

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 fourth 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 Early Help and Thresholds

Over the past few months we have been working with individual partners to understand and identify the most effective methods to communicate Early Help messages across different organisations and sectors. This has involved adopting a tailored approach to support the embedding of the Thresholds document, the Early Help Approach and the single point of contact for referrals to Early Help Panels and Children's Social Care via First Response.

For **front line professionals** working with vulnerable children and young people on a daily basis, we would expect them to have:

- ✓ detailed knowledge of thresholds and the single referral pathway to First Response
- ✓ robust knowledge of multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures
- ✓ high levels of knowledge around different safeguarding issues, including warning signs and vulnerabilities.

For **Professionals with less frequent contact** with vulnerable children and young people, who will not frequently come across safeguarding concerns but may be in a position to spot warning signs, we would expect them to:

- ✓ understand safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- ✓ know to report any concerns to their manager/safeguarding lead.

Alongside our [Thresholds document](#) and [referral flowchart](#), we have now developed some additional tailored resources to help professionals understand what to do if they have a concern about a child.

Fold up wallet sized card detailing the 3 steps laid out in the referral flowchart: **Consult**, **Consent** and **Contact** at each level of need. This is for more mobile workers who need easy access to information on thresholds and how they should respond to a concern about a child dependent upon the level of need.



Credit sized card for workers who have less frequent contact with vulnerable children/young people, simply stating safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and to contact your line manager/safeguarding lead in the event of a concern about a child.



Further information:

- ✓ Contact Carol Gorley (cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk) for copies of the cards, referral flowchart or laminated Thresholds documents.
- ✓ All documents relating to Early Help and Thresholds can be downloaded from the BSCB website: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/

Updated MARF

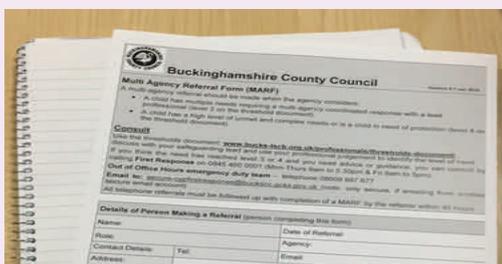
The Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) is used to make a referral to an Early Help Panel or into Children's Social Care. We have made a few minor changes to our MARF which we hope will make it easier to use. Changes include:

- Language brought in line with Thresholds document and structure brought in line with the [referral flowchart](#) – emphasising stages **Consult, Consent, Contact**
- Language around consent made clearer
- Referrers are asked to attach an Outcomes Star or Graded Care Profile where these have been completed.

Some of our partners have fed back that they would like more guidance on how to complete a MARF. We are planning some resources to provide this support, so watch this space for further information! In the meantime, see our top tips below.

Further information:

- ✓ The updated MARF can be downloaded from the BSCB website: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/concerned-about-child/



Top tips for filling in a MARF

When completing the MARF please remember to provide:

- ✓ Your contact details
- ✓ Written consent from the family
- ✓ Clear information on the family (e.g. dates of birth, names of children, who else lives in the household)
- ✓ The level of need the child is at (through consulting with the [Thresholds document](#))
- ✓ The support your agency has already provided to the family
- ✓ Your expected outcome for the family
- ✓ Risks associated with the family e.g. violence, aggressive dogs etc.

This will help progress the MARF quickly.

BSCB Priority: Journey of the Child

New Child Protection Conference Model

A Child Protection Conference is a multi-agency meeting to identify the strengths and the risks that a family may pose to a child. From the 1st of April 2016, Buckinghamshire will be introducing a new Child Protection Conference model using the *Strengthening Families Framework*. This model is proven to be more family and child focused. It encourages participants at the conference to be more focused in their presentation, so that concerns about a child can be understood and the emphasis of the meeting can be on the development of a plan (if necessary) to reduce the concerns/risk.

A number of multi-agency briefing sessions have been organised to enable professionals to hear more about this new model and how this will impact on ways of working. The sessions will provide important information for all professionals and agencies involved in Child Protection Conferences and we would encourage wide attendance. We are currently scheduling further dates for Wycombe and will seek to provide more sessions if there is additional demand.

