



May 2017 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

Ofsted Inspection

The Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board (BBSCB) is judged to be 'Good' in a report published on the 7th April 2017.

Independent Chair of the BBSCB, Jenny Myers, said:

"I am pleased with the outcome of this recent inspection. Ofsted has identified a number of strengths in our work and judged the Board to be effective and well

led. This is a collective achievement that is based on a strong partnership of local leaders, services and staff. They have shown commitment, energy and focus in ensuring we work together to safeguard children and young people in Bedford Borough and this has now been recognised by Ofsted."

The report identifies a range of strengths including:

- BBSCB has given priority to engaging with children and young people more effectively in its work;
- Effective monitoring and evaluation of frontline practice;
- Access to a range of training opportunities which enhance knowledge, skills and confidence;
- A culture of scrutiny and challenge that secures improvement;
- Effective identification of learning from serious case reviews and proactive action to address recommendations arising from these and other reviews;
- Effective work in a number of key safeguarding risk areas including: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Early Help, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Disabled Children;
- A sophisticated process of evaluating the impact of multi-agency training;
- A comprehensive evaluation of effectiveness in the BBSCB Annual Report.

Ofsted has made two recommendations for BBSCB to support continued development and improvement in the future:

- Ensure rigorous analysis of performance information received by the BBSCB across the partnership, to inform impact evaluation.
- Ensure that action plans arising from multi-agency audits are monitored so that the BBSCB understands their effectiveness and impact on practice.

Model Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy for Schools – February 2017

In line with The Department for Education updated guidance on Keeping children safe in education, we have updated our model policy that schools can use and adapt for their school. To download the document please go to the specific page for schools on the BBSCB website using this [link](#).

2. SPOTLIGHT ON NEGLECT

A Pan Beds multi-agency Neglect conference was held on the 31st March 2017 and was well attended by 320 delegates.



The Conference was put together based upon local identified learning need and feedback from professionals. The atmosphere on the day was very relaxed and delegates benefited from the presentations delivered by guest speakers David Shemmings and Ruth Gardner, and from Children's Services and the Police.

Neglect Strategy – [click here for the Pan Beds Neglect Strategy](#)

Working with Neglect - [click on this link](#) for our local working with neglect guide
Safeguarding children and young people from Neglect guidance - to see this guidance [click on here](#)

[Click here to go to the NSPCC website pages on neglect](#)

3. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Child sexual exploitation: definition and guidance updated Feb 2017

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a definition of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and a guide for practitioners and managers. Advice for practitioners working with children includes: a definition of CSE; potential indicators of CSE; how children are sexually exploited; and how sexual exploitation affects children. Guidance for managers and leaders includes: prevention, educating practitioners, educating children and young people, and educating parents and carers.

Further information: [Child sexual exploitation: definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation \(PDF\)](#)

[Child sexual exploitation: annexes to definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation \(PDF\)](#)

[Definition of child sexual exploitation: government consultation response \(PDF\)](#)

BBSCB and other partners have been working hard to increase awareness of CSE.

During November 2016 we went to all upper schools in Bedford Borough including independent and special schools to bring them performances from **AlterEgo** of Chelsea's Choice. We showed performances to over 2500 pupils. Evaluation from the schools has been pulled into a report which is available from the BBSCB Business Unit if you would like to see a copy.



CSE Strategy – [Click here for the Pan Beds CSE Strategy](#)

CSE Distruption toolkit – [Click here to be directed CSE distruption toolkit on the CSE page on our website](#)

What to do if you are worried:

If anyone thinks a child or young person is at risk of CSE you can ring the **Bedford Borough Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH)** on 01234 718700 (office hours) or 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/>

Pan Beds CSEG (Child Sexual Exploitation Group)

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 the same address applicable to any intelligence you might have for the Police.

