

Information Update

Issue 02: October 2015

The BSCB is a statutory partnership responsible for coordinating local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensuring these arrangements are effective.



Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Information Update. This will be published after each BSCB meeting to provide information on the topics the Board has been discussing along with other key safeguarding matters. We would encourage you all to share this as widely as possible. 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

BSCB Priority: Early Help, Front Door and Thresholds

Embedding the Principles of Early Help

Message from Fran Gosling-Thomas, Independent Chair of the BSCB

“As Independent Chair of the BSCB, I am asking you for your assistance in promoting and embedding Early Help across your agency.

Early Help is about ensuring that our children and their families get the right help and support as early as possible. This helps to achieve the best outcomes for children and families and helps to prevent problems from escalating and becoming more severe.

It is important that all professionals working with children and young people understand the role they have to play in identifying where children may need additional support to reach their full potential. They also need to be confident in taking the appropriate action to secure that support.

Over the coming months we will be doing a significant amount of work with different agencies to communicate and embed the principles of Early Help in a way that is tailored to the needs of staff working across a variety of different roles. As a starting point please could you ensure that the following documents are widely distributed and easily accessible within your agency:

- ✓ **Thresholds Document and referral flow chart:** If you have a concern about a child these documents should be used alongside professional judgement, experience and knowledge to help you make a decision about what to do next.
- ✓ **Thresholds Guidance:** Provides a framework to help professionals that work with children, young people and families understand and work with thresholds effectively.
- ✓ **Early Help Strategy:** Sets out how Early Help will be implemented and the expectation that agencies will use the agreed Early Help approaches and tools to facilitate a coordinated approach.

All these documents can be found on the BSCB website at: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/ . We can provide laminated copies of the Thresholds document and flow chart free of charge. Please email cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk indicating how many copies you would like.”

What is a Threshold?

In Buckinghamshire we describe the support that children require across 4 levels of need. A **threshold** is a point that is reached where support is required at level 1, 2, 3 or 4. Most children fall into level 1 and have all their needs met through universal services such as schools and GPs. At the other end of the spectrum, children who meet the threshold for level 4 are eligible for assessment and statutory intervention led by Children’s Social Care.

Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility

People are vulnerable to abuse, neglect or exploitation at any point in their lives. The BSCB and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board have recently worked together to produce a 60 second 'commercial' highlighting the fact that everyone is responsible for reporting concerns that children or vulnerable adults are at risk of harm. This commercial has been designed with the public in mind and has already been shown on a large TV screen in the Eden Shopping Centre, High Wycombe.

However, we are also starting to use this as a tool within staff induction training to raise basic

awareness of safeguarding responsibilities for staff who don't deal with safeguarding concerns on a day to day basis. The video can be accessed online here:

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/

If you are able to show this video, either to staff or in a public facing setting, please contact Matilda Moss, (01296 382537 / mmoss@buckscc.gov.uk).



BSCB Priority: Child Sexual Exploitation

CSE Challenge Event

The BSCB hosted a CSE Challenge event on 5th August 2015. We wanted to share good practice, gain some assurance around the work that is taking place across partners to tackle CSE, and think together with our partners about the next steps needed to improve our local response.

We would encourage you to share the write up from the event and tell us about additional challenges or areas of good practice relating to CSE. We will be hosting another CSE challenge event early next year to assess continued progress.

Further information:

- ✓ CSE Challenge Session write up: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/bscb-newsletters/

Buckinghamshire CSE Strategy

The draft Buckinghamshire CSE Strategy sets out a partnership vision for tackling CSE. It will be overseen by the BSCB as the strategic lead for CSE, but requires collective support and action across agencies in Buckinghamshire.

A consultation period on this strategy will run until Monday 2nd November 2015. Please complete a short online questionnaire to give us your feedback, which we will use to make improvements to the draft.

Further Information:

- ✓ Draft strategy and consultation: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/consultations/

BSCB Priority: Increasing the effectiveness of the BSCB

Become a BSCB Multi-agency Trainer

We are still looking for people to join our BSCB training pool. As well as trainers who can deliver our general safeguarding courses, we are particularly looking for anyone with experience of training in the following subject areas;

- ✓ Domestic Abuse
- ✓ Understanding Child Sexual Abuse
- ✓ Safeguarding Children Whose Parents have Mental Health Issues.

Further Information:

- ✓ Contact Ann Mckenzie BSCB Training Manager: Annmckenzie@buckscc.gov.uk /01296 382742
- ✓ BSCB multi-agency training programme: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/courses/

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk

Over the coming weeks the BSCB is running specialist courses on Understanding Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Working with Challenging Families and Effective Core Groups. Visit our website for details.

Preventing radicalisation

A new Prevent Duty came into force on 1 July 2015. The duty applies to local authorities, NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts, Higher and Further Education establishments, Schools, prisons and probation and the Police Force. The duty states that in the exercise of our duties, we must have "... due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". A key element of this duty will be ensuring that staff have appropriate training so they understand what radicalisation means, why people may be vulnerable to it, how to spot the signs and how to report a concern.

To do:

- ✓ Complete the Home Office e-learning module on Prevent and share this across your organisation: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/channel-e-learning-course/
- ✓ Consider attending the 2-hour Prevent workshop (WRAP training): www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses-for-professionals/

Annual Reports

The BSCB and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) have recently published their annual reports. The BSCB annual report outlines the work of the Board and partners over the last 12 months, and the areas for continued effort and improvement over the coming year.

Our Child Death Overview Panel has also published its annual report. This outlines key trends around child deaths in Buckinghamshire and the learning that can be derived from these. The report makes some recommendation for the Board which are relevant to agencies delivering or commissioning antenatal and maternity services.



Further Information:

- ✓ BSCB Annual Report: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/
- ✓ BSAB Annual Report: www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/

Performance and Quality Assurance

Serious Case Review for Baby L

The BSCB has recently published a serious case review relating to the death of a 14 week old baby. The focus of a serious case review is the way that services were delivered to children and their families and the learning that can inform future practice. In this particular case the review recognised a number of areas of good practice amongst the agencies that were supporting this family. This included some good communication and co-operation between agencies, and examples of some agencies delivering services flexibly to try and accommodate the needs of the family.

Some recommendations for improvement were identified and these mainly focus on the effective sharing, recording and discussion of information and risks. Whilst these recommendations are unlikely to have had a significant impact on the outcome for this baby, they are nevertheless important and can make a positive difference to safeguarding practice in Buckinghamshire.

The Board will monitor progress against the recommendations and we encourage you to read and share the learning from this SCR within your agency.

Further Information:

- ✓ SCR report for Baby L: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/serious-case-review/

Book your place on one of our E-Safety Conferences now!

- ✓ Conference for professionals—12th February 2016
- ✓ Conference for secondary school pupils—9th March 2016
- ✓ For further information and to book places visit: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/upcoming-events/

Messages from the Improvement Board

The Ofsted Improvement Board is made up of representatives from Buckinghamshire partner organisations. Its role is to oversee the progress the Local Authority and the BSCB are making against the recommendations made by Ofsted in their inspection last year.

Key messages from the latest Board are:

- ✓ Performance data shows some significant areas of improvement, but there are other areas where performance appears to be 'stuck' (for example, only 48% of children in need were recorded as having a plan in April and this dropped slightly to 45% in July).
- ✓ The new MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub) arrangements are working well but health services are not yet fully involved. This limits the effectiveness of multi-agency decision making and means that assessments are delayed by the need to obtain full information.

Peer Review: This October, the LGA (Local Government Association) undertook a Peer Review of children's safeguarding services to assess improvement to date and areas for further work.

Key strengths:

- ✓ The hard work and dedication from all professionals and partners to work together and improve services for children;
- ✓ Some promising and innovative practices / approaches including Family Resilience Service, Outcomes Star, developments in the Safeguarding Board, and multi-agency development of the Thresholds Document.

Key areas for further work:

- ✓ Consolidation of basic practice to ensure clarity, quality and consistency;
- ✓ Accuracy of data and analysis of what the information means;
- ✓ The need for us all to take responsibility for the failure to provide consistent, quality services to children;
- ✓ Equality, diversity and cultural awareness;
- ✓ Improved communications between strategic planning and the operational front line.

We will use this feedback to plan the next stage of our improvement journey in consultation with all partners.

Other Messages

Pioneering Young Person's Self-Harm Service up for 2 national awards

The Young Person's Self-Harm service pioneered by Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern CCGs has been shortlisted for two Positive Practice in Mental Health Awards in the categories of Commissioning in Mental Health; and Innovation in Child, Adolescent and Young People's Mental Health.

The project has seen innovations in two areas. Firstly, training and advice has been given to most secondary schools across Buckinghamshire to help teachers and staff members identify and deal with both potential and actual cases of self-harm. A self-harm advice resource pack has also been sent out to schools, giving school staff key information and guidelines on managing a student who has self-harmed. Also, the way young people who have self-harmed are dealt with on admission to A&E has been altered to ensure they are assessed by CAMHS at the first opportunity. This is intended to put more emphasis on their psychological well-being and avoid unnecessary and inappropriate hospital admissions.

The awards ceremony will take place in October so watch out for further news in our next newsletter!



Bath Seat Safety

Following a recent child death we are issuing a reminder about how to use baby and toddler bath seats safely.

- ✓ **Never** leave young children alone in a bath even for a minute
- ✓ **Always** adhere to manufacturers safety guidelines when using bath seats

To do: Relevant professionals should actively promote these safety messages. Further information is available from ROSPA: www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/water/advice/bath-seats-child-drownings/