

## Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. e-Bulletin

July 2019



### New partnership name – Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D.

The Youth Council have helped us with choosing the new name for our partnership. In April, their collective thinking came up with S.H.I.E.L.D. which our three safeguarding partners all agreed was a brilliant suggestion. The name S.H.I.E.L.D. is made up of 6 values or behaviours that members of the Youth Council thought should be at the core of the partnership's work. A final logo design incorporating the name S.H.I.E.L.D. has been voted on by the Youth Council and was approved at the Partnership Board on 8<sup>th</sup> July. This will be shared with the wider partnership as part of the communications plan. With thanks to the Youth Council and Chris Lee, Participation Officer for their enthusiasm and commitment to this work.



Shelter  
Haven  
Inspiring  
Empowering  
Leading  
Defending

### Update on priority 3 – getting basic child protection right

An update on the partnership's third priority – *getting basic child protection right* – was provided in the partnership's last e-bulletin (June 2019 edition). The priority's next Learning Hub comprised a series of workshops which were held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and focused on 5 of the practice issues we are trying to 'fix'. The Hub also took stock of how actions relating to the other practice issues are being progressed with the aim to complete all of the 'fixing' activity by the end of August 2019.

## Making referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) - REMINDER

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) manages allegations and concerns about people who are paid or who volunteer to work with children in Bexley. **The LADO must be contacted without delay and within one working day** in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

A leaflet explaining the LADO process and a referral form can be downloaded from the safeguarding partnership website [here](#). Please contact the LADO if you want to talk about whether you should make a referral. The Bexley LADO is James McMillan and his full contact details can be found on the website (at the above link).

## Private fostering - what is your responsibility as a professional?

In your direct work with families, does someone else's child live with them, or are they considering this? Is their child living with someone else? If either of these are the case, they may be part of a Private Fostering arrangement and they need to make the Council aware.

Private fostering is very different from the care of children provided by the Council or independent fostering agencies through Approved Foster Carers. It happens when a child under 16 years old - or under 18 if the child has a disability - is cared for full-time by an adult who is not a relative\* and is provided with accommodation for more than 28 days.

Common private fostering situations can include:

- Children living with a friend's family as a result of parental separation, divorce or arguments at home
- Children whose parents' study or work involves unsuitable hours that make it difficult for them to use ordinary day-care or after-school care
- Teenagers living with the family of a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend
- Children sent to the UK for education or health care by birth parents from overseas
- Asylum seeking and refugee children.
- Children living with host families for a variety of reasons.

**Education, health and social care professionals are often the people who are in contact with these children and can play a vital role in explaining to private foster carers and parents their responsibility to notify the local authority of their private fostering arrangement.**

**If you suspect a child is being privately fostered, encourage the parent or carer to contact Bexley Children's Social Care on 020 8303 7777 for advice. You should also [notify Bexley's Children's Social Care](#) yourself.**

*\*The Children Act defines a relative as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt. They could be a full or half relation and could be related by marriage. The term also includes a stepparent. The cohabitee of the mother or father would not qualify as a relative, nor would extended family such as great aunts, great uncles or parent's cousins.*

## Safeguarding partnership briefing events

The S.H.I.E.L.D. partnership will continue to lead monthly 1-hour briefing sessions on key topics and legislation for staff. The schedule and topics for 2019-20, is listed below:

### 2019

24<sup>th</sup> July – Core Groups and Conferences **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

25<sup>th</sup> September – Signs of Safety **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

23<sup>rd</sup> October – Partnership Arrangements **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

27<sup>th</sup> November – Working Together 2018 and Statutory Responsibilities **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

### 2020

22<sup>nd</sup> January – Effective Support **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

26<sup>th</sup> February – Core Groups and Conferences **To book a place, please click [here](#)**

25<sup>th</sup> March – Signs of Safety **To book a place, please click [here](#).**

## Domestic abuse training 2019-20

Booking is still open for a range of domestic abuse training sessions as listed in the new [Training Prospectus for 2019-20](#).

You can also directly book/express interest in the following 2 courses:

### **Introduction to domestic abuse awareness & and Routine Enquiry, Level 2**

A half-day training session to introduce you to routine enquiry and responding to domestic abuse. Participants will understand how to describe the different forms of domestic abuse and what professionals response should be. Participants will know where to signpost victims to in relation to support.

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2019** - All sessions will take place at Bexley Civic Offices.

**To book a place, please click [here](#).**

### **Domestic Abuse Dynamics, Risk Identification & Assessment (DASH) Level 3**

A comprehensive 1-day training that covers different types of abuse, stalking and harassment, routine enquiry, Johnsons Typology, DASH risk assessment, MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) and safety planning. This training is suitable for any professional who work directly with or manage staff who regularly case manage and assess children, young people and / or families who are experiencing or affected by domestic abuse. This includes Family Support Workers, Social Workers, housing officers, police officers, youth workers, Domestic Abuse Workers, teachers, safeguarding leads, health visitors, hospital staff and practitioners working in Early Years settings, adult social care & front line workers.

We are pleased to announce new dates have now been added to DASH training programme:

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**All sessions will take place at Bexley Civic Offices. To book a place, please click [here](#)**

Again, spaces are limited so be sure to sign up quickly!

## Learning from reviews event – 13<sup>th</sup> September – **SAVE THE DATE**

The S.H.I.E.L.D. partnership are running a Learning from reviews event on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September focusing on the themes and recommendations identified from our recent Serious Case Review (see the briefing note [here](#)) and local learning reviews. Topics for this event will cover the following key areas:

- Working with fathers / family relationships
- Communication with families and supporting them through the process of involvement
- Escalation processes
- Professional curiosity
- Strategy meetings and discussions
- Management of differential diagnoses
- Child protection procedures

If you are interested in attending this event, please **save the date** & remember to look out for how to sign up in next month's bulletin!

## S.H.I.E.L.D. partnership conference – 14<sup>th</sup> October – **SAVE THE DATE**

The S.H.I.E.L.D. partnership are holding a one-day conference on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October to share the learning from our Year 1 priorities and to launch our work for Year 2. We are pleased to confirm that we will be joined by Dr Danya Glaser (who has previously worked at University College London) and Mark Finnis (Director, L30 Relational Systems).

Please **save the date** – full details about the conference including how to sign up for the event will be included in next month's bulletin!

## Introduction to Signs of Safety for partners – 24<sup>th</sup> October – **SAVE THE DATE**

Our colleagues from the Signs of Safety team will be running an event on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 10am-4pm, Bexley Civic Offices.

### **Session outline:**

- What is Signs of Safety?
- How can I use it in my work?
- What do I do if I'm worried about a child or young person?
- How to make a referral
- How does Children's Social Care make a decision about what to do next?
- What's my role if I'm part of a family's support network or safety plan?

If you are interested in attending this event, please **save the date** & remember to look out for how to sign up in next month's bulletin!

## National reports and guidance

### Home Office PSHE lesson plans on knife crime, June 2019

The Home Office has released new **Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lesson plans** designed to tackle knife crime for schools in England. The plans will help teachers challenge the myths around knife crime and feature real life case studies.

### NHS England sets out 'care for young carers' offer in GP surgeries, June 2019

NHS England has **released details about a package of services** which GP practices in England can adopt to help young carers in their community. Measures outlined include: keeping an up-to-date carers register, to offer carers a regular health check and anxiety and mental health screening, and setting up systems to track patterns of appointments in young people coming to the surgery with an adult, to proactively try to identify young carers.

## [Link to previous e-bulletins](#)

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