



Bedford Borough
Safeguarding Children Board

Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board

What is a Local Safeguarding Children Board? (LSCB)



If you are new to Bedford Borough and have contact with children and young people either as a staff member or volunteer it is important that you know more about what the LSCB does and how they can support you in your role. This leaflet should be read as part of your induction or if you are already in post used as an update.

What is a Local Safeguarding Children Board? (LSCB)

Every local authority is required by law to have an LSCB led by an independent chairperson. Statutory guidance called Working Together 2015 www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf requires all local services working with children and young people to work collectively to keep children and young people safe.

Senior Managers and other representatives from key agencies meet to ensure that all services are not only well coordinated, but also that they are effective at safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in the local area.



Who sits on the LSCB?

Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board (BBSCB) is made up of Senior Managers from the following services;

- Bedford Borough Council
- Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG)
- South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT)
- East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT)
- Bedfordshire Police
- Child and Family Court Advisory Support Services (CAFCASS)
- National Probation Service
- Community rehabilitation Company (BeNCH)
- Head teachers representing schools
- Representatives from the voluntary sector
- Bedford Hospital NHS Trust
- Governors
- Bedford College
- NHS England

The BBSCB also has two lay members who make the links between the BBSCB and the community and support stronger public engagement with the Board. As per government guidance, the Board is chaired by an independent person.

What does the BBSCB do?

BBSCB has the key responsibility for:

- Co-ordinating the work done by local agencies to safeguard children and young people and promote their welfare
- Ensuring that this work is carried out effectively
- Monitoring the impact and outcome of the work to see what difference it is making to children's and young people's lives
- Agreeing local procedures and ensuring they are kept up to date
- Ensuring that staff have access to appropriate safeguarding training
- Making sure that the BBSCB receives good feedback from agencies, front line practitioners, children and young people and their families, so that there can be continuous learning and improvement

Where services are not working well, the BBSCB will hold partners to account for why they are not working and seek reassurance of the changes needed to address any gaps or weaknesses.

Bedford Borough Safeguarding Board working arrangements

Partners in Bedford Borough work together to safeguard children and young people through the following arrangements:

- Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board – Strategic Board and it's sub groups
- Child Death Overview Panel - CDOP
- Pan Bedfordshire Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children and Young People Strategic Group and their sub groups
- Pan Bedfordshire Female Genital Mutilation Group
- Pan Bedfordshire Policy and Procedures Group
- Pan Bedfordshire Task & Finish Groups

- Bedford Borough Frontline Practitioners Group
- Bedford Borough Performance and Audit Group
- Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board
- Bedford Borough Health and Wellbeing Board
- Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership
- Bedford Borough Strategic Group
- Bedford Borough Schools Forum
- Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Training and Development Group
- Roles and Responsibilities of Bedford Borough Council Executive Member for Children’s Social Care, Chief Executive and Lead Director of Children’s and Adults’ Services and the Chair of the BBSCB

BBSCB Plan

The BBSCB Business Plan sets out the core priority areas that the BBSCB has identified that will be the primary focus, and reflects recommendations from Ofsted inspections, Serious Case Reviews, local needs and government priorities and changes to statutory guidance.

It will be updated annually to respond to local and national requirements and emerging themes identified through a process of learning and improvement. The Business Plan is available at www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb.

How does the BBSCB Safeguard Children and Young People?

BBSCB carries out its safeguarding responsibilities;

- Through the involvement of a wide range of local agencies in its Strategic Board and it's sub groups and task and finish groups to ensure multi-agency co-operation
- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people through the shared Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures endorsed by the 3 LSCB's in Bedfordshire and Luton <http://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>
- Through the development of the training strategy, delivery of a multi-agency safeguarding training programme for those who work with children and young people and quality assuring training
- Through the effective monitoring of partner single agencies' compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- Undertaking a range of audits and case reviews including Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) when a child or young person is injured or dies and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be part of the reason for their death.
- Communicating and raising awareness with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and how this can best be done
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and advising on ways to improve
- Participating in planning services for children and young people
- Putting in place procedures to ensure a co-ordinated response to unexpected child deaths and collecting and analysing information about child deaths

The effective implementation of the BBSCB's functions will contribute to:

- Protecting children and young people from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's and young people's health or development
- Ensuring that children and young people grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Enabling all children and young people to have the best outcomes

How does the BBSCB engage with front line staff?

We hold a number of briefings and events over a year, all of which are published on our website www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb. We also have a multi-agency frontline practitioner group led by the BBSCB Business Manager and head of safeguarding for SEPT.

The group enables practitioners to reflect on their own practice and provide a rare occasion to network with other agencies in order to discuss and share practice, experiences and ideas and how they would like these shared with the BBSCB.

The aims of the Frontline Practitioners Group are:

- To proactively make links within the local interagency community, reaching out to professionals (voluntary and statutory) to enable them to access important messages in relation to Safeguarding
- To provide opportunities for agencies to explore and address the learning behind local safeguarding practices and policies (i.e. audits, Serious Case Reviews and the lessons learned)
- To work consultatively with the BBSCB to evaluate the impact of policy and practice to identify areas which require additional support and development
- To provide a safe and open forum for professionals to discuss local issues and foster activities that promote effective interagency working relationships

If you would like to be a member of the frontline practitioners group please contact the BBSCB office via email lscb@bedford.gov.uk.

BBSCB Annual Reports

BBSCB publishes an annual report each year which comments on the effectiveness of safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare in Bedford Borough.

If you would like to find out more please read the annual reports on our website www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb

Pan Bedfordshire Interagency Child Protection Procedures

Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire & Luton LSCB have developed online Pan Bedfordshire Interagency Child Protections Procedures. These can be accessed at http://www.proceduresonline.com/bedford_scb/

The manual contains the inter-agency policies, procedures, protocols and guidance for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Safeguarding Children Boards.



To clarify:

- Procedures and protocols are sets of rules - they are **MUST DO's**
- Practice guidance is a tool for reflective practice, and identifies the best of current practice using current research

As a professional working with children and young people or their parents and carers, you should access the interagency child protection procedures and work to these procedures, policies, protocols and guidance.

Parts: The manual is in three parts as follows:

- Part 1 applies to staff in all three Local Safeguarding Children Board areas – Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton
- Part 2 contains additional procedures, guidance and protocols which are relevant to Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Boards
- Part 3 contains additional protocols, guidance and procedures local to Luton Safeguarding Children Board

BBSCB Multi-agency safeguarding training

BBSCB training (shared with Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (CBSCB)) provide a comprehensive and effective safeguarding training programme to agencies within Bedford Borough. We provide training on a range of topics for paid staff and unpaid volunteers working in organisations across Bedford Borough, to ensure that everyone working with children and young people has the necessary skills to recognise and act upon the signs and indicators of abuse. Training people together can make a significant contribution to building mutually respectful and trusting relationships, which form the foundation for any partnership working.

Information about the Training Programme including a training calendar, course fees etc. can be found at www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/

safeguarding/cpd/ or alternatively, contact the BBSCB Training Unit by email or phone as follows:

Email: **lscb.training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**

or telephone 0300 300 6676.

BBSCB also offer online E-learning courses free and these can be applied for directly via the BBSCB E learning link **<http://bedfordshirelscb.safeguardingchildren.co.uk>**. Choose the course you would like and register.

Local campaigns/leaflets/newsletters

The BBSCB in partnership with other agencies run campaigns and/or produce leaflets on specific areas such as child sexual exploitation (CSE) which are of a concern to Bedford Borough in keeping local children and young people safe. We disseminate information via our single points of contact list, if you don't believe your agency is receiving these updates please contact the BBSCB office via email **lscb@bedford.gov.uk** so that we can add you to the list.

Bedfordshire united against CSE

Organisations across Bedfordshire have joined together in the fight against child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Bedfordshire Police, the University of Bedfordshire, Luton Borough Council, Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, and the three local safeguarding children boards, have teamed up with independent charity Crimestoppers to help raise awareness of the signs of CSE.

For more details visit the website **<http://bedfordshireagainstcse.org>**

BBSCB Website www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb

The site brings together information for children and young people, their families and for anyone who works with them. It also provides an overview of the responsibilities, structure and work of BBSCB.

Features include:

- Menu links to information on 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused', both for workers and for the general public
- Signposting pages on safeguarding topics of key interest to families and carers, children and young people, including help-lines
- Local guidance and national guidance, also separate pages on Early Help Assessment (EHA), thresholds, Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Safer Recruitment, LADO, and much more
- News section to be used to highlight child protection and safeguarding issues, documents and events
- Downloadable copies of Serious Case Reviews and audits
- Link to the Pan Bedfordshire Interagency Child Protection Procedures
- A downloadable copy of the BBSCB Annual Reports. Also Annual Reports from the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Private Fostering
- Information about the BBSCB Training Programme
- Safeguarding events listing
- Resource information on safeguarding related topics (links, suggested reading, etc.)

Finding out more

If you would like to know more about the BBSCB or require further copies of this leaflet, please contact us by telephone, email or write to us.



01234 276512



Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board

Bedford Borough Council
Borough Hall
Caudwell Street
Bedford, MK42 9AP



LSCB@bedford.gov.uk



www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb

Contact numbers

You should share any concerns about any child and young person's safety and well-being with any of the following:

Police **999** in an emergency or **101** for non-urgent

Bedford Borough Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub: **01234 718700**
or email **multiagency@bedford.gov.uk**

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team : **0300 300 8123**

NSPCC Helpline: **0808 800 5000**

Childline: **0800 1111**
