



Welcome to the 15th 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.

Positive Relationships Programme (PRP)

In a pioneering collaboration, Thames Valley Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in conjunction with Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) have sourced the first strength based preventative domestic abuse programme to work with men in families where there is relationship based conflict, to provide them with the necessary skills and tools to better manage their emotions, their thinking and ultimately their behaviour, to support healthy and positive relationships.

The Positive Relationships Programme (PRP) is an evidence based structured group work programme designed to support group members who have evidenced aggression within their intimate relationships to make positive changes and find healthier, safer solutions to relationship based problems and conflict. The following key areas are addressed throughout the sessions:

- Increasing self-and other-awareness
- Self-efficacy and self esteem
- Emotion regulation
- Alcohol awareness
- Social problem solving skills training
- Goal and solution identification
- Resources, skills and tools to resolve social problems and aggression within intimate relationships

PRP is delivered over 12 sessions (10 group, and 2 one to one) by two fully trained facilitators. The group is managed by a Treatment Manager who will monitor the progress of the group members and undertake quality assurance of the delivery skills of the facilitators.

Safety Link Worker Services run alongside the programme to offer support and signposting to the current partner or victim of the man attending the group. Contact will be made prior to the group session for safety planning and to provide information about the programme itself.

For further information go to: <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2018/04/positive-relationships-programme/>

Referrals need to be sent to Prpreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

CDOP Annual Report

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) review child deaths across Buckinghamshire to see whether lessons can be learnt from children's deaths in order to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of other children. Their [2017-18 Annual Report](#) is now available on the BSCB website.

Hidden Harm

On Monday 8 October Thames Valley Police launched the latest phase of their Hidden Harm campaign, this time focusing on raising awareness of hate crime.

Last year there were 2,369 hate crimes recorded in Thames Valley. That means every day the police receive at least six reports of people being abused because of who they are, how they look or what they believe in.

The campaign will focus on the stories of people that have experienced this kind of abuse, to highlight not only what a hate crime is but also the serious impact they can have on all aspects of a person's life.

They want to remind members of the public that they will not tolerate any kind of abuse and encourage witnesses and victims to come forward and report these types of crimes.

The campaign will run for two weeks but, as with previous phases, partnership work is critical to its success, which is why Thames Valley Police are asking for your help again.

They have produced an [online resource pack](#) with materials and ideas to help you support the campaign, both within your own organisation and publically. There are posters, leaflets and screensavers which can be downloaded, as well as copy which can be used in your newsletters, websites and other communication channels.



Thames Valley Police would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the Hidden Harm campaign so far. With your assistance they've been able to share their messages with nearly three million people on social media alone and helped keep some of the most vulnerable people in our communities safe from harm. They could not have done this without you.

If you are able to help, please let them know what you're doing by e-mailing campaigns@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk, so they can promote the great partnership work going on across Thames Valley.

New Substance Misuse Support Service for Bucks



Switch Bucks, will be the new substance misuse support service for children and young people aged 10-25 across Buckinghamshire!

Switch Bucks went live on 1st October 2018.

Switch Bucks is being delivered for Buckinghamshire County Council by Cranstoun, who have been empowering people to live healthy, safe and happy lives since 1969.

For the latest updates on Switch Bucks go to www.cranstoun.org/switch-bucks

You can find out more about Cranstoun's services and support for young people at www.cranstoun.org/young-people

'Keeping the Baby in Mind': Specialist service for parents

ReConnect is a specialist service within Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) that works with high risk parents known to Social Care with the aim of reducing the risks to their infant. The service works with pregnant mothers as well as parents who have a child under 2 years to improve the quality of the child's attachment to the parent. Parents who have mental health problems, personality disorders, experiences of domestic abuse or background history of child trauma can be referred into the service.

An intensive package of therapeutic support is offered that includes individual therapy, group therapy and Video Interaction Guidance. These therapies can help a parent to recognise how their own experiences of being parented may impact on their ability to be available to their child. Mentalisation-Based Treatment is the therapeutic model used that helps a parent develop greater insight into their own emotional needs and to distinguish their needs from that of their child's.

