

Bexley Safeguarding Partnership for Children and Young People e-Bulletin

March 2019



Update on the partnership's second priority: Parental mental ill health

As part of the ongoing work on the partnership's second priority, *parental mental health*, Learning Hub members have been working with the partnership's operational team to identify and contact practitioners, families, parents, carers, children and young people who would be able to contribute to the discussion around the mental ill health of parents.

This will allow us to gather feedback from across the system, using one to one interviews, surveys, audits, questionnaires and feedback workshops, adding to the range of evidence already discussed at the first Learning Hub, which will help to inform the final recommendations to the Partnership Board in April.

Briefing sessions from April 2019

The partnership will continue to lead monthly briefing sessions on key topics and legislation for staff. The schedule and topics for 2019-20, starting from April, is listed below:

2019

24th April – Partnership Arrangements – **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

29th May – Working Together 2018 and Statutory Responsibilities **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

26th June – Effective Support

24th July – Core Groups and Conferences

25th September – Signs of Safety

23rd October – Partnership Arrangements

27th November – Working Together 2018 and Statutory Responsibilities

2020

22nd January – Effective Support

26th February – Core Groups and Conferences

25th March - Signs of Safety

Details on how to book on to briefings from June 2019 will be made available in the next e-Bulletin.

Safer Sleeping Week 2019

11-17th March 2019 is [Safer Sleeping Week](#). Organised by the Lullaby Trust, it aims to raise awareness of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and the proven advice on how parents can reduce the risk of it occurring.

As part of our commitment to raising awareness of this important issue, **we have updated our one page [briefing note for professionals on Reducing the risk of sudden infant death](#) to emphasise the importance of seeing where the baby will sleep, so the sleeping environment can be observed and the key messages made more relevant for families.**

The Lullaby Trust has also produced some useful resources for practitioners: [Sudden infant Death Syndrome: a guide for professionals](#). This resource has been written for all professionals working with families with young babies, giving the most up-to-date advice on safe infant care with the aim to reduce the risk of sudden infant death. There is also a [guide for parents](#) and a [London briefing](#).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness Day 2019

18 March 2019 is [National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day](#). Coordinated by NWG (a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 14,500 practitioners) the day aims to highlight the issues surrounding CSE; encouraging **everyone** to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with other children.

Bexley Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day Event - 18 March 2019
Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day 2019 will be marked in Bexley with a Marketplace event in the Council Chambers from 10am-1pm.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse and everyone has a responsibility to safeguard. The Marketplace event will offer the opportunity for colleagues across the partnership to raise their awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and seek advice and guidance from a range of agencies.

We would encourage everyone to attend. No booking necessary. If you would like further information or if you would like to have a stall at the event, please contact Hannah Porter, Children's Social Care's CSE and Missing Lead - Hannah.Porter@bexley.gov.uk .



Child sexual exploitation: Department for Education definition and guidance

Ahead of National Child Sexual Exploitation Day 2019, we are taking the opportunity to re-publicise the Department for Education's (DfE) definition of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and [guide for all practitioners and managers](#).

DfE definition of Child Sexual Exploitation:

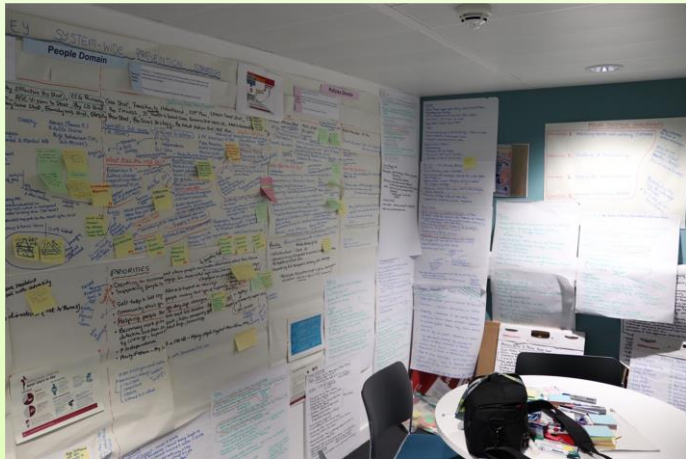
“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

DfE guide on Child Sexual Exploitation

The [advice for practitioners working with children](#) includes: the 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.

