Introduction
Welcome to the fifth 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: mmoss@buckscc.gov.uk

BSCB Priority: Early Help, Thresholds and Neglect
Together, we can tackle child abuse
The Department for Education (DfE) is running a nationwide campaign to encourage the public to report child abuse. The campaign addresses all forms of abuse and neglect and is based on the findings of detailed research around the barriers and motivations to reporting.

We have updated the ‘report a concern’ button on our website home page to reflect this campaign. We have also created a new page for the public which provides information on how to report a concern along with:
- Basic information on spotting the signs of child abuse and neglect
- Further information and reassurance for anyone who is worried about reporting a concern
- Some facts to dispel common myths around reporting concerns

In response to feedback from partners we have also included information on how to report a concern if you are deaf or hard of hearing.

What can you do?
It is important that members of the public can easily find out how to report a concern about a child. Does your organisation’s website link to the BSCB website? Is it easy for someone visiting your site to find information on how to report a concern?

We would like to encourage our partners to add a ‘report a concern’ button to their website. This could be placed on your home page or another prominent web page. Anyone who clicks on the button would be taken straight through to the information on reporting a concern held on the BSCB website. We have the ‘report a concern’ image that can be used for this purpose in a number of different sizes and formats.

There is also a public facing poster to support the campaign. This is available on our website and can be printed and displayed in any public facing area such as a waiting room, reception, children’s centre etc. Please display this poster if you have a suitable public facing space.

Remember the BSCB has also worked with the Safeguarding Adults Board to produce a short video to encourage people to report any concerns they have about a child or a vulnerable adult. We are pleased that some partners are showing this on public facing TV screens or as part of training or staff induction.

For example the film has being showing on GP surgery video screens. We have the video in various different formats, including a subtitled version that can be used on screens where no sound is available. Please contact us if you are interested in using this within your organisation.

Further information:
- Download the ‘report a concern’ poster to display in public areas: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/concerned-about-child/
- View our film on reporting a concern: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/
- Contact cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk if you would like a copy of the film or the ‘report a concern’ image for your website

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk
BSCB Priority: Child Exploitation

Buckinghamshire agencies launch CSE Promise and Strategy

Agencies across Buckinghamshire have united to launch a promise to children and young people that they will work together to help keep them safe from child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Organisations including the County Council, Thames Valley Police, Barnardo’s and health, together with Buckinghamshire’s Safeguarding Children Board, signed Buckinghamshire’s CSE Promise ahead of National CSE Awareness Day on 18 March.

The Promise sets out the commitment from all Buckinghamshire agencies working with children and young people to tackling CSE through a three-pronged approach:

- **Prevent** CSE from happening and stop existing CSE from continuing
- **Protect** those who are at risk of, or who are victims of, CSE
- **Pursue** the perpetrators of CSE and support victims to safely disclose abuse

**Further information:**

“**We want to send a strong message to our children and young people that child protection agencies in Buckinghamshire are determined to do everything possible to stop the appalling crime that is child sexual exploitation. The Promise we have signed supports our countywide strategy for tackling exploitation. We all have an absolute focus on working together in partnership to stamp out CSE, raise awareness of the signs that a child or young person is being sexually exploited, and support victims to rebuild their lives.”**

Fran Gosling-Thomas, BSCB Chair

MsUnderstood Peer on Peer Abuse Project

The BSCB is working with the University of Bedfordshire on a project focused on peer on peer abuse. In November we held a multi-agency event to share some of the emerging findings from this project.

The event was well received by those who attended, so we have decided to run a second event on **10th May, 1.30-4.30pm in Aylesbury** (exact venue TBC). If you did not attend the first time around, then we would encourage you to come along. The session will be an opportunity to learn more about peer on peer abuse in Buckinghamshire and think about the implications for the way we provide services. It is open to frontline professionals and managers working at a more strategic level.

**Further information:**
- Further information on the MsUnderstood Project along with a summary of the learning shared at the November multi-agency session: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/)

Feedback from E-safety Conferences

The BSCB and Buckinghamshire County Council recently hosted two e-safety conferences; one for professionals working with children and young people on **12th of February**, and the second for secondary school pupils on **9th of March**.

Both conferences covered topics such as online bullying, digital footprint, sexting, online grooming and radicalisation. Professionals were directed to a number of resources for further information and e-safety support for schools, whilst the young delegates participated in different interactive exercises to expand their knowledge of e-safety and to build their resilience to online threats.

The conferences ended with the delegates filling in an action plan for their organisation and pledging to undertake various measures to improve the online knowledge and safety of their pupils, parents and staff. We will be contacting the professionals and the young people who attended in a couple of months to follow up on these pledges. This will help us understand the combined difference we have made by all working together on this issue.

**Further information:**
- Write-ups of the two conferences, including the links to various resources: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/audits-other-learning/)

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk
Training Challenge Session
The BSCB hosted a multi-agency Training Challenge Session on 8\textsuperscript{th} of December. The session aimed to:

- Gain assurance from partners on their safeguarding training pathway
- Identify gaps in current training provision and ascertain how these can be filled
- Begin to establish a framework for quality assurance for partner and single agencies training provision

It was an opportunity for agencies to share good practice as well as identify any challenges they are facing in relation to safeguarding training. It was also an opportunity for partners to feedback on what the BSCB could do differently to improve the multi-agency training programme that is currently on offer.

