

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 third edition of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Information Update. This is 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](mailto:moss@buckscc.gov.uk)

## BSCB Priority: Early Help, Front Door and Thresholds

In our last newsletter we asked you to help embed the Thresholds document and principles of Early Help within your agency. Since then we've sent out over 1,000 copies of our laminated Thresholds document and we are starting to see them appear on office walls around the county. One of our team visited their GP a couple of weeks ago and was pleased to report that he had a copy stuck up in his office. Thanks to everyone who has made an effort to distribute and display these. **If you haven't already got a Thresholds document on the wall in your organisation, please contact Carol Gorley for laminated copies ([cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk) / 01296 383485).**

We know that having the Thresholds document to hand can help people to think through a concern they have about a child, including how their own agency can take responsibility to provide support or signpost the family to services that can meet their needs. It can also help ensure there is a common understanding of need if agencies are making a referral to Children's Social Care or to another organisation.

Our Children's Centres are one setting where the Thresholds document is used to support decisions around an appropriate response to children and their families on a daily basis. As part of our consultation on the Thresholds document earlier in the year, staff from Children's Centres gave us some examples of this.

*"Is used daily by our staff as part of a children's centre membership assessment process."*

*"It is used to help work out if children meet the threshold for referral to social care or if more multi-agency input is required."*

*"We use it to assess the needs of the family as a whole, the need to refer a family on for further support and who would be the most suitable service for the family."*

Alongside the Thresholds document we've been publicising our new [referral diagram](#), which sets out the action professionals should take if they have a concern about a child. This is based around 3 steps: **Consult, Consent, Contact**. We hope this will go on your wall with your Thresholds document as an easy to follow guide of appropriate action at the different levels of need. This is a new document, so we would welcome feedback!

We've also been working hard with a number of agencies to think about how we raise awareness of Early Help. We are delighted that Thames Valley Police have agreed to work with us to deliver a bespoke training programme on Early Help to all of their staff. We look forward to working with Thames Valley Police, and are keen to develop similar tailored approaches across other partners.

### Further information:

- ✓ Thresholds document, Early Help Strategy and referral flow diagram: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/)

### QUICK REMINDER: E-Safety Conference for professionals - 12th February 2016

The conference is aimed at school governors, teaching staff with responsibility for safeguarding and / or E-Safety, foster carers and other professionals working with children and young people. Topics covered will include online bullying, digital footprint, sexting, online grooming and radicalisation.

For further information and to book your **free** place visit: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/upcoming-events/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/upcoming-events/)

## BSCB Priority: Child Sexual Exploitation

### Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Sessions

Throughout September and October 2015 the Board's CSE Sub Group held six events across the county to raise awareness with around 250 parents and community members as part of the 'R U Wise 2 it' campaign.



These sessions aimed to make parents and carers of secondary school age children, those working with children and community leaders more aware of what child sexual exploitation is, how to spot the signs, and where to go for help. We also linked with the E-Safety Sub Group and covered online safety, sites young people are using and top tips for parents.

The sessions were led by the key agencies working together including the County Council, District Councils, Thames Valley Police and Barnardos R U Safe? The evenings were very well received, with parents, governors and professionals appreciating the multi-agency approach, being able to speak to professionals and having some practical tips to take away.

The BSCB is using the feedback from these events to consider the best format for any future sessions.

#### Further Information for parents and carers:

- ✓ R U Wise 2 It?: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/parents-carers/child-sexual-exploitation-r-u-wise-2-it/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/parents-carers/child-sexual-exploitation-r-u-wise-2-it/)

*"I (found) the session most informative and enlightening and it was most beneficial to have the four speakers presenting from different perspectives, all raising awareness of the whole issue of child sexual exploitation."*

### CSE Strategy Consultation

Thank you to everyone who responded to our CSE Strategy consultation which ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. We had 28 responses from across the statutory and voluntary sector. Responses indicated overall support for the strategy with a number of helpful suggestions for strengthening the document. Our CSE Sub Group is now using the feedback to update the strategy ready for the final version to be signed off early in the new year.