Bexley System-wide Prevention Strategy update

Work continues on the Bexley System-wide Prevention Strategy, led by Bexley's Director of Public Health, Dr Anjan Ghosh. Over 100 individuals and organisations have visited "The Lab" at the Civic Offices (see picture below), to give their views on what needs to be done to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of Bexley residents in the most effective way, especially during a time of public sector austerity.



"The Lab"

All of the ideas generated have now been analysed and are being prioritised within an action plan, with a focus on those which will make the most positive difference to people in Bexley and those which will help us avoid unnecessary future expenditure. The actions are now being agreed with those individuals, departments or organisations who will lead on them. The strategy itself will shortly be released for public consultation, following which it will return to the Bexley Health & Wellbeing Board and then to Public Cabinet and related statutory bodies for discussion and adoption.

Multi-agency Escalation policy

In case you missed it, when we [published out new arrangements](#) at the end of last year, we also updated the Multi-agency escalation policy (Section 12 of the document).

If there are serious differences of views on how best to manage risk and safeguarding, and protect vulnerable children and young people, then the [Multi-agency escalation policy](#) can provide a useful framework for exploring and resolving professional disagreements.

Differences and debates are all part of multi-agency working. Agencies will have their own escalation policies and should use these first. However, if it has not been possible to resolve professional differences between agencies, relating to safeguarding children, then this can be brought to the attention of the Working Group of the three partners via [Amanda Gillard](#), Practice Review and Learning Manager. See the [Multi-agency escalation policy](#) for full details of how this policy operates.

Resolving professional differences will be included in the briefing sessions on Core Groups and Conferences (see above). This will comprise discussion on how to escalate appropriately and having the confidence to challenge respectfully when you don't agree with a colleague.

New perinatal mental health service launched on 28/02/19

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust has recently launched a [new specialist community perinatal mental health service](#) for women in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich. The service, previously only available in Bromley, offers assessment and treatment for women with complex and severe mental illness during pregnancy and up to a year after child birth.

The team, who are based at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup, include consultant psychiatrists, psychologists, specialist perinatal nurses, a social worker, occupational therapist, nursery nurses and administrators. They work closely with midwives, obstetricians, health visiting, other secondary mental health services and children's social care. There are also close links with GPs, Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services and third sector organisations (including Cocoon, MIND, and Mums Aid).

A referral form can be found on the [service's web page](#) which has a more detailed overview of the support available.

A member of the service is available 9-5pm, during working hours to provide advice to professionals. The service does not offer crisis or emergency care.

REMINDER Free Online Safeguarding Children Training

A reminder that there is free online safeguarding children training available to all staff and volunteers working in Bexley. A comprehensive update of the online course was undertaken in 2017 to ensure the content reflects the latest approaches to practice issues.

Safeguarding Children – Level 1 must be completed by all staff and volunteers working in Bexley. This includes staff and volunteers who have occasional contact with children and young people.

The course is comprised of 5 modules which each take between 10-30 minutes to complete, and counts towards your Continuing Professional Development (CDP).

To access the course, please login or self-register [here](#).

National reports and guidance

Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners, Department for Education

This [advice](#) is for practitioners and senior managers. It helps them decide when and how to share personal information legally and professionally. It replaces 'Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (2015)'.

Improving children's experiences of disclosure

The NSPCC has published practical resources to help adults who work with children better respond to disclosures of abuse. Key points included in [Let children know you're listening](#): help the young person open up by giving your full attention and reassuring them; slow down - let the child go at their own pace; reflect back what the child has said to show you understand.

Online safeguarding: early years

The UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) has published guidance to help early years settings [managers](#) and [practitioners](#) ensure that their online safeguarding practice is in line with statutory requirements and best practice. The guidance includes: a checklist of current statutory guidance with key questions to help early years managers reflect and evidence their existing practice; and resources which can be used by practitioners in early years settings to safeguard children, parents and themselves as professionals online.

Link to previous e-Bulletins

Previous e-Bulletins are available [here](#).