

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 6th 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

BSCB Priority: Workforce

Learning from Lampard

In February 2015 Kate Lampard and Ed Marsden published their [report](#) into the themes and lessons learnt from the NHS investigations into matters relating to Jimmy Savile.

The report included recommendations for the NHS, the Department of Health and wider government. **However, the learning from this report is relevant across all partner agencies working with children, young people or adults who are vulnerable to abuse or neglect, including commissioned and voluntary sector services.**

During July, our Safer Employment Sub Group (which we run jointly with the Safeguarding Adults Board) will run a multi-agency challenge event to look at how the recommendations from the Lampard report have been embedded across local organisations. It will be an opportunity to share good practice and evidence of positive outcomes. The session will also help us identify any challenges or barriers that agencies are facing in relation to these recommendations and think about how we can work together to further improve practice. We will ensure that the learning and good practice identified is shared.

In the meantime, we would like to ask all organisations working with children, young people and adults vulnerable to abuse or neglect to think about how well their own organisation is meeting the recommendations. We have produced a short briefing paper which will help your organisation to do a quick self-assessment against the recommendations and identify any areas for improvement.

Further information:

- ✓ NHS Jimmy Savile investigation: Assurance Reports (including the Kate Lampard report): www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-jimmy-savile-investigation-assurance-report
- ✓ Lampard briefing paper and self-assessment questions: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/
- ✓ Local information on Safer Employment and Allegations against staff: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/safer-employment/

Lampard Enquiry – key things to consider

- What arrangements do you have in place for all volunteers working with children, young people and adults vulnerable to abuse or neglect? This includes training, supervision arrangements and a robust register of volunteers which should detail who requires a DBS check.
- What visitor policies and arrangements do you have in place to ensure that adequate identity checks are carried out, records are kept and standards are set around access and supervision - including celebrities/people of importance and fundraisers?
- What safeguarding policies and procedures are in place for reporting concerns, handling complaints, whistle blowing and developing a safer culture?

Updated Keeping Children Safe in Education: The government has updated this statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment. You can access the latest version, which will go live in September 2016 at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2

Outcomes Star™ Training

Training Dates

The BSCB is offering free training on the following dates. This is 1 day course running from 9.15am – 4.30pm.

Places are currently available on the following dates:

Thurs 8th Sept 2016
(Clare Foundation, Saunderton)

Tues 4th Oct 2016
(County Hall, Aylesbury)

Wed 2nd Nov 2016
(YMCA, High Wycombe)

Thurs 8th Dec 2016
(County Hall, Aylesbury)

Mon 16th Jan 2017 (Clare Foundation, Saunderton)

Tues 21st Feb 2017
(County Hall, Aylesbury)

Please complete an application form which can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/>

Delegates can attend this course without needing to complete Working Together or Everyone's Responsibility first.

Further Information

Further information on the Outcomes Star™ can be found at:

www.outcomesstar.org.uk/about-the-outcomes-star/

What is the Outcomes Star™?

The Outcomes Star™ is a tried and tested tool for supporting and measuring change when working with young people and families. The BSCB has agreed it will be the Early Help assessment tool for Buckinghamshire and it forms a key part of our Early Help Strategy.

The Family Star is the most commonly used star, but a whole suite of Stars are available for use in different sectors.

These include the homelessness star, mental health star and drug & alcohol star. All versions include a number of scales based on a model of change.

Using the tool and a 'Star Chart' the service user and worker plot where the service user is on their journey. The attitudes and behaviour expected at each of the points on each scale are clearly defined to facilitate the process.

This results in an action plan which all partners can engage in delivering. This approach is particularly effective in coordinating services when working with families with multiple issues. It can help service users identify and take responsibility for making changes by providing them with an action plan outlining what they need to do to be more effective and a visual way of plotting their progress.

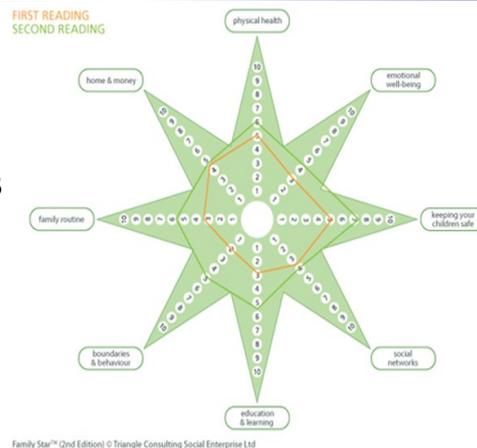
The Outcomes Star™ is a helpful tool where:

- You have an on-going relationship with your service users in which you meet one-to-one on a regular basis
- You want to measure outcomes as an integral part of the on-going work of your organisation
- You want to work with your service users to measure progress on a range of areas (at least three but usually five or more)
- You want to measure distance travelled towards end outcomes rather than just whether or not an end outcome has been achieved
- You want to use the data in an on-going way for learning and service-improvement across your organisation.

What does the Outcomes Star™ Training cover?

Training is essential to support quality use of the Outcomes Star™ All professionals using the Star must complete this course which covers:

- Using & completing the Star
- Using the Star to support change
- Data from the Star
- Introduction to the Star Online
- Building consistency



Help us evaluate the impact of our training

We ask all delegates who attend our multi-agency training to complete an evaluation form at the end of the training session. This helps us understand how useful the training has been and identify how we can improve our training. We also send a sample of delegates and their line manager a follow up questionnaire 3 months after the course. This helps us measure the longer term impact of our training on practice.

We are getting a really good rate of return from delegates who receive the 3 month follow-up questionnaire, but response rates from line-managers are much lower. If you do receive a questionnaire, please take a couple of minutes to respond. **Your answers are really important to us!**

New! Try one of our shorter awareness raising sessions

In response to feedback from professionals we will be running some shorter awareness raising sessions. These will be 2 hours or less and are designed to provide a more accessible way of accessing learning and development. For lunchtime sessions, please bring your sandwiches and we will provide tea and coffee. All sessions are free to attend but please book a place so we can make sure they are not oversubscribed.

Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs) briefing sessions

DoLs was introduced in 2009 as part of the Mental Capacity Act to ensure there is sufficient protection for those who lack the capacity to consent to the care they are receiving. This session will provide some basic information on DoLs and start to explore the relevance for Looked After Children in residential or foster care.

- Monday 27th June, 12-1.30pm – Wycombe District Council Chamber, High Wycombe
- Monday 25th July, 12-1.30pm – Mezz Room 3, County Hall, Aylesbury
- Amersham / Chesham – date TBC

We are in the process of setting up further short sessions, so **keep an eye on our website for details!** If there is a topic you would like us to cover in a short briefing session, or if you would like to deliver one for us on your area of expertise, then please get in touch with our Training Manager

(AnnMckenzie@buckscc.gov.uk / 01296 382742).

Further Information:

- ✓ Details of BSCB Briefing sessions: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/short-awareness-raising-sessions/
- ✓ To book a place please contact cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk

BSCB Priority: Voice and Journey of the Child



Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative for 28 days or more. The Local Authority should be notified of all private fostering arrangements so that appropriate support can be put in place where required.

It is the responsibility of everybody whose work brings them into contact with children and young people to report private fostering arrangements by ringing the First Response Team on 0845 4600001.

Please make sure staff in your organisation are aware of private fostering and how to report possible private fostering arrangements.

Further information:

- ✓ Information for Professionals: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/private-fostering/. This includes a PowerPoint presentation you can use within your organisation to raise awareness.
- ✓ Information for parents & carers: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/parents-carers/private-fostering/

BSCB Priority: Child Exploitation

Community Information Sessions on Child Sexual Exploitation

Members of the public are invited to attend a free information event to find out more about child sexual exploitation, how to spot it and how to report concerns. The free events have been arranged by the BSCB and Buckinghamshire County Council.



The sessions will start with a short talk from Barnardo's followed by a drop-in marketplace where senior staff from Barnardo's R U Safe, Thames Valley Police, BCC Children's Social Care and Youth Service teams will be available to talk to the public, give help and advice, and answer questions about what is being done to tackle CSE. The events all run from 7pm – 8.30pm at the following locations:

- **Tuesday 14th June** at **Buckingham School**, London Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AT
- **Wednesday 15th June** at **Mandeville School**, Ellen Road, Aylesbury, HP21 8ES
- **Tuesday 21st June** at **Chiltern Hills Academy**, Chartridge Lane, Chesham, HP5 2RG
- **Thursday 23rd June** at **Cressex School**, Holmers Lane, High Wycombe, HP12 4QA
- **Tuesday 28th June** at **The Grange School**, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH

To do:

- ✓ Please promote the events to those who may be interested. Further information, including a poster to download and display, is available at: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/upcoming-events/

BSCB Priority: Early Help, Thresholds & Neglect

Is your service on BFIS?

