

Dear Colleagues

From now on I plan to send out regular bulletins. Any comments on content or ideas for the future much appreciated.

This bulletin focuses on:

- My priorities
- The BSCB “back to practice” model
- Safeguarding Champions
- Learning from the partnership review on Child H

### **My priorities**

The first 3 months of the year has been a busy time. I chaired Board meetings and the Action and Impact Group and also attended a meeting of the Serious Incidents Sub-group. As you know I am keen to make sure I get a clear line of sight to front line practice. Attending the weekly “Missing Meeting” and a Child Protection Conference review was a good opportunity to observe multi-agency working. I saw some good child centred work and was particularly impressed with how Signs of Safety provided a framework for all professionals to focus on strengths. I have followed up on issues from both meetings.

Jill May and I attended the Bexley Youth Council. The young people liked the idea of making “Keeping Yourself and Your Friends Safe” a BSCB campaign for 2016/17. The BSCB confirmed this at the March meeting and all agencies have agreed to undertake at least one promotional activity during 2016/17. More information in future bulletins. The young people’s views and stories about their emotional health and well being remains with me and I plan to follow this up through the Health and Well Being Board.

I will continue to focus on improving how we work with vulnerable young people. This is a personal priority and one which has been close to my heart since I started my career as a youth worker. I chaired a special meeting on working with young people in March. Thanks to everyone who attended for the reflective and purposeful input. Another item for follow up and I’ll keep people posted through this bulletin.

I have no doubt that the next few months will be as busy as the first three. A meeting has been arranged with the Chairs of the BSCB, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board. We’ll look at common and cross cutting issues and domestic violence will be top of my list. My visits over the next three months will have an “M” theme – the MASH – the MASE and the MARAC. I am determined to get a good draft of the Annual report 2015/16 completed by the end of May. We’ve made a good start on this by all members of the BSCB completing a questionnaire on achievements in 2015/16 and an assessment of performance on some key safeguarding issues. Thanks to everyone for completing this.

My main priority though will be to work with all of you to implement the “Back to Practice” BSCB model agreed by the BSCB in March.

### **The BSCB “back to practice” model**

At the March 2016 Board members agreed to adopt a “Back to Practice” model. Department for Education officials have been positive about this development. I’ve attached a 2 page briefing note which outlines the essential features – downloading information on multi-agency practice – reflection and analysis in the Learning Hub – making recommendations to the Quality and

Effectiveness Board who will make decisions– agreed changes being implemented including through priority tasks groups.

This is an exciting development which will give us all a clearer line of sight to practice and a much better knowledge of how well children and young people are being safeguarded in Bexley. We'll need to turn that knowledge into clear priorities for improvement and drive these through in order to make a difference. The action research done by the Quality and Audit Group on child protection plans gives me confidence that we have the knowledge, skills and commitment to make that difference and I look forward to working with everyone on making "Back to Practice" a reality. More information in future bulletins.

### **Safeguarding Champions**

Our Safeguarding Champions, designated safeguarding leads and others with key safeguarding responsibilities, are key to the new model. 4 events have been planned:

3 May	9.15 to 12.30pm
3 May	1.15 to 4.30pm
17 May	9.15 to 12.30pm
17 May	1.15 to 4.30pm

These events will all have the same programme which will be a balance between sharing information and listening to feedback and ideas for the future. Please contact Jan Blackburn – [jan.blackburn@bexely.gov.uk](mailto:jan.blackburn@bexely.gov.uk) - for more information about the Safeguarding Champions and booking places on the events.

### **Learning from the partnership review on Child H**

The March 2016 BSCB considered a report on the actions taken in response to a partnership review on Child H. Further work is taking place to ensure that changes made are impacting on practice. We'll also be sharing the learning more widely. As a start please find attached a 1 page briefing on the key learning points from the review.

I plan to highlight useful information and links in each bulletin. You'll find these at the end of the email.

I hope this bulletin has been an easy and informative read. As I said at the start I plan to produce these regularly. I'm still deciding how often. All feedback appreciated. Please circulate widely within your agency. This bulletin has been sent to BSCB members and to members of sub and task groups. Once we've finalised the Safeguarding Champions list they'll also be on the bulletin mailing list.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to make Bexley a safer place for children and young people.

With kind regards

Jane Shuttleworth

Independent Chair, Bexley Safeguarding Children Board.  
[janeshuttleworth@icloud.com](mailto:janeshuttleworth@icloud.com)

### **Useful links**

The Association of LSCBs website has useful information on the national work around LSCBs and safeguarding more generally: <http://www.lscbchairs.org.uk/>

Information on Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection Framework and on the CSE and missing 'Deep Dive Theme' Guidance is available by following the links below

Joint Targeted Area Inspection Framework and 'Deep Dive Theme' Guidance:  
[www.gov.uk/government/collections/joint-inspections-of-local-area-services](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/joint-inspections-of-local-area-services)

Ofsted Targeted Local Authority Inspection:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-targeted-inspections-of-local-authority-arrangements-and-services-for-children-in-need-of-help-and-protection](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-targeted-inspections-of-local-authority-arrangements-and-services-for-children-in-need-of-help-and-protection)

Guidance on the deep dive theme for Ofsted targeted inspection – child sexual exploitation and missing children:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-inspections-child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-children](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-inspections-child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-children)

[Ofsted revised policy and guidance for whistleblowers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whistleblowing-about-childrens-social-care-services-to-ofsted) - 'Whistleblowing to Ofsted about children's social care services'. You can access the policy here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whistleblowing-about-childrens-social-care-services-to-ofsted>