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

Pan-Beds CSE Co-ordinator: Lisa Robinson Email:
lisa.robinson@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Child Sexual Exploitation Conference

'The More You Know, The More You See' – Child Sexual Exploitation Conference
Date: Thursday 28th September 2017, Venue: The Rufus Centre, Flitwick
Time: 9:30 – 4:30 (Registration 9:00 – 9:30). For more details please [click here](#)

BBC programme – 3 Girls

A BBC drama based on the Rochdale CSE case procasted week commencing the 15th May 2017. If you missed the 3 part programme you can catch it on iPlayer.
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08r8pvh/three-girls-series-1-episode-1>)

4. SAFER INTERNET/ ONLINE ABUSE

New offence – April 2017

Sexual Communication with a child under the age of 16 – new offence
Section 67 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 inserts a new offence into the Sexual Offences Act 2003, at section 15A, criminalising sexual communication with a child. This new classification criminalises conduct of an adult who intentionally communicates with a child under the age of 16 (whom the adult does not reasonably hold the belief for them to be aged 16 or over) with the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification if that communication is sexual in nature or it's intent is to encourage that child to make a communication that is sexual. Situations that will be covered by the offence include talking sexually to a child in an online chatroom, sexually explicit SMS text messages to a child along with inviting a child to communicate sexually (whether the invitation itself is sexual or not). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-201701-sexual-communication-with-a-child-implementation-of-s67-of-the-serious-crime-act-2015>

In the Net

In January 2017 the BBSCB commissioned 10 performances of 'In the Net' for Bedford Borough pupils in Years 4 and 5.

In the Net covered:-

- Safe Internet/Social Media Use

- Keeping personal information safe
- The effects of cyber-bullying on others
- What to do if you are being cyber-bullied
- What to do if you get that 'Uh Oh' feeling online
- What makes a 'healthy relationship'
- What to do if you have questions or concerns

These performances were hosted within Bedford Borough schools. In total 43 lower/ primary schools and 4 middle schools attended. In total 1868 pupils watched a performance. We asked each school that attended a performance to provide us with some feedback from a questionnaire we supplied. If you would like a copy of the feedback report please contact the BBSCB Business Unit.

NSPCC

New figures suggest parents don't know if their children are old enough to use social networks like Facebook or Snapchat. The majority of parents across the country don't know whether their children are old enough to be using social networks.

For more information click on these two links [Net Aware](#) and [Share Aware](#)



Awareness raising

'Blue Whale' challenge

Warning about the 'Blue Whale' challenge affecting children and young people. Parents and professionals are advised to be on their guard against a sick social media challenge which encourages youngsters to cut themselves. At its most extreme, the so-called 'Blue Whale' challenge encourages teenage suicide. Police say it is important to keep the scare in perspective. They say they are keen to give children and parents the latest information, rather than spreading panic.

Sayat.me

Sayat.me is a website where anybody can make their own page, and receive anonymous feedback on themselves from others. The website has recently been a trend among teenagers, who have often put their pages on their social media bios. Recently, sayat.me has been the source to the majority of cyber bullying among teenagers. Not only have people received anonymous hate messages on their own pages but have had pages set up in their name without knowing and received hate.

5. SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse prevention toolkit – February 2017

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has published a free online toolkit to help prevent children and young people from being sexually abused. Eradicating child sexual abuse (ECSA) is designed to be used in any part of the world, and enables professionals to: understand child sexual abuse; see solutions that others have used around the world; design a local plan that fits their needs.

Further information: [Welcome to the ECSA toolkit \(PDF\)](#)

Preventing child sexual abuse: video – February 2017

The NSPCC has launched a video exploring steps we can take to keep children safe from sexual abuse by thinking through the potential risks in children's daily lives and taking action to protect them. Examples include: ensuring babysitters have trusted references; ensuring robust safeguarding procedures are in place in schools and other organisations; and thinking about the physical environment, making sure children are kept safe by checking on areas that are infrequently used or left unsupervised.

Further information: [Preventing child sexual abuse \(video\)](#)

5. FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, FORCED MARRIAGE AND HONOUR BASED ABUSE

Pan Beds FGM, FM and HBA Strategy – [Click here for the Pan Beds FGM, FM and HBA Strategy](#)

FGM films for healthcare professionals – August 2016 - The Department of Health has published a set of films about female genital mutilation (FGM) for healthcare professionals. Topics covered include: the impact of FGM on mental health; mandatory reporting; personal experiences of FGM and how healthcare professionals can support victims. For the set of films click on [Department of Health](#) and **Further information:** [FGM resources for healthcare professionals](#)

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

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

6. 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](#) and [Local poster](#)

7. SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS (SCR)

BBSCB recently published a SCR on Baby Sama to see the report and Learning briefing [click here](#)

BBSCB is also working on several SCRs and a learning review which once completed will be placed 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 other SCRs concerning disabled children and neglect were published on the 23rd May 2016 and are on our website by clicking on the [click here](#).

8. SAFEGUARDING IN FAITH SETTINGS

The [NSPCC](#) has launched its multi-faith safeguarding hub, previously owned by Safe Network. With a wide range of information, toolkits, videos, and learning examples, this will enable those working in the faith sector to access resources and guidance on safeguarding in faith communities.

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](#)

9. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

On the 25th January 2017 the three Pan Bedfordshire LSCB's jointly hosted a half day Pan Bedfordshire Spotlight event on working with disabled children. The purpose of the event was for frontline professionals from all agencies to get an update on the latest local evidence around safeguarding disabled children, the strategies and support that is available to them and to identify how best to update our practice and our services. Feedback stated that the information given at the event was easily digestible and that it was helpful to discuss the topic in a multi-agency forum.

10. RADICALISATION

Support for parents worried about radicalisation

The [NSPCC](#) has published a short film encouraging parents to use its helpline to talk through any concerns they may have about their child being radicalised. Warning signs include: talking as if from a scripted speech; unwillingness or inability to discuss their views; a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others; increased secretiveness, especially around internet use. However, these signs do not necessarily mean a child is being radicalised.

Further information: [Parents worried about radicalisation](#)

11. ASEXUALITY

Childline has published a short film looking at asexuality and some of the myths surrounding it. The film is the first in a series of four published by Childline to mark LGBT history month.

[Click here for the short film](#)

12. DRUG MISUSE

Preventing drug misuse – February 2017

NICE has published a guideline aimed at preventing or delaying drug misuse by children, young people and adults who are most likely to start using drugs or who are already experimenting or using drugs occasionally. Recommendations include: skills training should be delivered to children and young people, as well as their carers or families; gyms, nightclubs and festivals should display posters and mount social media campaigns to highlight the risks of drug misuse.

Further information: [Drug misuse prevention: targeted interventions](#)

13. CUCKOOING

'Cuckooing' is the term used to describe the practice where professional drug dealers take over the property of a vulnerable person and use it as a place from which to run their drugs business.

The drug dealers will target those who are vulnerable, potentially as a result of substance abuse, mental health issues, or loneliness, and befriend them or promise them drugs in exchange for being able to use their property.

By using an unassuming property, criminals can operate their drugs supply out of sight in an attempt to stay below the Police radar. They are often only in the premises for a short amount of time before moving on to their next victim.

As the victims of cuckooing are vulnerable, they are often fearful of going to the Police and worry that they will be incriminated in the criminality.

There are also signs of cuckooing that you can look out for:

- It usually takes place in a multi-occupancy or social housing property
- There may be an increase in the number of comings and goings, including people you haven't seen before
- There might be new vehicles outside the property
- A possible increase in anti-social behaviour in and around the property

If you suspect that drug dealers are operating from a property near you, it's really important that you report it so that we can protect those who are vulnerable and ensure those responsible are brought to justice.

Call the Police on 101 (or 999 in an emergency) with as much information as possible.

14. PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE UPDATES

Click on the chapters below to see what the updates are.

Updated Chapters in April 2017 – [click here for all the April 2017 updates](#)

[Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation](#)

[Children Who Run Away or Go Missing/Absent From Home or Care](#)

[Single Assessment](#)

[Care and Supervision Proceedings and the Public Law Outline](#)

[Legal Planning Meetings](#)

[Placement Planning and Disruption Meetings](#)

[Placements in Secure Accommodation](#)

[Looked After Reviews](#)

[Applications for Special Guardianship Orders](#)

[Staying Put Supported and Staying Put Lodgings Carers](#)

[Case Records for Looked After Children \(including Retention\)](#)

New Chapters and Features in April 2017

[Complex Strategy Meetings - Practice Guide](#)

[Strategy Meetings - Practice Guide](#)

[Transfer Protocol - A Protocol for the Transfer of Cases between Teams within the Children's Social Care Service](#)

Updated Chapters in October 2016 [click here to go to the Online procedures update page](#)

15. NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS/UPDATES/GUIDANCE

The Children and Social Care Act – May 2017

The Children and Social Work Bill has become an act of parliament after receiving Royal Assent.