An independent service evaluation carried out by the Anna Freud Centre found significant improvements in 75% of parents referred into the service with parents observed to show greater sensitivity in their interactions with their child, reporting less parental stress and greater competence. Qualitative interviews with the service-users noted themes of parents recognising their own unmet attachment needs and needing to be 're-parented' so that they can be emotionally available to their child. *"It's made me realise that actually I did need the help... I started to realise that I was actually... missing all of his cues"*.

The service has received national recognition for its work (Analeaf award for infant mental health service 2016; highly commended for equality and diversity in service delivery 2017; Positive Practice in Mental Health Awards; Big Lottery Transgenerational Service Award 2017; Maternal Mental Health Alliance).

The Mental Health needs of Looked After Children

Looked After Children are one of the most vulnerable groups of young people in the county due to their earlier experiences of abuse/neglect with long-term consequences for their health, emotional well-being and educational attainment. The mental health needs of Looked After Children are much higher than that of the average child with 1 in 2 children reporting emotional/mental health difficulties.

Since 2015 local authorities are required to conduct a mental health assessment (the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) on every child in care and for the data to be reported to central government. The Care Quality Commission (2016) report '*Not Seen, Not Heard*' has highlighted that almost 30 per cent of children taken into care do not receive this statutory mental health assessment.

An expert working group set up by the Social Care Institute of Excellence has developed national guidance on improving the mental health of looked after children. The expert working group final report (November 2017) has highlighted that there needs to be a Virtual Mental Health Lead role to ensure that every child in the system is getting the help they need. Buckinghamshire CAMHS, Social Care and Health are currently developing a process where information is shared about young people's mental health needs so that they can gain access to CAMHS services at an earlier stage before problems reach crisis point.

CAMHS has set up a specialist Looked After and Adopted Children's Service that focusses on the needs of the child rather than diagnosis. A comprehensive assessment is completed on every child referred that takes into account not just presenting difficulties but also the context of their current situation and past history and an assessment of the young person's relationship with their carer. Therapeutic interventions offered include not just individual work for the child but focus on stabilising a young person's placement by working with their carer on responding to the young person's emotional and attachment needs. Carers are offered individual work as well as a 13 week group programme to address young people's attachment needs. Carers are helped to think about their own mental health needs that can be affected due to stress and secondary trauma while caring for a young person with complex needs.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Liaison Officer

Karen Ross is the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Liaison Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC). Karen works directly with the Gypsy, Roma and Travelling (GRT) community residing in Buckinghamshire to increase pupil attendance and attainment; collaborating closely with schools to improve relationships and understanding of education amongst the community, and supporting families with school admissions and transport. She works closely with BCC schools offering advice and support where needed.

Karen also supports all agencies and BCC teams who are working with families from the GRT community. She offers intelligence, guidance and support to all BCC Children's Services and often BCC Adult Services, as well as partnership agencies.

She visits the traveller sites in Buckinghamshire regularly and has good relationships with the families she supports.

If you or your team are working with families from the GRT community and would like some support or guidance please do not hesitate to contact her - kross@buckscc.gov.uk or 07825403300.

Online Safety

Do you see what they see online?

The internet is a great place for children and young people to socialise, explore their interests and learn.

But the online world is constantly changing and it can feel hard to keep up. Nationally we are seeing a growing number of cases where children and young people have been targeted by adults through popular apps and social media platforms. Online grooming and sexual exploitation are just a couple of examples of crimes that are happening in the heart of our communities, often going undetected or unreported.

That's why, as part of the force's Hidden Harm campaign, Thames Valley Police and the NSPCC joined forces to raise awareness of online child abuse and equip parents and young people with the tools to stay safe online.

The signs aren't always obvious but there are some you can look out for, for example, young people:

- Spending more time than usual online or on their phone
- Being secretive about what they're doing or who they're talking to
- Hiding computer screens or taking phone calls in rooms away from other people
- Engaging less with family and usual friends
- Sudden personality changes or severe mood swings
- Having new things like phones or clothes that they can't explain

Suspect it. Report it.

If you believe a child you know could be a victim of online abuse tell someone. You can contact the police online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk call 101, or 999 if you believe they are at immediate risk from harm.

Please click on the link for more information on this [campaign](#).



Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS)

Buckinghamshire Family Information Service

BFIS offers free, impartial information to families with children aged 0 to 19 years (or up to 25 years with a special educational need or disability), young people and professionals. The Service delivers statutory information requirements on behalf of the Council.

BFIS is an early help service, supporting families with finding childcare, the Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, local support services, children's centres, money and benefits, local activities and things to do, and Youthspace for young people.

The service is accessible by website, social media, email, phone and in person via outreach.



Use the [website](#) to access a directory of local services and support and information pages. Search by keywords, topic, location, age, SEN support, free/low cost and more.



Professionals' Directory

Sign up to securely share professional contact information through your organisational or team record on the website. Available to all professionals working with children and young people in Buckinghamshire.



Childcare and Children's Centres

Search our Ofsted-registered online directory for childminders, nurseries, holiday, breakfast and after-school clubs. Find your nearest Children's Centre and search for sessions and activities.



Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Accessible SEND information including education, school policies, health, social care, activities, preparing for adulthood and support services. Co-produced with parents, carers, young people and professionals.



Youthspace

Young people's information including youth clubs, activities, staying safe, health, wellbeing, education, SEND and money.



Early Help for Professionals

Find local service providers by level of need or subject and use 'my favourites' to build contact lists to save, print or share.



Things to Do

Discover things to do in Bucks, from family days out, clubs and groups to school holiday activities. Search by age group, activity type, SEND inclusivity, location and free/low cost.



Website: www.bucksfamilyinfo.org



Email: familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk



Telephone: 01296 383065
(9am to 5pm Mon to Fri)



Social Media: Follow us on [Facebook \(BFIS\)](#)
[Facebook \(Local Offer for SEND\)](#) or [Twitter](#)

BSCB Training - new online booking system

The BSCB are pleased to advise that their new online Events Booking and Management system is now live.

The new online system should be used to book onto BSCB multi-agency training courses with event dates from 1st January 2019 onwards. To access the new booking system please click on the icon on the [training page](#) of the BSCB website.

To book training via the new system, delegates will first need to create a User Account. Once registered, they will be able to manage their own bookings, access course evaluations and any post course training materials, download their course certificate and view their training record. Hopefully delegates will find the system easy to use.

Dear Santa - campaign by Embrace CVOC

Christmas is nearly with us already and Embrace - Child Victims of Crime (CVOC) want to ask for your support and help to buy surprise gifts for young victims of crime in your area this Christmas.

Specifically, they need your help to generate suitable referrals for this year's campaign to help child victims of crime.



Last year, Embrace CVOC were able to surprise many children all over the country with Christmas gifts, plus supermarket vouchers for Christmas trimmings – but they can only do this for children and families that we know about.

They want to buy gifts for at least 3,000 children right across the UK this Christmas, prioritising those who have suffered, witnessed or been impacted by serious crime and families on low income.

Last year Embrace CVOC were able to buy presents for children affected by sexual violence, domestic abuse and homicide. For example, at the request of one Family Liaison Officer, they were able to purchase a new PlayStation for three young siblings whose father had been killed plus supermarket vouchers for the whole family to enjoy Christmas Day.

It's a really unique campaign because the children can choose their own gift or Amazon voucher (worth between £25 and £50) and donors can choose who to buy for because all requests are placed on a Dear Santa Amazon wish-list – so they can be confident 100% of their donation goes to the recipient.

Embrace CVOC are sure you will know of some children who could benefit from Dear Santa this year, or of colleagues working with children who need to build some happy memories. Nominations will help young people in your community directly.

There is also a Dear Santa poster which can be printed and displayed on office noticeboards and some FAQs with the extra detail.

Embrace CVOC are accepting nominations from now through to Monday 10th December so visit www.embracecvoc.org.uk/refer-a-child to fill out the referral form making sure to choose 'Dear Santa' in the drop-down menu. Information is stored directly on the secure software charitylog.

Further information and FAQs can be found at www.embracecvoc.org.uk/dear-santa

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.