



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE – May 2017

1 PURPOSE

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs:

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

2 VISION AND VALUES

Our Vision

“A strong and shared safeguarding culture across partners ensures every child and young person in Buckinghamshire grows up safe from maltreatment, neglect and harm. Children and their parents receive the right help and support when they need it, leading to better outcomes for children and young people.”

Our Values

- We will be honest and clear about the difference we are making for children and young people
- We will respectfully challenge each other to ensure we are making a difference
- We will all take responsibility for helping each other to improve outcomes for children and young people
- We will value difference to help us to improve
- We will look to hold to account rather than to blame
- Everything we do will benefit children and young people in Buckinghamshire
- We will be courageous
- We are all in it together – as a Board we accept collective responsibility for our performance

3 FUNCTIONS

1. Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Buckinghamshire, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child or young person's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention
 - Training of people who work with children and young people or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children and young people
 - Recruitment and supervision of people who work with children and young people

- Investigations of allegations concerning people who work with children and young people
 - Safety and welfare of children and young people who are privately fostered
 - Cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners
2. Communicate to people and organisations in Buckinghamshire the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.
 3. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and advising them on ways to improve.
 4. Participate in the planning of services for children and young people in Buckinghamshire.
 5. Undertake reviews of serious cases and child deaths and advise the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.
 6. Publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Buckinghamshire.
 7. Provide challenge to ensure that there is a comprehensive, effective and adequately resourced early intervention strategy for the provision of services to children and young people in Buckinghamshire.

4 PRIORITIES

The priorities for the Buckinghamshire LSCB (BSCB), and the actions the Board will take to achieve these, are set out in the BSCB Business Plan 2017-18.

5 MEMBERSHIP

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Buckinghamshire College Group
- Buckinghamshire County Council – Children & Families Service
- Buckinghamshire County Council – Community, Health and Adults Social Care
- Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust
- CAF/CASS (Children & Families Court Advisory and Support Service)
- Chiltern & South Bucks District Councils
- Independent Schools
- Lay Members
- National Probation Service
- NHS England
- Oxford Health Foundation NHS Trust
- Primary Schools
- Public Health
- Secondary Schools
- Thames Valley Police
- Thames Valley Probation (Community Rehabilitation Company)
- Wycombe District Council
- Youth Offending Service

Advisers:

- Buckinghamshire County Council – Cabinet Member for Children & Families
- HB Legal Plus
- BSCB Business Manager
- BSCB Training Manager

Although there is a named representative for each District Council, these representatives will select a single member to attend each meeting.

A Vice Chair is elected from within the BSCB membership. This appointment will be reviewed on an annual basis.

6 MEMBER COMPACT

All Board Members should adhere to the BSCB Member Compact. This is an agreement between the BSCB and its individual members.

7 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Quoracy: The meeting will be deemed quorate if at least half of the Board members are present and either the Chair or the Vice Chair is present.

Frequency: Board meetings are held every 2 months.

8 GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Working Together 2015 states that in order to provide effective scrutiny, LSCBs should be independent and not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.

The BSCB has a role in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of local partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The Board will hold organisations, individually and in partnership, to account for their performance in this respect. However, the Board is not accountable for their operational work and each Board partner retains their organisational lines of accountability for safeguarding.

The BSCB discharges many of its responsibilities on behalf of its statutory partners and as such is held to account by each of these organisations for its performance. The agreement of statutory partners is required for any work that has implications for policy, planning or the allocation of resources.

The Director of Children's Services should ensure that all appropriate local authority services engage effectively with the BSCB. The DCS is accountable to the Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire County Council, and where appropriate the Lead Member for Children's Services for the effective working of the BSCB.

The Chair of the BSCB must be independent of local agencies so that the BSCB can exercise its local challenge function effectively. The Independent Chair is appointed by and is accountable to, the Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire County Council. Where appropriate the Lead Member for Children's Services will also hold the Independent Chair to account for the effective working of the BSCB.

9 REVIEW

The BSCB Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually. Next review date: **May 2018.**