Conference Top Tips:

We don't need to wait for the new model to try and make Child Protection Conferences as effective as possible. The following tips will help achieve this.

- ✓ Share conference reports in a timely manner
- ✓ Make sure reports are clear and specific
- ✓ Ensure children and young people are involved so their voices are heard

- 11th March, 10am–12pm** (Mezz 1, New County Offices, Aylesbury)
- 14th March, 1pm-3pm** (Large Dining Room, Judges Lodgings, Aylesbury)
- 15th March, 10am-12pm** (Knight Hall, Green Park, Aston Clinton)
- 15th March, 3pm-5pm** (Large Dining Room, Judges Lodgings, Aylesbury)
- 16th March, 10am-12pm** (Knight Hall, Green Park, Aston Clinton)
- 17th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm** (Large Dining Room, Judges Lodgings)
- 17th March, 5.30pm-7.30pm** (Mezz 1&2, New County Offices, Aylesbury)
- 22nd March, 10am-12pm** (Knight Hall, Green Park, Aston Clinton)
- 22nd March, 1pm-3pm** (Knight Hall, Green Park, Aston Clinton)
- 24th March, 5.30pm-7.30pm** (Mezz 1&2, New County Offices, Aylesbury)
- 7th April 2016, 1pm-3pm** (Carrington House Surgery, High Wycombe)
- 8th April 2016, 12pm-2pm** (Chess Medical Centre, Chesham)

- ✓ To book a place contact Julie Marshall: jmarshall@buckscc.gov.uk
- ✓ Keep an eye on the BSCB website for additional sessions: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses-for-professionals/

BSCB Priority: Increasing the Effectiveness of the BSCB

Reporting allegations against people in a position of trust

At our January meeting the BSCB was presented with the annual report from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO is responsible for managing allegations against adults working in a position of trust with children. In some sectors there has been an increase in reporting whereas in others there has been a recent downward trend. Whilst we would welcome a genuine drop in inappropriate or abusive behaviour, lower levels of reporting are not necessarily an indicator of this. It may be that people are unaware of the correct procedures for reporting concerns, or are not following these. It is important that any adult in the children's workforce who behaves in an inappropriate or abusive manner towards a child or young person is reported to the LADO. We would encourage you to ensure you are familiar with these procedures and that they are widely publicised within your organisation.

Further information: A range of information is available on the BSCB website at www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/safer-employment/. This includes:

- ✓ BSCB Procedure: Managing Allegations against Staff and Volunteers Working with Children and Young People
- ✓ Information for children and young people, parents and carers
- ✓ Information for staff who have allegations made against them

Safer Sleep Week

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is when a baby dies suddenly and unexpectedly and there is no identifiable cause of death. Around 5 babies die every week in the UK without a known cause, and 18 babies died in Buckinghamshire between 2004 and 2013. We could potentially prevent deaths if every parent acted on safer sleep advice.

The Lullaby Trust is running a national Safer Sleep Week from the 14-20 March 2016 to raise awareness of safer sleeping. It is targeting anyone looking after a young baby. This year the campaign is focusing on young parents in particular who have a four times greater risk of their baby dying without a cause.

How to take part:

- ✓ Promote Safer Sleep Week on social media and/or your website at 10am on Monday 14 March and all week from 14-20 March 2016 using the hashtag #safersleepweek
- ✓ Promote Lullaby Trust safer sleep advice: www.lullabytrust.org.uk/factsheets
- ✓ Link new parents and parents to be to the free online resources from The Lullaby Trust <http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/publications-2015>



Children's Safeguarding Improvement - DfE Visit

Statement from David Johnston, Managing Director for Children's Social Care and Learning:

"The Department for Education (DfE) visited Children's Safeguarding in November to review our improvement progress since the Ofsted inspection in 2014. They then commissioned further auditing to be undertaken before making a recommendation to the Minister of State for Children and Families on our progress. This audit was completed in January 2016. The auditor's report to the Minister indicates that we are progressing in the right direction, that they are reassured about the quality of casework and have seen evidence of improvement through their review. There were some examples of good practice also commented on. This visit has also been helpful in confirming our thoughts on specific areas where we can make further improvement, for example in terms of timeliness, recording more clearly the rationale for decisions in some cases and ensuring the objectives in plans are always clear.