There was good representation from the partner agencies and the event helped the BSCB to get a better understanding of the safeguarding training that is being provided across our workforce, including highlighting some areas of good practice.

Some of the challenge areas identified and discussed were:

- A number of agencies struggling with how best to evaluate the impact and quality of training
- Staff having difficulties attending longer training courses due to workload pressures and time constraints

The BSCB is now working on how to tailor our offer to best meet the need of partner agencies, including providing shorter awareness raising sessions alongside our 1 and 2 day courses.

**Further information:**

Family Outcomes Star Training
The BSCB endorses the Family Outcomes Star as the partnership assessment tool for Early Help. A number of agencies are already successfully using the Star in their work with children and families, but we are keen to ensure that as many agencies as possible adopt the tool. To support this, the BSCB will be running free multi-agency training throughout the year.

**Further information:**

Strengthening Families Briefing Sessions
In our last newsletter we indicated that this month 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. Since then we have set up 14 briefing sessions, with well over 500 staff from across our partners booked to attend.

A couple of sessions still have some availability, and we have arranged two additional sessions.

- **25th April: 2.30pm – 4.30pm** (Darke Hall, Green Park, Aston Clinton)
- **29th April: 10am – 12pm** (Council Chambers, Wycombe District Council offices)

For those unable to attend a session, a Powerpoint presentation detailing the new model is now available on our website.

**Further information:**
- Full details of briefing sessions and the Powerpoint presentation: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses-for-professionals/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses-for-professionals/)
- To book a place please contact cgorley@buckscc.gov.uk

The following BSCB training courses still have spaces available – please publicise these dates within your organisation.

- **21\textsuperscript{st} April**: Child Sexual Exploitation, The Clare Foundation, Saunderton
- **6\textsuperscript{th} May**: Everyone’s Responsibility, YMCA, High Wycombe
- **10\textsuperscript{th} June**: Child Sexual Exploitation, Booker Park School, Aylesbury

New Training Programme 2016-2017
The BSCB will launch the new training programme on April 20\textsuperscript{th}. Along with our usual popular courses we have included training on Protective Behaviours, Family Outcomes Star and Early Help Awareness Raising.

**Further information:**
- To access the training brochure and relevant course application forms: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/training/)
Bullying Event

On 3rd March the BSCB was invited to participate in a Youth Voice event on bullying. The theme of the event was chosen by young people, and the evening was an opportunity for a diverse group of young people to think together about some approaches to effectively tackle bullying.

The evening included a panel discussion, with the young people asking questions to a panel of experts including representatives from the BSCB, Children’s Services, Youth Offending Service, Schools and the Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education.

It was a great opportunity to hear directly from young people and to get their ideas on what agencies should be doing to support them. A survey carried out during the evening also provided a reminder of the enormous impact that bullying can have on young people, with 67% of the young people present saying they had been affected by bullying. They also described the various impacts bullying had on them including making them feel isolated, scared, not wanting to go to school and even having thoughts of hurting themselves or committing suicide.

At the end of the session panel members were asked to reflect on the evening and pledge continued support from their agency. Some great pledges were made including:

- Continued funding for Show Racism the Red Card – a project delivered in schools around racism and discrimination
- Anti-bullying conference to be delivered for teachers and pupils next year
- The BSCB to include improved information on bullying on their new microsite for young people
- Research how extensively and effectively restorative justice is being used in schools to tackle bullying to see if this approach could be widened
- Support the delivery of 2 Zap Bullying workshops led by Kidscape for children and young people along with their parents and carers

The ZAP Bullying workshops are a fun, interactive day that encourage the development of assertiveness skills and raise young people’s confidence so that they are able to deal with bullying.

There will be 2 sessions in June one for 9, 10 and 11 years old and another for 12 to 16 years old. Parents/carers will be invited to attend in the afternoon. 12 places will be available for each group and we will want to fill them with individuals who will benefit the most from this opportunity. If you are in contact with children and young people who you think would benefit from attending this workshop then please let us know.

“Bullying isn't gonna stop no matter how hard you try.” 15 year old female from South Bucks

Further information:

- For further details on the ZAP Bullying workshops or to nominate a young person to take part, contact Matilda Moss (mmoss@buckscc.gov.uk / 01296 382537)

“I have been bullied my whole life - at school, outside & on social media. Don't fight back. Ignore, don't react. To the bully I say- grow up & get a life. Leave people to get on with their lives. Don't take your problems out on other people.” 15 year old female - Missenden area.

BSCB Priority: Voice and Journey of the Child

During the evening the young people created this word cloud which reflected their thoughts on resilience and overcoming bullying

BSCB is now on Twitter!
Follow us @Bucks_LSCB for the latest updates from the Board.

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk
BSCB Priority: Improving the Effectiveness of the BSCB

Updated Guidance and Procedures

The BSCB has recently updated the following guidance and procedures which can be found on our website at: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/

- Abuse of Disabled Children
- Children & Unborn children whose parents & carers have Mental Health needs

New Lay Members Wanted!

The BSCB is looking for two new lay members who:

- Live in Buckinghamshire
- Have close ties to local communities and community organisations
- Are enthusiastic about keeping children safe from harm

Lay Members are independent participants of the Board who help support stronger public engagement in child safeguarding issues. They operate as full members of the Board as well as participating in some our Sub Groups and other activities.

This is a voluntary post, but travel expenses will be reimbursed. Induction and ongoing training and support will be provided. We welcome applications from anyone in the community who shares our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Please could you publicise this opportunity as widely as possible, in particular in public facing settings – we have a poster available for this purpose. The closing date is Friday 20th May 2016.

Further information:

- Download the Lay Member recruitment poster to display in public facing settings: www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/lay-member-vacancies/
- Full details of the post and how to apply: http://jobs.bucksc.gov.uk/job-search/details?id=21324

Refreshed Improvement and Development Plan

We have refreshed the BSCB Improvement and Development Plan for 2016/17. Some updates have been made to our priorities to reflect the progress we have made over the last year and changing local priorities. Our 5 priority areas for 2016/17 are:

1. Early Help, Thresholds and Neglect
2. Child Exploitation
3. Voice and Journey of the Child
4. Workforce
5. Increasing the Impact and Effectiveness of the BSCB

The key changes from last year are:

- Our previous Child Sexual Exploitation priority has been broadened to incorporate other forms of exploitation. This reflects agreement with the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board and Health and Wellbeing Board that we will work together on a more coordinated approach to exploitation. This work will include CSE, Prevent, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour based violence, human trafficking, modern day slavery and gangs & youth violence. Over the next 12 months we will be working on a more joined up approach to policies, procedures, training and public awareness raising. We will keep you updated as we progress this work.

- We have introduced a new ‘Workforce’ priority to reflect the importance of ensuring we have a children and young people’s workforce with the right skills and competencies to keep children and young people safe.

- We have incorporated neglect into our Early Help priority as we recognise the role that many of our partners can play in identifying the early signs of neglect and in ensuring the right help and support is provided as soon as possible. Neglect will be a big area of focus over the next 12 months, with a multi-agency workshop currently being planned for later in the year to enable partners to input into this work.
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Messages from the Improvement Board

David Johnson, Managing Director Children’s Social Care and Learning has recently provided the following positive feedback in relation to the recent audit of Children’s Social Care undertaken by the Department for Education in January.

“The good news is that the Department for Education will not be increasing the current level of intervention provided to the Council. The Minister said that he recognises that we have made significant improvements to our children’s social care services and that our overarching commitment to providing an improved service is showing clear signs of progress. The DfE plans to visit again for a further review in early summer.

You will see that the Minister’s letter reinforces the Government’s ambition for all council children’s services departments to continue to sustain improvement within six months of receiving a notice to improve and we understand that this is a common reference in all direction letters for local authorities in special measures. The Minister’s decision is clearly great news and I want to thank you all for your continued commitment, hard work, efforts and patience over the last few months while both the DfE review and the LGA review took place. It is really very much appreciated. We can all look forward now to continuing to work together to improve services to support children and families.”

Further information:
✓ A copy of the letter from the Minster: www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3893485/Letter-from-Edward-Timpson-MP.pdf

Focus on: Young Carers Bucks

On 28th of January Young Carers Bucks organised a ‘Young Carers in Schools’ awards event to recognise the commitment of schools to supporting and identifying young carers in their school, and to celebrate the young people who provide regular care and support to family and friends. The event was attended by over 120 young carers aged 6-11 from 15 primary schools across Aylesbury Vale in Buckinghamshire. The awards to schools were presented by the Mayor of Aylesbury and a local children’s entertainer kept children busy with fun activities.

Young Carers Bucks supports children and young people aged 6-18 years who care for a family member who has a physical or mental illness, a disability, drug or alcohol misuse. Even if there are services in place and other members of the family helping with the care, the emotional impact and restrictions due to illness or disability can still have an enormous effect on the young carer.

Young carers are supported in a variety of ways including regular clubs and activities, one-to-one support, targeted group work, information, advice and signposting and support in schools.

Further information:
✓ To find out more about Young Carers Bucks visit: www.youngcarersbucks.org/

Other Messages

Bucks Mind Youth Befriending Service

Bucks Mind Youth Befriending service aims to provide young people aged 13-18, who have mild to moderate mental health needs, with someone of a similar age to listen to them. The volunteers will be aged 17-24 and have a desire to make a difference to the lives of young people. If you think you know someone who would benefit from this scheme, or someone who would interested in volunteering, please contact Sharron Harrison at Bucks Mind: sharron.harrison@bucksmind.org.uk or 01494 463364

Further Information:
✓ More information on the scheme, a Youth Referral Form and a Volunteer Application form can be found: www.bucksmind.org.uk/services/befriending/youth-befriending/

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk