



## May 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of **Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board (BBSCB)** newsletter. We think it is important to keep you up to date with information, especially what's going on in our local area. This newsletter provides an update on current safeguarding issues that are relevant to frontline practice and the work of the BBSCB. It also provides links and signposts to national documents that you may find helpful in your day-to-day work.

*Jenny Myers*

Jenny Myers | Independent Chair of Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board

### 1. UPDATE FROM BBSCB

#### Understanding local Thresholds, the Early Help offer and MASH

Two more ½ day multi-agency briefings for frontline practitioners to be held on the 12th July and the 11th November 2016. Places can be booked on either date by going to <http://www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/safeguarding>

**Revised leaflet - Guidance for Core Group members**, to provide key information to staff about the purpose and operation of core groups.

Please disseminate this to all your staff, share with new staff during their induction, discuss in team meetings and staff supervision. [Click here for the leaflet](#)

### 2. SPOTLIGHT ON NEGLECT

#### Did you know that 1 in 10 children have experienced neglect?

Neglect is the most common reason for taking child protection action. Over 24,300 children were identified as needing protection from neglect last year.

Our local data is telling us that neglect is a key feature in a high percentage of the children that local services are supporting. BBSCB are making it a priority area for improvement and will shortly be publishing a strategy, revised practice guidance and assessment tools.

#### Did you know that Neglect is a factor in 60% of nationally published Serious Case Reviews?

The NSPCC have produced a briefing based on case reviews published since 2014, where neglect was a key factor. It pulls together and highlights the learning contained in the published reports.

#### Risk factors for neglect in case reviews

Risk factors highlighted in these case reviews impact on the parents' ability to provide safe and appropriate care and to meet their children's needs.

- Living with domestic abuse, drug and alcohol misuse, and parents with mental health problems.
- Young parents.
- Postnatal depression. Maternal depression was also linked to social isolation.
- Patterns of improvement in parental care, followed by deterioration.
- Financial problems including housing problems, homelessness, poverty and unemployment.
- Lack of resources. High caseloads and understaffing may result in absence of supervision and support for social workers. High staff turnover makes it difficult to establish meaningful relationships with families.

Read the full briefing and others at the following link  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/learning/>

### 3. RAISING AWARENESS AROUND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

BBSCB and other partners have been working hard to increase awareness of CSE. During November/December 2015 over 3300 children and young people in Bedford Borough attended a performance from **AlterEgo** in their schools of Chelsea's Choice and we are pleased to announce that funding has been secured for 2 more weeks of these performances in November 2016. More details will be sent to schools in due course. If you would like to come and observe a performance please contact us via our contact details at the end of this newsletter.



#### Useful resources on CSE:

The **International Centre at the University of Bedfordshire** has launched a blog focusing on the voices of young people affected by CSE emerging from their research. One of the first posts is by a young man called Greg who reflects on his experiences of grooming and sexual exploitation.

[Click on this link to go to the UOB website](#)

#### Health Education England

Spotting the signs of child sexual exploitation - **HEE**, in association with the **Department of Health**, and with the support and help of healthcare staff and professional membership organisations has produced a video that provides advice on identifying the signs of child sexual exploitation in vulnerable young people. [Click here to view the video](#)

#### What to do if you are worried:

If anyone thinks a child or young person at risk of CSE. They can ring the **Bedford Borough Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH)** on 01234 718700 (office hours) or ring 0300 300 8123 (out of hours). If their concern is of an immediate safeguarding nature, they should contact the **Police** by ringing 999.

For more information  
<http://www.bedfordshireagainstcse.org/>

#### Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton CSEG (Child Sexual Exploitation Group)



New guidance for the Child Sexual Exploitation Group (CSEG) which replaces the previous Child Sexual Exploitation Panel (CSEP). The role of the multi-agency CSEG is to ensure a coordinated multi-agency approach to concerns about child sexual exploitation and to maintain an overview of emerging child sexual exploitation issues in Bedfordshire.

This guidance found be found by [clicking on this link here](#) In due course it will be uploaded on to the Pan Bedfordshire Interagency Child Protection Procedures <http://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

To assist the **Police** in building a picture of what CSE looks like in Bedford Borough, where it is happening and who is involved then they require your intelligence. So for example if you have observed a car regularly being at a location where young people congregate share the details of the car and a description of the occupants. If a house is known to have regular parties or numerous male visitors and young people visiting the house then share this information with the Police using the Intelligence reporting form on our website [click here](#) and send to [cibintel@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cibintel@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk) the same address applicable to any intelligence you might have for the **Police**.

**Safeguarding Children from Child Sexual Exploitation – course designed for professionals.** Recently fully updated and aimed at anyone who comes into contact with children and young people during the course of their work. This course is recommended by all LSCB partners as a minimum for all those in contact with children and young people. Increases awareness of the main issues in the sexual exploitation of children and young people and raises awareness of the legislation and guidance that applies to vulnerable groups and how these policies can be applied in practice.

## Keep Them Safe - Protecting Children from Child Sexual Exploitation

**This course is primarily intended for parents and carers.** The course will help you to know more about child sexual exploitation (CSE) and how to recognise the signs and indicators CSE. It will help you appreciate the impact CSE can have on families and provide information on what to do if you suspect a child might be at risk.

**Basic Awareness of Child and Adult Sexual Exploitation** - This basic introductory course is designed to explain what sexual exploitation is and to help learners identify the vulnerability factors. Upon completion, learners should be able to recognise the signs and indicators of sexual exploitation, understand the importance of multi-agency working and the safeguarding frameworks in place to manage concerns of sexual exploitation, and act appropriately if they have a concern.

Go to <https://bedfordshirelscb.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/> scroll down and Register or Log in. You have 4 weeks to complete the course once registered and the content will assist you to meet your statutory duty to report any suspicion of CSE.

**If you have any queries regarding the CSEG please contact your local CSE SPOCs or the Pan-Bedfordshire CSE Co-ordinator:**

Bedford Borough: Lesley Lown Email: [Lesley.Lown@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.Lown@bedford.gov.uk)

Pan-Beds CSE Co-ordinator: Anna Fake Email:

[anna.fake@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:anna.fake@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

## 4. FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

In response to the new mandatory reporting guidance BBSCB along with Central and Luton LSCBs held a briefing on FGM which was attended by nearly 300 practitioners. A survivor of FGM gave a harrowing account of the reality barbaric procedure.



FGM involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Over summer an increased number of young girls are taken abroad to have FGM performed so that they can 'heal' over the long holidays – mainly to avoid detection when they return to school.

Please visit our website page on FGM by [clicking here](#) which includes our new Pathway (published on the 25th January 2016), guidance and other local items.

The **Department of Health** has published new guidance for England on commissioning services for women and girls with FGM. Issues covered include: service standards, scope of service, and future prevention work. Visit their website using this link to see the full document - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/services-for-women-and-girls-with-fgm>

**The Home Office and the Department for Education** have published a factsheet on mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation and what it means for professionals affected by the duty.

Published 29 January 2016. [Click here for the factsheet](#)

On Friday 1st April **the Government** published, under powers in the Serious Crime Act 2015, multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation and the consultation response. These can be found via the links below.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

Consultation outcome:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-draft-statutory-multi-agency-practice-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation-fgm>

Also visit the **NSPCC** website for more details on FGM -

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/legislation-policy-and-guidance/>

## Free FGM e-learning

The Home Office has launched free online training for frontline professionals in identifying and helping girls at risk of FGM. The training can be accessed by visiting the website: <http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/>

Coventry University has designed a new app to educate young people about female genital mutilation. It is endorsed by the NSPCC and has been launched in the run up to the school summer holidays, a period during which a girl's risk of being taken abroad to undergo the procedure increases. For more information visit their website using this link - <http://petals.coventry.ac.uk/>

'Everybody's Business' is a new website launched by young people to educate their peers about FGM and what they can do to stop it.

Website: <http://fgm-every-bodys-biz.co.uk/>

## 5. PRIVATE FOSTERING

**Are you clear the statutory duty to inform Children's Services if you think a child or young person is being privately fostered?**

Private Fostering is someone who may have someone else's child living with them and they are:

- Aged 16 or under (or under 18 if disabled);
- Staying there for 28 days or longer;
- Not a close relative i.e. uncle, grandparent, sibling;
- Living in Bedford Borough.



Then Bedford Borough Council Children's Services must be informed of this arrangement. Bedford Borough Council can offer the young people and the people who look after them support, advice and guidance. For more information, please contact us:

[Local Leaflet](#)

[Local poster](#)

## 6. LEARNING FROM LOCAL AUDITS

The purpose of our auditing process is to provide a stringent and consistent approach to assessing work undertaken on a multi-agency or single agency basis with a child/young person and their family through an audit of case records, particularly in relation to the safeguarding role of both specialist and non-specialist practitioners.

For more details on recent local audits [click here](#)

## 7. SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS (SCR)

BBSCB publishes its SCRs on the website – [click here](#) to visit the page on our website. Please do take time to read the reports that highlight areas for learning and improvement.

Two new Serious Case Reviews concerning disabled children and neglect have been published on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 and are on our website by clicking on the click here link above.

## 8. BREAST IRONING

Breast Ironing, also known as "Breast Flattening", is the process whereby young pubescent girls' breasts are ironed, massaged and/or pounded down through the use of hard or heated objects in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely. It is believed that by carrying out this act, young girls will be protected from harassment, rape, abduction and early forced marriage and therefore be kept in education.

Much like FGM, Breast Ironing is a harmful cultural practice and is child abuse. Professionals working with children and young people must be able to identify the signs and symptoms of girls who are at risk of or have undergone breast ironing. Similarly to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), breast ironing is classified as physical abuse therefore professionals must follow the Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board's Procedures.

Breast ironing is practiced in a number of African nations including Cameroon, Benin, Ivory Coast, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Togo, Zimbabwe and Guinea-

Conakry and there is concern that African immigrants have brought breast ironing practice with them to the UK.

For more information on Breast Ironing please [click here](#) to visit the page on the BBSCB website. [Click here to read the Tri.x briefing](#) in full or visit [http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/news\\_index.html](http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/news_index.html)

## 9. COERCIVE OR CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR

### Coercive or controlling behaviour is now a Crime

Victims who would otherwise be subjected to sustained patterns of domestic abuse will be better protected under a new offence, which came into force on **29th December 2015**. The **government's** new [coercive or controlling behaviour offence](#) will mean victims who experience the type of behaviour that stops short of serious physical violence, but amounts to extreme psychological and emotional abuse, can bring their perpetrators to justice. The offence will carry a maximum of 5 years' imprisonment, a fine or both.



This **guidance** provides information on:

- identifying domestic violence, domestic abuse and controlling or coercive behaviour
- circumstances in which the new offence might apply
- the types of evidence for the offence
- the defence

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-guidance-framework-controlling-or-coercive-behaviour-in-an-intimate-or-family-relationship>

For more information on Coercive or controlling behaviours [click here](#) to visit our page on the website.

## 10. MODERN SLAVERY

**Bedfordshire Police** on-going commitment to assisting first responders in Bedfordshire tackle human trafficking want to bring to remind you of the change in the **'duty to notify' changes in the referral of victims of modern slavery**.

To help more victims of modern slavery to be identified, a new provision in the Modern Slavery Act has come into force. Police, along with other public authorities, including local authorities, now have a legal duty to notify the Home Office when we encounter any potential victim of modern slavery, including human trafficking.

This is another positive step to put an end to modern slavery. Men, women and children in our county are being subjected to this abuse and the Police are dedicated to tackling this hidden but profitable and damaging crime.

The change comes when referring an adult who doesn't consent to being referred. The **Police** now have a duty to notify the **Home Office** for every potential adult of human trafficking regardless of consent.

It intends to improve the identification of victims and help build a more comprehensive picture of the nature and scale of modern slavery. It is thought the number of potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is less than 15% of the estimated number of victims in the UK. Useful guidance on the NRM for front-line staff can be found here and the NRM forms can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

Guidance on the duty to notify and the MS1 form can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>

## 11. FORCED MARRIAGE

**If you have concerns that a girl or young woman is at risk of FGM**, call the **Police** on 101. In an emergency call 999. The **NSPCC** provides a 24/7 FGM helpline, which can be used for advice and support: 0800 028 3550 at [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

For more information on Forced Marriage please visit our [website page](#).



## 12. SAFER INTERNET/ ONLINE ABUSE

As part of a campaign to deter people from viewing and sharing indecent images of children online, **Stop it Now!** has launched an interactive film called 'Choose another path' to show the consequences of viewing sexual images of under-18s. It

is the latest in a series of films to help people at risk of viewing or sharing child abuse images.

Click on the links below to view the YouTube films:

[Choose another path](#)

[Stop it Now: No justification](#)

[Stop it Now: Very real consequences](#)

[Stop it Now's 5 steps if you have concerns about online behaviour](#)



### 13. NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS/UPDATES/GUIDANCE



Department  
for Education

#### Department for Education - Stop Child Abuse campaign

The Department for Education have launched a national communications campaign to encourage members of the public to report child abuse. The campaign, which is aimed at parents, will address all forms of abuse and neglect.

**If you believe a child is at immediate risk** you call the **Police** on 999, or alternative call the police on 101 if you think a crime has been committed. If you are worried that a child or young person in Bedford Borough is at risk of being abused you can contact the **MASH** on 01234 718700. If you call is outside office hours please call 0300 300 8123.

**If you have concerns about a child or young person you know from another area** [click here](#) to obtain the number for that area.

#### Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020

The Government have today launched their **Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020** which details the actions the government will be taking towards its strategy of ending violence against women and girls. (March 2016). [Click here for the strategy.](#)

#### Young people in Care and Care Leavers

3 New Factsheets for Young People in Care and Care Leavers



The Who Cares? Trust has published three new factsheets for young people in care and care leavers. They focus on:

- financial support for care leavers;
- different children's services professionals who children in care may meet;
- and how to get the most out of a pathway plan.

#### Further information:

[All about the money \(PDF\)](#) this external link will open in a new window;

[The name game \(PDF\)](#) this external link will open in a new window;

[Pathway to success \(PDF\)](#) this external link will open in a new window



#### Safeguarding children and young people within faith settings

NSPCC has produced a series of films on how to protect children within religious or faith settings. They are aimed at people working in faith settings and places of worship across the UK, to help them keep children safe, and can be found [here](#)

#### Whistleblowing

The NSPCC recently launched a government funded **Whistleblowing Advice Line**. This will take calls from professionals from any sector who are worried about the way their, or another organisation is dealing with child protection issues. Employees who don't feel able to escalate these issues internally can contact the service, as well as those who have been unsuccessful in doing so. It can be reached for free and can be contacted anonymously. More information and free resources are available on the **NSPCC** website.

**NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline 0800 028 0285**

### Protect deaf and disabled children from abuse and neglect

The NSPCC has published webpages for professionals on how their organisations can **protect deaf and disabled children from abuse and neglect**. [Click here for the link to the NSPCC webpage](#)

### Prevent violence against women and girls

The **Government** has announced a new strategy to prevent violence against women and girls which is being described as a shift from crisis response to early intervention and prevention. Published 08 March 2016

Click here for the strategy - [Ending violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020](#)



**NICE has produced a quality standard for those working with families affected by domestic violence.** It includes guidance on supporting children and young people affected by domestic violence that is not directly perpetrated against them. This includes children taken into care. Published 11 March 2016

[Click here to view the quality standard](#)

**NICE has published guidance to support the transition from children's to adult's services.** Published 26 February 2016

[Click here to view the guidance](#) - Transition from children's and adults' services for young people using health or social care services



From April 2016 **Safe Network** will close, and the **NSPCC** will be the new home for safeguarding support for the voluntary, community and faith sectors.

## 14. MULTI AGENCY TRAINING – NOW PAN BEDFORDSHIRE

As of April 1st 2016 the Training Unit welcomed Luton colleagues. We have commissioned a number of extra course dates in order to accommodate these staff and volunteers. It also means that you may find yourself sitting with Luton

delegates on any of the LSCB courses and it is hoped that this will help to ensure that cross border communication is supported and impacts positively on local children and families from across Bedfordshire.

From now on we shall be running termly FREE large scale ½ day Update Briefings in order to communicate national and local learning messages from reviews and audit. The next **BRIEFING DIARY DATE is 22nd SEPTEMBER 2016**. Go to [www.centralbedscpd.co.uk](http://www.centralbedscpd.co.uk) to find out more and book your place for this or any of the courses below.

### **Domestic Abuse - Impact on Children and Young People - Tuesday 28 June 2016 09:15 - 16:30 The Bedford Golf Club**

Aims to raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people and assist in assessing how this abuse affects parenting capacity.

This course builds upon knowledge gained on the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership 'Foundation Awareness' training.

It is recommended that you complete the on line e-Learning course 'Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse'.

### **Teenage Relationship Violence - Wednesday 29 June 2016 09:15 - 16:30 The Forest Centre**

Aims to raise awareness of the level of teenage violence in dating relationships including disadvantaged young people; the impact of sexting, sexual exploitation and gang membership.

*A recent delegate commented: 'one of the best LSCB courses I have attended even though it was a tough subject'.*

This course is most suitable for practitioners, workers and volunteers in children's social care, schools, health settings, connexions, youth offending teams, youth workers, housing, police, child and adolescent mental health, drug and alcohol settings, IDVA s, and refuges.

**FREE e-learning course launched on caring for gender nonconforming young people** - Working in partnership with GIRE (the Gender Identity Research and Education Society), Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has created an e-learning course to help healthcare and other staff understand the needs of gender nonconforming young people. The course is free, is easily accessible online and takes around 45 minutes to complete. It is designed for staff

of all levels and disciplines and provides an optional test, as well as a certificate of completion.

Children and young people do not always identify as boys or girls in a way that matches the sex registered on their birth certificate. Where this sense of being a boy or a girl (gender identity) is at odds with the sex appearance, they may be described as gender variant or gender nonconforming. These terms include those who do not necessarily identify as one gender or the other but may be somewhere in between on the gender spectrum (non-binary). These young people can feel isolated and vulnerable. Coming into contact with services can exacerbate these feelings, particularly as many services are provided in settings which reinforce traditional gender roles.

The course aims to raise awareness about these challenges and support the training of staff on how to support these young people in a more sensitive and informed way. It includes an introduction to gender non-conformity, advice on how to create supportive environments for gender non-conforming young people and critical information about medical interventions and front line support.

This e-learning course can be found at the following link:

<http://www.sabp.nhs.uk/news/elearning>



## 15. USEFUL CONTACTS

### **Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, Mk42 9AP. Telephone: 01234 276512 Email: [LSCB@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@bedford.gov.uk) Website: [www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb)

### **Pan Bedfordshire training enquiries:**

Telephone: 0300 300 6676 or Email: [LSCB.Training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

### **Bedford Borough Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):**

Karen Osborne - 01234 276693 / 276560 Email: [LADO@bedford.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@bedford.gcsx.gov.uk)

### **Support and safeguarding services**

**If you think a child is being abused or neglected, contact:** MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) Telephone: 01234 718700 Monday - Thursday 8:50am - 5:20pm, Friday 8:50am - 4:30pm. Out of Hours (0300 300 4200) Email: [multiagency@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:multiagency@bedford.gov.uk)

**If a child is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention because of immediate danger, call the police on 999 or 111**

### **Would you like to submit an article?**

If there is a particular feature you would like to add to a future newsletter – please contact the BBSCB Board.