A series of reforms to social work in England will become law after the Children and Social Work Bill received Royal Assent.

The legislation is now an act of parliament – the Children and Social Work Act 2017 – after the Queen gave it her formal approval.

The Act enshrines in law a series of changes to the social work profession, including:

- The creation of a new organisation, Social Work England, to takeover from the HCPC as the profession's regulator.
- A requirement for the new regulator to obtain the education secretary's approval for professional standards.
- New powers for the education secretary to set 'improvement standards' for social workers, and introduce assessments for practitioners.

The legislation will also require councils to provide personal advisers to care leavers up to the age of 25.

[Click here for the full document](#)

NSPCC – New App – March 2017

Childline has launched an app that is the first to provide counselling to young people in need of help directly through their mobile devices. The app has been named 'For Me' to ensure that it can be discreetly installed. This means that if someone happens to see the young person's phone they can't tell it's a Childline service.

For more information visit the NSPCC website by clicking here

NSPCC - Childline urges boys to speak out about suicidal feelings – March 2017

Tough To Talk campaign encourages boys to seek help for the issues and problems they're facing. Boys are 6 times less likely than girls to talk to Childline

counsellors about suicidal thoughts. The new Tough To Talk campaign urges boys to speak out about their problems and reassures them they're not alone.

Recent figures show 1,934 Childline counselling sessions were delivered with boys in 2015/16 compared to 11,463 with girls. The suicide rate for boys aged 10-19 was more than double that for girls in 2015.

[Click here for more details on the NSPCC website](#)

Sexual Abuse - October 2016

The NSPCC is putting online sexual abuse in the spotlight to ensure children are given the same protection in the online world as they are offline. Two new reports have been published: the first explores how Childline, the NSPCC helpline and O2 are responding to children's and parents' concerns about content online; the second reviews current research around children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour online. The NSPCC is also calling on the government to expand the powers of the age verification regulator relating to pornographic sites as part of the Digital Economy Bill.

Further information: ["What should I do?" NSPCC helplines: responding to children's and parents' concerns about sexual content online \(PDF\)](#)
[A review of the research on children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour online \(PDF\)](#)

Domestic Abuse – September 2016

The NSPCC reports that, in the last 5 years, the number of adults calling the NSPCC Helpline with concerns about domestic abuse has increased by 75%. The NSPCC's Domestic abuse recovering together (DART) service, which provides a safe environment for children and their mothers rebuild their relationship following domestic abuse, is highlighted. Further information: [DART](#)

Sexting – September 2016

The NSPCC offers advice to professionals about how to respond to incidents of sexting. This include: writing a sexting policy and procedures; what to do if a young person makes a disclosure about sexting; increasing public and professional awareness of issues surrounding sexting. Further information: [NSPCC](#)

Grooming and unhealthy relationships – September 2016

ChildLine's new campaign, #ListenToYourSelfie, helps young people spot the signs of grooming and unhealthy relationships, both online and offline. New figures from ChildLine show that the number of counselling sessions for online sexual abuse worries rose last year by 24% to 3,716. Further information: [Healthy and unhealthy relationships](#)

Ready to be left home alone – October 2016

The NSPCC has created a tool to help parents decide whether or not their child is ready to be left home alone. It raises questions for parents to think about, helps them to prepare their child for being left, and considers alternatives. Further information: [NSPCC](#)

Children missing education – September 2016

The Department for Education has published updated guidance on identifying children who are missing education and helping them get back into it. Changes have been made to help local authorities and schools in England meet the recent changes to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. Key points include: children missing education are at significant risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation; effective information sharing between parents, schools and local authorities is critical to ensuring that all children of compulsory school age are safe and receiving suitable education. Further information: [Children missing education: statutory guidance for local authorities: September 2016 \(PDF\)](#)

Keeping children safe in education – September 2016

The Department for Education has updated its guidance on Keeping children safe in education. This includes changes to information for all staff and the management of safeguarding. A table of all changes has been provided as an appendix to the report. Further information: [Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance for schools and colleges: September 2016 \(PDF\)](#)

Coping with crying training – November 2016

The NSPCC has launched the UK's first tested programme to support new parents with their baby's crying and reduce the risk of non-accidental head injury. Online training for health visitors, midwives and children's centre staff covers: the risks

associated with babies that cry excessively; advice and guidance on how to support parents and keep babies safe; guidance on how to effectively implement Coping with crying and show the film to parents. Once completed, practitioners will have access to resources that will enable them to implement and deliver the programme. Further information: [Coping with crying](#)

16. MULTI AGENCY TRAINING – NOW PAN BEDFORDSHIRE

The Pan Bedfordshire LSCB's Board Training Unit brings together the three local authorities covering Bedfordshire: Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Councils.

Our training also enables employers to meet their legal and workforce development responsibilities for safeguarding children. We offer both classroom-based and e-learning opportunities, allowing you to improve your knowledge and skills in a way that best fits into your work schedule.

Our courses cover a wide range of areas including safeguarding, trafficking, modern slavery, FGM, honour-based violence, online safety, domestic abuse, parental mental illness, substance misuse, integrated working and information sharing and keeping disabled children safe.

The Pan Beds Training Strategy which was updated in October 2016 can be accessed on our training page, [click here](#)

The Pan Bedfordshire LSCB Learning & Training Framework 2016 - 2018 - [click here to see the latest version](#)

UPCOMING PAN BEDS LSCB TRAINING

Teenage Relationship Abuse

Monday 5th June from 9.15am to 4.30 at The Legrave Centre, Luton

Ensuring the Voice of the Pre Verbal Child Is Heard – Recording, Reporting, Care

Planning Workshop - ADVANCED *Course Pre-Requisite: Ensuring the Voice of the Pre Verbal Child Is Heard – Recording, Reporting, Care Planning Workshop
Monday 19th June from 9.30am – 12.30pm at King's House, Bedford

The Impact of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development

Wednesday 21st June from 9.30am – 4.30pm at Wrest Park, Silsoe

FGM Workshop - ADVANCED * Thursday 6th July from 1.00pm – 4.00pm at the Bedford Golf Club, Great Denham

Domestic Abuse - Impact on Children and Young People

Friday 14th July from 9.15am – 4.30pm at the Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine

Places can now be booked via CPD Online

www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/safeguarding You will need to select the 'Search Events' tab and request a place on the event you wish to attend.

Further spotlight events and conferences will be advertised in the near future

Further event details can be found on our website

www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/safeguarding

For enquiries please email LSCB.Training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 6676.

FREE Safeguarding E-Learning

We have over 35 E-Learning courses available, these are all free to complete. You are able to access online safeguarding awareness training by visiting our online training site: <https://bedfordshirelscb.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/> Please note there is a cancellation charge if the course is not completed within 4 weeks of requesting the course.

Some of our most highly recommended courses are those in the Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect Suite:

- Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect – Core - This course is suitable for everyone who works directly with children and young people, including frontline professionals. This course covers a variety of child protection and safeguarding children issues and is suitable for anyone who regularly comes into contact with children or who may be asked to contribute to the assessment of children in need.
- Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect – Foundation - Aimed at those who have direct contact with children.
- Introduction to Safeguarding - Aimed at those who have occasional contact with children and recommended as a minimum mandatory Induction learning activity for all LSCB partners employees and volunteers.

16. USEFUL CONTACTS

Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board

5th Floor, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, Mk42 9AP. Telephone: 01234 276512 Email: LSCB@bedford.gov.uk Website: www.bedford.gov.uk/lscb

Pan Bedfordshire training enquiries:

Telephone: 0300 300 6676 or Email: LSCB.Training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):

Karen Osborne - 01234 276693 / 276560 Email: 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

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.

