreed that they will remain open as they currently are until the end of the extended Early Help Review which is anticipated to be at least another year.

For information about your nearest Sure Start Children's Centre and their timetables of events please see the [BFIS website](#).

## E-safety Conference for Professionals - Feb 2018

There has been an increased awareness among professionals around the importance of E-safety awareness, along with a number of news stories highlighting the potential risks to children and young people, their parents and the professionals that work with them. To address this, along with training sessions, an E-Safety Conference was held at Green Park, Aston Clinton, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The conference was fully booked with over 100 professionals attending to hear a wide range of speakers.

The conference was opened by Fran Gosling-Thomas, the Chair of BSCB, who was followed by speakers from Internet Matters, Thames Valley Police, the Chief Executive of the PHSE Association, KiVA and Wandsworth College. Topics included information on changes in the law around handling of nude images, promoting good mental health in schools, cyberbullying and sharing good practice.

All the speakers were well received and feedback from the audience showed that participants appreciated the time to share practice as well as learning from experts.

All presentations, where possible, have been uploaded to the Schoolsweb, with a link from the [BSCB site](#).

A further conference is being held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 for secondary school students.

## Information reporting forms

Thames Valley Police have created a form for professionals to complete when they come across a concern that doesn't meet the criteria for a full referral but is worrying them – such as spotting a suspicious car outside a youth venue or care home.

For [guidance](#) and an [example of a completed form](#) please click on the links.

To complete a form please click [here](#).

Details of where to send the information are on the form.

## BSCB Sub Groups

The **Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group** have extended their remit to encompass modern slavery, trafficking and 'county lines' (child criminal exploitation). This sub group is currently updating its terms of reference and work plan to reflect this wider remit.

**E-safety** is a priority for the BSCB and we have information pages on our website for both [parents / carers](#) and [professionals](#).

The **Performance & Quality Assurance Sub Group** hold regular audits to quality assure various aspects of safeguarding work. Reports from some of their past audits can be found on the [BSCB website](#).

The **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)** looks at child deaths within Buckinghamshire to ascertain what learning can be gained from them. They have carried out 28 reviews in the past year.

The **Policies & Procedures Sub Group** are responsible for ensuring that multi-agency policies, procedures and guidance are as up to date as possible. This sub group was heavily involved in ensuring that the [BSCB online policies and procedures website](#) went live this year.

Our **Safer Employment Sub Group** have created a [toolkit](#) to help aid safe recruitment of the workforce.

Multi-agency training is a high priority for the BSCB and our **Learning & Development Sub Group** help to develop the overall training programme. This can be found on our website along with the training pathway which will enable professionals to review the best learning for themselves.

[Serious Case Reviews](#) are not undertaken lightly and our SCR Sub Group have the responsibility for not only convening these reviews but also ensuring that any recommendations are completed.

### UPDATE!

The new **Working Together guidelines**, to be published in the summer, will mean changes to the BSCB going forward. Updates on any changes will be provided on our website.

The BSCB Chair, Fran Gosling-Thomas, can be contacted via [bscb-chair@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:bscb-chair@buckscc.gov.uk) and the Business Manager, Jo Stephenson, via [jstephenson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:jstephenson@buckscc.gov.uk).

See our [website](#) for our address and other contact details.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please email the BSCB via [cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk)