

Stay Sage online



## Introduction

Welcome to the 9th 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: [moss@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:moss@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.**

## BSCB Priority: Early Help, Thresholds & Neglect

### Thresholds Survey

In our last newsletter we asked you to complete our online survey to help us understand how well the [BSCB Thresholds document](#) is known and used across different organisations. We also gave you the headlines from a shorter version of the survey we ran at our 3 safeguarding conferences in September.

*"We have a copy in the staffroom and in my office. If I have a query about a pupil, I always look at the Thresholds document to guide me before phoning for advice."*

We have now combined the results from both versions of the survey. 460 professionals responded; 193 via the conferences and 267 via the online survey. Overall responses show a large **increase in knowledge and usage of the Thresholds document** compared to the last survey we ran in April 2015.

- **90%** were aware of the Thresholds document (60% in April 2015)
- **93%** knew where to access the Thresholds document
- **87%** said the Thresholds document was prominently displayed in their organisation
- **79%** said they regularly or sometimes used the Thresholds document as part of their day to day work (compared to 61% in April 2015)
- **85%** said they found the Thresholds document helpful to inform decisions regarding children
- **86%** said they knew the level(s) at which their service / organisation was providing support

The findings are in-line with those from auditing activity, external reviews and feedback from partners that there has been a significant improvement in knowledge and understanding of Thresholds.

### Further information:

- ✓ Full write-up of survey responses: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/consultations/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/consultations/)
- ✓ Thresholds document and FREE supporting resources: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/)

*"The Thresholds document has made the referral process simpler and aids the decision making process when referring to social care, identifying the criteria needed for individual referrals."*

### New Children's Safeguarding Service

On 1st February a new structure was launched for the Children in Need (CIN) service at Buckinghamshire County Council. The CIN Service will now be known as the **Children's Safeguarding Service**.

The service has been restructured into 6 teams; 3 will focus on Children in Need (Section 17) and 3 will focus on children on Child Protection Plans and those subject to Care Proceedings (CP/Court). The 3 teams will have a geographical focus which will be aligned to the Family Resilience and Assessment teams (Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe and Chiltern & South Bucks).

The rationale behind separating out the CIN and CP/Court work is to ensure that social workers have time to provide dedicated focussed interventions and support to children on Child in Need Plans, to prevent their needs escalating wherever possible. The CIN teams will work closely with the Family Resilience teams to ensure there is a supported 'step forward' process for children who no longer need to be subject to a Child in Need Plan. The separation will also allow colleagues in the CP/Court teams to focus on the statutory process and timescales, ensuring permanence for children as quickly as possible.

### Further information:

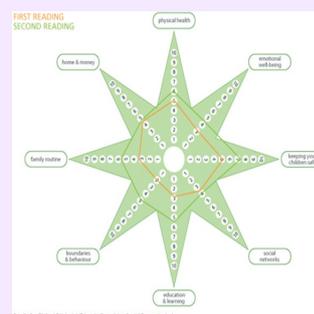
- ✓ For further details contact the Head of Service, Barry Kirwan ([bkirwan@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:bkirwan@buckscc.gov.uk))

## How to refer to the Early Help Panel

The aim of the Early Help Panel is to improve positive outcomes for children and families with complex issues, who require a co-ordinated multi-agency response. This is achieved by creating tailored plans that strengthen protective factors in the family and mitigate against risk. The panel coordinates help and support for families at level 3 of our Thresholds document to prevent the need for statutory intervention.

Many of you will be aware that the Early Help Panel recently recommended that a Family Outcomes Star should be completed to accompany any referral to the Panel. After careful consideration of feedback from a number of agencies and individuals, it has been decided that this will no longer be a requirement. The referral process to the Early Help Panel will continue to be via a completed [Multi-Agency Referral Form \(MARF\)](#) submitted to First Response. **If your agency has completed an Outcomes Star, then this should be included with your referral** as it will provide the Early Help Panel with useful information about how you have already engaged with the family. If you have not completed an Outcomes Star, then the MARF should detail how you have worked with the family.

Although the Outcomes Star is no longer a requirement for referrals, the BSCB continues to support the use of the Outcomes Star as a tool to engage families and support change at an Early Help level (levels 2 and 3). Working Together 2015 requires all local authorities to put in place effective processes for the assessment of children who may benefit from Early Help, and we continue to endorse the Outcomes Star as the multi-agency tool to be used for this purpose in Buckinghamshire.



### Further information:

- ✓ If you would like to discuss in more detail how to use the Outcomes Star in your organisation, please contact us.
- ✓ Details of FREE Outcomes Star training: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/)

## Updated Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)

The MARF should be submitted to First Response when an agency considers:

- A child has multiple needs requiring a coordinated, multi-agency, Early Help response (level 3 on the Thresholds document).
- A child has a high level of unmet and complex needs / is a child in need of protection (level 4 on the Thresholds document).

We have made some small changes to the MARF. There is now space to include a child's NHS number and information is provided on how to submit the MARF securely.

### To do:

- ✓ Replace any locally stored copies of the MARF with a link to the version on the BSCB website: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/)

## CDOP Annual Report 2015/16

Our Child Death Overview Panel has published its annual report. This outlines key trends around child deaths in Buckinghamshire and the learning that can be derived from these.

### Further Information:

- ✓ CDOP Annual Report: <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/child-death-overview-panel/>

## Why do we need a child's NHS number on the MARF?

On 6th January, Buckinghamshire went live with a new project called the **Child Protection Information Sharing Project (CP-IS)**. This is a government initiative intended to improve the way health and social care agencies work together across England to protect vulnerable children.

Serious case reviews have consistently identified that gaps in information sharing have impacted negatively on outcomes for children. CP-IS enables some information to be shared between children's services and NHS trusts regarding looked after children and children subject to a child protection plan. They will not have full details about the children's plans, but they will be able to alert to the local authority that the child / family have presented to their service. An example could be a missing young person picked up by the ambulance service. CP-IS will enable the ambulance service to check the young person on their system and identify if they are looked after or subject to a plan and respond accordingly by sending an alert to Buckinghamshire County Council.

The system is only effective if social care and health records are linked by an accurate NHS Number. For this reason, the NHS number will now be gathered at the point of referral to Children's Social Care. For an unborn child this will be the mother's NHS number and surname. Where a referring agency knows the NHS number, this should therefore be recorded on the MARF.

## BSCB Priority: Child Exploitation

### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February this year. We've noticed some really good new videos available on issues relating to e-safety – these are our top 3!



**1 #NoToNudes** was created by young people in Milton Keynes as part of their involvement in the National Citizen Service programme. It is a short video for other young people covering issues relating to sending nude photos.

**View the video:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYuArguhsAM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYuArguhsAM)

**2 Kayleigh's Love Story** explores issues relating to online grooming. It tells the true story of the last 13 days of the life of 15-year-old Kayleigh Haywood after she was groomed, raped and murdered by a man she met online. This is a hard hitting video and should be treated as having a '15' rating.

**View the video:** <https://leics.police.uk/categories/kayleighs-love-story>

**3 7 Ways to Share Photos of your Child More Safely:** A great video from the BBC which gives parents simple advice on how to share photos of their child safely online.

**View the video:** [www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3b6y4j](http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3b6y4j)

#### Further information:

- ✓ BSCB website: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/parents-carers/advice-for-parents-and-carers-be-safe-and-smart-online/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/parents-carers/advice-for-parents-and-carers-be-safe-and-smart-online/)
- ✓ See how people across the UK have been supporting Safer Internet Day: [www.saferinternetday.org/](http://www.saferinternetday.org/)

### New Social Media Warning

The NSPCC has warned that a new app Yellow could be used by sexual predators to groom young people. Yellow is becoming known as the 'tinder for teens' and bills itself as a "free way to make new chat friends." The app has no checks in place to verify the age of users. Yellow lets its users swipe right and left to either like or pass on another user and, if there's a match, they can begin chatting. What's more, you can then add that person as a contact on Snapchat and send them photos or videos.

#### Further information:

- ✓ [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/21/rspcc-warning-over-tinder-like-app-for-teenagers/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/21/rspcc-warning-over-tinder-like-app-for-teenagers/)

### Bullying Conference: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 9.00am–4.00pm (Green Park, Aston Clinton)

There are still a few places on this **FREE** conference which will deal with the current issues that get reported in the news: cyber-bullying, sexuality and homophobia, disabilities and racism. The conference is aimed at school governors, early years, primary and secondary teaching staff, foster carers, and any other professionals working with children & young people.

**Further information:** [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/conferencesandevents/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/conferencesandevents/)

### Spotlight on young people's experiences of domestic abuse



Safe Lives is a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse. They are currently running a 'spotlight' on young people's experience of domestic abuse. Each week from the end of January to the middle of March, professionals, experts and people with lived experience will be taking part in video interviews, writing blogs, short films and podcasts.

#### How to participate

- To see new content as it emerges during the 6 week spotlight visit: <http://safelives.org.uk/knowledge-hub/spotlight-3-young-people-and-domestic-abuse>
- Sign up to the webinar on 3 March 2017 (1-2pm): <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflotbFJHdJETOgdh7N4Sa0sc-IyuoPorFQH5dO4m-d8QqEFA/viewform>
- Join the Twitter Q&A with experts on 15th March (between 1 and 2pm) by following **#SafeYoungLives** on [Twitter](https://twitter.com)

## Launch of Contextual Safeguarding Network

The University of Bedfordshire has launched an online Contextual Safeguarding Network to share and generate knowledge on contextual approaches to safeguarding young people. It seeks to accelerate the learning and implementation of contextual approaches by disseminating research findings and running training and events.

*Contextual safeguarding recognises the experience of significant harm in contexts outside of the family and home and seeks to include these contexts within prevention, identification, assessment and intervention activities.*

The network builds on learning from the MsUnderstood Partnership (MSU) which has supported the development of local responses to peer-on-peer abuse, including through some work in Buckinghamshire.



The network is free to join and provides a great opportunity to learn more about contextual safeguarding approaches. If you look hard enough, you might even find our Business Manager and some other local colleagues speaking about the work we did with MSU in Buckinghamshire!

### Further information:

✓ Joint the network at: <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

## BSCB Priority: Child's Voice & Journey

### Pre-Birth Audit

Before Christmas our Performance & Quality Assurance Sub Group (P&QA) undertook an audit of pre-birth safeguarding. This followed three serious case reviews (SCRs) in Buckinghamshire where concerns were raised about safeguarding in the pre-birth period.



**Baby K (published August 2015):** An inadequate pre-birth assessment meant that a sufficiently robust plan was not put in place to support the mother.



**Baby L (published October 2015):** There was a delay in allocating the case to a social worker, which meant a pre-birth assessment was not completed.



**Baby M (not yet published):** There was no holistic assessment of the needs of Unborn Baby M. The pre-birth assessment was inadequate with insufficient focus on the level of risk.

The journeys of 3 children were reviewed in depth to explore how pre-birth risk was identified, understood and prioritised by agencies working with the family and what difference was made by multi-agency working in the pre-birth period. Key findings were:

- The core focus of assessment is on the mother and not on the risks to the unborn baby.
- Fathers, whether actively involved or not, are considered and assessed less than mothers.
- Recordings are often insufficiently detailed and do not efficiently reflect the work undertaken.
- There is variability in terms of when information is shared between agencies.
- In two of the cases audited, there was no evidence of validation regarding information shared by parents, with professionals either simply accepting what has been said or hoping that it was the truth.

Since this audit, the Board has delivered three multi-agency sessions focusing on the learning from the SCRs mentioned above. There has also been work going on in partnership to revise our multi-agency pre-birth guidance and procedure to ensure that professionals across all agencies have clear information about pre-birth safeguarding. We will be launching the new guidance and procedure at a **free half-day pre-birth safeguarding conference** at the end of March. See p5 for further details.

### Further information:

✓ Audit Learning Log: [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 so that learning is disseminated and can help us improve outcomes for children and young people.**

## Learning & Development Opportunities

### Pre-Birth Safeguarding Conference: Thursday 30th March, 1.30-5.00pm (Aylesbury Vale District Council)

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board and Bucks New University are pleased to present this **FREE** half-day learning session, which is open to all professionals working with children, parents and families in the county.



The event will provide both frontline professionals and managers with an opportunity to hear about some of the key pre-birth safeguarding considerations, and the impact and outcomes moving through into the early months after birth and beyond. Areas covered during the event will include:



- Launch of the new BSCB multi-agency Pre-Birth Procedures
- Learning from Serious Case Reviews and national research
- Providing support for parents and working with families to build resilience

#### Further information:

- ✓ Further details: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/conferencesandevents/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/conferencesandevents/)
- ✓ To book a place contact [amartindale@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:amartindale@buckscc.gov.uk)

### Exploitation Conferences: Please save the date for one of our half-day conferences

- **Thursday 27th April, 1.30-5.00pm (Adams Park, High Wycombe)**
- **Tuesday 9th May, 1.30-5.00pm (Sivatch Conference Centre, Aylesbury)**

These **FREE** events are open to all professionals working with children, parents, families and vulnerable adults in Buckinghamshire. They will provide both frontline professionals and managers with an opportunity to develop their knowledge around different forms of exploitation, reflect on current local issues and access information, support and resources.