***We are still awaiting a final decision from the Minister,** however the report suggests a positive movement in the right direction and we believe therefore that intervention does not need to be escalated. The auditor's report to the Department for Education is being shared with Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet on 15 February 2016 and we will share the final decision from the Minister once we have it. In light of the recent reviews from both the Local Government Association and DfE we have also refreshed the Improvement Plan for Children's Safeguarding, in partnership with key stakeholders. Once approved this will be available on the Buckinghamshire County Council website."*

Focus on: Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a national voluntary home visiting programme for first time young mums aged 19 or under. A specially trained family nurse visits the young mum (and dads) regularly, from early in pregnancy until the child is two. The programme aims to work with the young mum to:

- Have a healthy pregnancy
- Improve their child's health and development
- Plan their own futures and achieve their aspirations

Bucks FNP clients have faced many challenges and may be vulnerable for a number of reasons:

- 30% of clients describe being abused by someone close to them
- 25% are subject to child in need or child protection plans, or are looked after
- 30% have mental health problems
- 51% are NEET (not in employment, education or training) at entry to the programme.

There is good evidence that FNP achieves positive outcomes for clients, with impact across many areas

including physical and emotional health and wellbeing, healthy relationships, parental warmth and sensitivity, use of services and aspiration. Feedback from clients locally shows the programme is valued and helps clients feel more confident as parents. There are many examples of families working with FNP making such great progress and positive change that they no longer reach the threshold for intervention from Children's Social Care, or the level of intervention required can be 'stepped down' or reduced.

The BSCB recognises FNP as an important preventative programme that supports our Early Help agenda. At our January Board meeting FNP Bucks shared a number of areas of success. The BSCB was pleased to hear there has been an increase in the commissioning capacity for FNP in Bucks so that 147 - 160 families will be able to receive support at any one time.

Achieving positive outcomes for young mums and their families requires good multi-agency working, and whilst FNP were pleased to report some really strong partnership working, we also discussed some of the common challenges they face. In particular FNP highlighted some challenges around the use of pre-birth assessments which are similar to issues we have picked up in recent serious case reviews.

We would encourage practitioners to ensure they are familiar with the BSCB Pre-Birth Procedures, in particular the need to carry out assessments within the required timeframes, ensure that plans are multi-agency, and that good communication is in place between those agencies involved with the family.



Further information:

- ✓ FNP national website: <http://fnp.nhs.uk/>
- ✓ FNP Bucks: email: fnp.info@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk, tel: 01494 426915,
- ✓ BSCB Pre-Birth Procedures and guidance: <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/>

"I had a tough upbringing as I was on a Child Protection Plan as my mum is an alcoholic and my dad did not live with us. I hated secondary school as people picked on me and laughed at me so did not achieve what I wanted to. FNP has helped me to care for my baby, I trust, she didn't tell me what I was doing wrong, we talked about how I could do things differently. She believed in me. I didn't want to work with Social Services but, helped me to see how this could help me and my baby and at first we had a child protection plan but two years later I am not involved with Social Services and see the benefit, I have my own house, a job and know how to get help when I need it." (FNP Bucks)

Other Messages

E- safety support for schools

Parent Zone provide a membership programme for schools offering a fully-encompassing approach to e-safety, meeting Ofsted requirements and making sure pupils get the most out of technology safely. It covers areas such as management of personal data, e-safety education programmes and teaching aids, support and training to staff and policies and procedures to cover the whole school. Buckinghamshire schools can currently access a 20% discount on Digital School membership for the full academic year and will receive a discount on tickets to Parent Zone's Digital Families conference as well. Schools can access 10 day free trial via the website and the discount will be applied when signing up for the year.

Further information:

- ✓ Parent Zone website: <http://parentzone.org.uk/>