A key part of our [Early Help Strategy](#) is ensuring all agencies can support children, young people and families to access the help and support they need as early as possible. The Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS) provides a central place for services to share their details.

Professionals can use the Early Help search to look for services so they can signpost or refer the families they are working with to appropriate Early Help support. To access this, go to www.bucksfamilyinfo.org and then click on the 'Early Help' tab at the top of the page.

If you are providing a service for children or young people and their families please make sure your service is listed on the BFIS website and request that it is listed under the Early Help category.

- If you can't find your service on the BFIS website, please get in touch and we will help you to add the relevant information.
- If you can find your service on BFIS the website but not via the Early Help search, please get in touch and we will make sure the record is tagged correctly.

BFIS is also a great resource to use with clients to promote self-help. It can help people find a whole range of information and services including childcare, children's centres, young people's activities, advice on money and benefits and much more!



Further information:

- ✓ To discuss the way your service is listed on BFIS or how the BFIS team can support your organisation contact BFIS on 01296 383293 or familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk



Reminder – report a concern button

In our last newsletter we reported on the DfE campaign to raise public awareness of how to report a concern about a child. We asked you all to check whether your organisation's website provides this information or links through to the BSCB website.

A reminder that we have a 'report a concern' button that partners can add to their website. Anyone that clicks on the button is taken straight through to the BSCB website

where they will find more detailed information on what to do if they are concerned about a child.

We are pleased that a number of agencies have contacted us to say they are interested in adding this link to their website. However, we would like to encourage more of you to do this. It is very easy, so please contact us to find out more!

Further information:

- ✓ Contact cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk to get the button for your website.

Safe!

Support for Young People
Affected by Crime

Did you know that since July 2015 SAFE! has been commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide a service to young victims of all crime aged 8 to 18 across the Thames Valley, including priority support to victims of sexual and/or domestic violence? Buckinghamshire County Council is working with them to raise awareness of the service and increase referrals.

Further Information:

- ✓ Safe! website:
www.safeproject.org.uk

Early Help Panel: Assessing Impact

The Early Help Panel has been running for almost a year. It forms a key part of our Early Help Strategy by providing coordinated, multi-agency support to children and families at level 3 of our [Thresholds Document](#).

The Panel has put together a short questionnaire to assess the impact of the panel on children and families, and to gather evidence on the use of the Outcomes Star.

To do:

- ✓ If you have been involved in an Early Help panel (including as a referrer), **please take a couple of minutes to answer a short survey**. Responses will be used to shape future development of the process and to help assess the effectiveness of this approach. The survey will remain open until 1st July 2016 and can be accessed at: www.research.net/r/GLSKJ6L

BSCB Priority: Improving the Effectiveness of the BSCB

Learning from Serious Case Reviews: Baby L - Engagement with Fathers

The BSCB conducts Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and either the child has died, or has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way partners worked together to safeguard the child. The review process ensures we can learn lessons from what happened and where necessary make changes to improve outcomes for children.

Baby L was a 14 week old baby who tragically died in 2014. Written and electronic records suggested superficial assessments, poor communication and lack of engagement with the father. However, when practitioners became part of the review through a Learning Event and in interviews with authors of individual agency reports, this picture changed. As they described what they did, it became apparent that assessment was continuous and individuals understood the risks inherent in the situation. The father was very present and involved and professionals engaged with him.

This mismatch between what was recorded and what practitioners reported led the SCR author to recommend that **where there are concerns about a family, it is important that engagement and involvement with fathers is clearly recorded.**

Since then, the BSCB has done some work to look at the way different agencies record information about fathers. We recognise that for some agencies there are challenges relating to the recording systems that are in place. However, we would encourage professionals to:

- Ensure they are familiar with record keeping procedures within their own agency
- Make sure all relevant information about a child *and their family* is recorded
- Remind themselves of the assessment triangle (see our [Thresholds guidance](#)). This can act as a useful prompt for professionals to gain a holistic understanding of the child by assessing circumstances and need across the child's developmental needs; parenting capacity; family and environment.

Baby L Good practice: The father was present and proactive in caring for the baby when the Midwife and Health Visitors made home visits and they included the father in their discussions and assessments. The Social Worker made a point of arranging a second home visit specifically to meet with the father and he was certainly present at her third visit after the anonymous referral.