#### Further information:

- ✓ Consultation feedback: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/bscb-newsletters/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/bscb-newsletters/)

### Scrutiny Report

Buckinghamshire County Council's Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee recently completed its inquiry into the prevention of CSE in Buckinghamshire. After speaking to a broad cross-section of professionals, victims of CSE and a parent of a victim, the Committee presented its report and recommendations to the BSCB on 17<sup>th</sup> November. The Committee is due to present the report to the County Council's Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Amongst the Committee's key findings were:

- Work to support the immediate family of victims is vitally important, but relatively neglected
- The building of resilience in children is an important preventative measure that should begin in primary school using age-appropriate measures
- Work with the night-time economy is now an appropriate next step in developing a holistic response to the issue of CSE

The BSCB's CSE Sub Group is refreshing its work plan alongside the new CSE Strategy, and has taken on board the Committee's findings.

- ✓ Select Committee report: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s71382/PreventingCSEReport.pdf>
- ✓ Information on the Select Committee: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=788>

## BSCB Priority: Voice of the Child

### CYP Voice Survey

The Board has recently heard feedback from the 2015 Children and Young People's Voice Survey. The purpose of the survey is to help understand the priorities of children and young people and the relative importance and impact of difference services on them.

There are two versions of the survey; one for children aged 7-11 years and the other for children aged 11-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs or who are receiving After Care services). The survey was promoted through schools, colleges, voluntary organisations and youth groups and this year responses were received from 1,168 primary pupils and 774 secondary pupils.

The Board was particularly keen to hear feedback from the new questions that have been added around Child Sexual Exploitation and will be feeding key messages from the survey overall into our business planning for next year.

The survey results contain a wealth of information about the views of our children and young people and cover a wide range of topics including free time activities, social media, safety, school and learning, relationships, views about the future and health. We would encourage you to consider the implications of the survey results for the services that your organisation provides.

#### Further information:

✓ Full survey results: [www.buckschildrenstrust.org.uk/working-with-families/children-and-young-peoples-voice/](http://www.buckschildrenstrust.org.uk/working-with-families/children-and-young-peoples-voice/)

## Performance and Quality Assurance

### MsUnderstood partnership event feedback

**Research indicates that one in three girls experience sexual violence from a partner and ¼ of child sexual exploitation cases are perpetrated by young people under the age of 18.**

Peer-on-peer abuse has been the focus of a local multi-agency project led by the University of Bedford after the BSCB put in a successful bid to be part of this work back in 2013. The project, which runs through to May 2016, is looking at how we can strengthen our local response to peer-on-peer abuse.

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November a multi-agency event was held to present some of the emerging learning from this work, including substantial feedback from 5 detailed case audits. Those present also had some time to think about the implications of the findings and some of the next steps we might need to take locally.

#### Good practice identified within the case audits included:

- 1:1 interventions being delivered within schools and in partnership
- Agencies sticking with young people who needed support
- Successful outcomes in terms of the criminal justice process

#### Challenges identified included:

- Lack of linked assessments and inconsistent multi-agency working
- Insufficient response to impact of domestic abuse and parental substance misuse / neglect
- Assessment and intervention focused on individual and family rather than on public spaces where the abuse is taking place

This was a fascinating event for all who attended. Over the next few weeks we start to publish some of the work relating to this project on the BSCB website. We are also considering how else to share the learning from this event with a wider audience, and will provide a further update in our next newsletter.

### New Schools Safeguarding Audit

The Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (ESAS) has recently published a new safeguarding audit tool for schools. The revised tool, which was tested by schools and governors before being approved by the BSCB in November 2015, is more streamlined than the previous version. It will allow schools to provide assurance to their governing body that they are meeting their statutory safeguarding duties under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002. It also takes on board the revised Ofsted inspection framework which places an increased focus on safeguarding.