The full programme for each event will be available on the BSCB website as soon as possible. However, both events will include a range of sessions relevant to professionals working with either children or vulnerable adults. This includes:

- 2 keynote sessions providing a national perspective on different aspects of the exploitation agenda
- Smaller workshop sessions focusing on relevant local issues including sexual exploitation, radicalisation, financial exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery

#### Further information:

- ✓ Further details: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/conferencesandevents/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/conferencesandevents/)
- ✓ To book a place contact [cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk)



### Upcoming Domestic Abuse Training (provided by Buckinghamshire County Council)

#### Exploring Adolescent to Parent Abuse: 21<sup>st</sup> March, 9.00am-5.00pm (Green Park, Aston Clinton):

Suitable for anyone whose current role brings them in contact with families who may have experienced or be experiencing domestic abuse. The day will explore a number of areas including understanding of the dynamics and contexts of adolescent to parent abuse, exploring patterns of abusive behaviour and the barriers and approaches to engage with young people and parents.

(Free for voluntary organisations, £60 for Domestic Abuse Champions, £85 for statutory / private agencies)

#### FREE Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) & DASH Training

- 24th April, 9.00am-1.00pm (Green Park, Aston Clinton)
- 17th July, 9.00am-1.00pm (Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury)

The aim of this training is to give participants a clear understanding of the MARAC process and their agency's role and engagement with the MARAC.

#### Further information:

- ✓ For more detail and an application form, visit: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/external-training/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/external-training/)

## Focus on CAHBS

**The Child and Adolescent Harmful Behaviour Service (CAHBS)** is a specialised non-mental health element of the integrated service model of care in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) within Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. We support a multi-agency response, offering largely consultancy-based services to young people (up to age 18) displaying concerning sexual behaviour.

You may have a child or young person that you are working with who displays sexual behaviour that causes concern. CAHBS will help professionals, families and young people to understand the behaviour. We use evidence based practice to consider the context and relevance of factors such as family life, developmental and sexual history, educational and social history.

Referrals to CAHBS can be made by professionals working with young people following discussion with parents, carers or young people about contacting us.

Following referral we will talk to you and gather more information in order to decide the level of support needed from offering advice and ongoing support through to offering direct assessment or intervention. In all cases we will help you to focus initially on safeguarding and risk management arrangements that are in place to address the risk to others' as well as the young person's own safety.

In some cases young people's sexual behaviour breaks the law. In such cases CAHBS will not become directly clinically involved until the police process has come to a conclusion. However, we can still support the professional network with identifying the needs of the young person and considering the risk management that is required to support reduction in behaviours.

### Further information:

- ✓ You can discuss cases with CAHBS directly on 01865 902613 or email [CAHBS.team@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:CAHBS.team@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)
- ✓ Referrals can be made directly to the CAMHS Single Point of Access. For further details see: [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/fresh/](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/fresh/)



## Ofsted Monitoring Visit

In November 2016, Ofsted completed a second two-day monitoring visit at Buckinghamshire County Council. Their findings were that the County Council is making steady progress to improve Children's Social Care services. This most recent monitoring visit included a focus on children looked after, and this extract from the press release issued by the Council highlights some of the key findings:

*Ofsted note that 'social work practice has improved for children entering care in the last six months' and that 'decisions for children to become looked after in the vast majority of cases seen by inspectors were timely and appropriate'; while also noting that whilst management oversight is evident in case files, meetings and supervision, it is not always effective in driving children's care plans.*

*Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said: "Overall we are pleased that Ofsted are seeing continued and sustained improvement in many areas. It's heartening that Ofsted recognise how engaged our social workers are with their children, visiting them often, building good relationships with them and that children's wishes and feelings are heard and acted on. I'm also pleased that it has been noted that the social care leadership team is effective in achieving improvements. We are of course aware that there is still much more to do and we all continue to work hard to achieve the level of service that our children and young people deserve."*

*David Johnston, Managing Director for Children's Social Care and Learning, said: "The outcome of Ofsted's second monitoring visit is encouraging and confirms that children in Buckinghamshire are now better supported. Although considerable work still needs to be done, it's another positive milestone for us to continue to build on."*

*"It's important to note that we are already implementing changes in many of the areas noted for improvement including timely access to Life Story work and ensuring that commissioned services for children who go missing from care carry out timely return interviews to ensure those children and young people are safe."*

*"I would like to thank all of our social care colleagues and partners for their continued hard work, every one of whom is committed to making a positive difference to children's lives in Buckinghamshire."*

### Further information

- ✓ Ofsted letter: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/buckinghamshire>