Further Information:

- ✓ SCRs are published on the BSCB website. It is important that agencies share and discuss relevant findings with staff: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/serious-case-review/

Learning from Multi-Agency Audits

The BSCB has a role in quality assuring safeguarding practice within Buckinghamshire. As part of this, a multi-agency Supervision Audit was conducted through our Performance & Quality Assurance Sub Group in Autumn 2015. The audit, which was conducted via an online questionnaire, looked at:

- What forms of supervision professionals receive and how effective it is for maintaining and improving the quality of their work in relation to safeguarding
- The development opportunities agencies provide to strengthen safeguarding knowledge
- How agencies promote a safe learning culture, provide professionals with support and strengthen the resilience of their staff in carrying out their responsibilities.

105 responses were received from across Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust, Children's Social Care, General Practitioners, Thames Valley Police and Education.

What did the audit tell us?

- The majority of the participants stated they had effective formal and informal supervision when required.
- The effectiveness of supervision varied between agencies, as well as between teams within agencies. Some workers felt supervision was just a "tick box exercise".
- All agencies felt regular case discussions helped their learning, with reflection on previous practice felt to be the most useful.
- Time constraints were identified as the biggest barrier to being able to have meaningful case discussions.
- The overall consensus was that there was a high standard of compulsory supervision training provided and some excellent additional training opportunities (including online training).
- A number of participants stated that the most effective support, especially in challenging situations, was the support of their colleagues and team.

The **key recommendations** from the audit are listed below. More detailed information is available in the Audit Learning Log, which agencies are encouraged to use to share the learning.

- Ensure safeguarding is embedded and prioritised, and appropriate time allotted to supervision / case discussions.
- Informal / team support on safeguarding was highly valued and should sit alongside more formal supervision arrangements.
- Case discussions / multi-agency meetings provide good opportunities for problem based learning and should be encouraged, with good multi-agency attendance.
- Ensure staff are given time to attend safeguarding training / shadow colleagues / attend meetings.
- Safeguarding leads are a useful resource and point of contact. A designated safeguarding lead should be in place across appropriate agencies and staff should know how to access them.

Further Information:

- ✓ Audit Learning Log: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/

Help us improve the way we work together to keep children safe

The BSCB recently worked with the County Council to deliver briefing sessions on the new Strengthening Families model for Child Protection Conferences. The effectiveness of **core groups** was an issue raised at all but one session. Issues ranged from whether core groups are happening, uncertainty about roles and how impactful core groups are. Given the number of times core groups were raised, we are taking a closer look at how they are working and whether they are supporting positive outcomes for the children involved.

To do:

- ✓ If you are involved in Core Groups, please take a couple of minutes to answer our short survey. Your feedback will help us understand and address any identified issues. **The survey will remain open until 8th July** and can be accessed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FSV25KH>

Focus on: Bucks New University

Bucks New University has a strong national profile for supporting the improvement of safeguarding practice. It has links with local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards, and uses a strong integration of service users across our programmes. The university has a large post-qualifying and CPD course profile. Our safeguarding work spans children and adults, and includes both health and social care. This breadth produces a range of knowledge to apply across a wide array of services and settings. **Our safeguarding courses include:**



- **MSc Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding:** Using evidence-based thinking, this inter-disciplinary postgraduate course helps students to consider how to improve services.
- **Critical Practice:** In this postgraduate module (from MSc Safeguarding) multi-disciplinary students critique current practice.
- **Advanced Home Visiting Skills:** An actual house and actors are used, creating a realistic learning environment for professionals, and improving home visit engagement and assessment skills.

The University also offers a number of other opportunities for professionals and organisations including:

- **Annual safeguarding conference:** 6 previous events, each with over 150 attendees from across the UK. Speakers have included: Lord Laming; Sharon Shoemith; Prof. Viv Bennett (DH, PHE); Donald Findlater (Lucy Faithfull Foundation) and others.
- **Consultancy, training and evaluation:**
 - The **Social Work Academy** conducting masterclasses with leaders in the field, and bespoke sessions including the 2015 **CSE 'pop-up' event** for BSCB, and the national healthcare professional **CSE knowledge film** (for HEE).
 - Multi-agency and specialist **safeguarding training**.
 - A range of projects investigating local issues within the national context. This has included **research and audit projects** for Buckinghamshire County Council and the BSCB, and the evaluation of local voluntary services. Examples of recent local audits include **High Risk, Harder to Reach Young People Protocol audit** (2013), **Multi-Agency Early Help** audit (2015)

For further information about any of the above or to discuss your organisational needs, contact Jason Schaub, Senior Lecturer, on jason.schaub@bucks.ac.uk