#### Further information:

✓ Download the tool from Schools Web or contact Therese McAlorum ([tmcalorum@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:tmcalorum@buckscc.gov.uk))

## Other Messages

### Duty to Report Modern Slavery

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015, public authorities, including the police and local authorities, are required to notify the government where they have reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking. New guidance has been published to help relevant authorities understand whether they are included within the new legislation, and how they should respond.

#### Further information:

- ✓ Government Guidance: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery)
- ✓ Short film which promotes the professional curiosity of staff to identify potential indicators of modern day slavery and how to report it: [www.secouncils.gov.uk/about-us/about-sespm/modern-slavery/](http://www.secouncils.gov.uk/about-us/about-sespm/modern-slavery/)

## Female Genital Mutilation Mandatory Reporting

The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a new duty on social workers, teachers and healthcare professionals to report to the police known cases of FGM involving victims aged under 18. This duty came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. Relevant agencies should ensure they are meeting the requirements of this duty and we are currently updating our BSCB multi-agency FGM procedure accordingly.

Statutory guidance on FGM is also expected from the Government later this year.

### Further information:

- ✓ Government information on the new reporting duty: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information)

## Female Genital Mutilation Challenge Session

In September the BSCB held an FGM Challenge Session. This was an opportunity for partners to:

- Seek clarity and assurance around the work taking place in each agency to tackle FGM
- Facilitate focused strategic planning and thinking around a proportionate partnership approach to FGM

Those who attended identified a number of potential areas for further work including:

- Developing a more consistent and coordinated approach to data collection and analysis
- More targeted communication and awareness raising including thinking about the language we use to talk about FGM to women and girls
- Ensuring sufficient multi-agency FGM training is available
- The need to agree how this agenda is led at a strategic level

The group will continue to work together to produce a partnership FGM Strategy and action plan and to share good practice and resources. If anyone is interested in helping with this area of work then please contact Matilda Moss, BSCB Business Manager ([mross@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mross@buckscc.gov.uk) / 01296 382537)

### Further Information:

- ✓ FGM Challenge Session write up: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/bscb-newsletters/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/bscb-newsletters/)

## FGM Training

If you want to learn more about FGM you can access a free e-learning course, developed by the Home Office, via the BSCB website. Visit: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/channel-e-learning-course/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/channel-e-learning-course/) (*registration is required*).

The Bucks County Council Community Safety team is also running a free FMG training course on 19th February. For further information visit: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses-for-professionals/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses-for-professionals/)

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The new CAMHS contract, delivered by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with Barnados and Beat (Beating Eating Disorders), started on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The service has several developments planned over the coming months including:

- A 'Single Point of Access' for everyone, including allowing 16-17year olds to self-refer
  - Each young person who needs targeted care will have a Barnardo's 'buddy', who will be their point of contact and offer support throughout their care
  - The service will be Buckinghamshire-wide and appointments will be more flexible at times and locations convenient to the user
  - Link workers will be extended to cover all Buckinghamshire primary schools, as well as secondary schools
  - An online library will be developed with young people, for young people and their families and friends. This will be made available on the existing webpages at [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people)
- A resource library will also be developed within Sue Nicholls Centre, Aylesbury

The service has been successful in securing additional funding for a pilot project looking at the role of link workers in CAMHS and schools (14 schools have put themselves forward for this) and also for a project to develop and deliver training in attachment and the needs of adopted children to the same cohort of schools and to targeted children's centres.

Additional funding of approximately £880K has been made available through NHS England to support transformation plans for CYP mental health services in Bucks over the next 5 years. This follows a national review of CAMHS and subsequent report "Future in Mind". The plans are a focus for system wide change not just within CAMHS but across the whole workforce working with Children and Young People. Transformation plans were submitted in October and full release of funding has been agreed for Chiltern and Aylesbury Vale CCGs. Initial plans will be published on the CCGs websites with review and evaluation of needs ongoing over the 5 years.