



NEWSLETTER – JULY 2016

Introduction from Annie Callanan, Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) Independent Chair

I am pleased to introduce our latest Newsletter and to do so following a year of significant challenge as the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) worked hard, across all organisations, to pull together and to make sure we built a strong Board, underpinned with strong partnerships, with engagement from all sectors and a straightforward way of working. That approach helps us identify issues that need our challenge and our support to improve services to children and their families in Bromley, to make sure services that protect and support children in the Borough are the best they possibly can be.

We are responding to the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care Services and to the inspection of ourselves as a Safeguarding Children's Board. As Children's Social Care work hard to improve their services, we as a Board also have work to do to improve how we operate and to work much more closely together to maximise our impact and to improve our own work as a Board.

We will as we move into the next year, work together to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of services to the most vulnerable children. Our priorities will focus on scrutinising and supporting effective work to identify children and young people vulnerable to sexual exploitation, children who are in the care of the Local Authority, children who are missing and children vulnerable to female genital mutilation (FGM).

The recent Government Review of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards has looked at different ways in which Safeguarding Children can be tested for effectiveness and coordinated across all services. The review recognises the fact that those organisations holding responsibility for provision of services to support children and their families will continue to need effective arrangements for ensuring those services are of the highest possible quality. My own view of this is that it is essential we work together as a Board so that the outcomes of any decisions taken in Bromley about Governance of services to children and their families, is built by professionals at the highest levels working in partnership, leading front line services, with insight informed by high quality, timely information and analyses the quality of those services.

In all of our work we will continue to scrutinise and support the establishment of high quality services to children and their families in Bromley so that services meet the needs of those who use them, whatever and wherever those services are.

I have appreciated the support of colleagues across the sector in my work as Chair and look forward, with colleagues, to meeting the challenges ahead.

Also in this edition:

Page 3 Things to Know, Signs of Safety Child Protection Conferences and Multi-Agency Case Audits

Page 4 Private Fostering and Bromley FGM Protocol

Page 5 Breast Ironing and BSCB Annual Conference November 2016

Page 6 BSCB Consultation with Young People and The Child House model

Page 7 Learning from Serious Case Reviews

Page 8 BSCB's Escalation Policy and LADO Contact Details for Allegations against Staff Referrals

Page 9 BSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme and Did you know...

Page 10 BSCB Contact Details and BSCB Sub Groups

Things to Know

- Child Death Overview Panel secure email address: cdop@bromley.gcsx.gov.uk
- New forms for CAF referrals and CAF reviews/Team Around the Child minutes were agreed by BSCB on 13 July following a successful trial with five schools. These forms now fully support the Signs of Safety methodology, which is the model of safeguarding children now used in Bromley. You can find these forms [here](#).
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referral form can be found on the BSCB website under Documents: '[Referral Into Social Care](#)'. It now provides a new secure email address and has been amended to fully incorporate the Signs of Safety model.

Signs of Safety Child Protection Conferences

As agencies will be aware, Bromley has been rolling out the Signs of Safety model in all areas of social work. Agencies are likely to have come across the model when attending child protection case conferences and will be getting used to the key elements such as scaling and contributing to clear Danger and Safety statements.

The format for agencies to prepare their reports in to conference has been redesigned and simplified using the model and this will be rolled out from September and will be available on the BSCB website. All agencies working with the family must complete a report, share with the family before the conference and send it in to child.protection@bromley.gov.uk **2 working days** before an Initial CPC and 5 working days before a Review CPC.

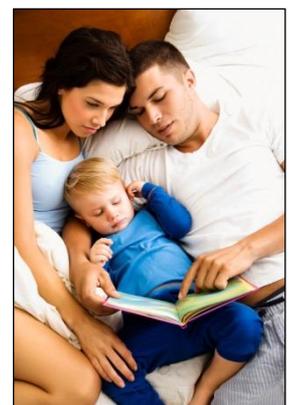
Child Protection Chairs from the Quality Improvement Unit will be offering regular training for all agencies about the use of the model in CPCs beginning in September. This will be a half day training and will be advertised soon. Please come along.

Multi-Agency Case Audits

As part of the BSCB's functions, the Board monitors the effectiveness of multi-agency work. Various themes are agreed during the year which are linked to our Business Plan or have arisen through other audit work or the findings of a case review.

Agencies are asked to complete an audit tool on a selection of cases and the results are drawn together in a report which is presented to the BSCB Quality Assurance & Performance Monitoring Sub Group. Through discussion of the findings and recommendations a series of actions are agreed to improve policy and practice.

These actions are then monitored so that we can support positive development and make sure we are making improvements.



Domestic Violence

Auditors found examples of effective multi agency working in most cases. There was emphasis on impact and outcomes and multi agency meetings were well attended and the importance of a joined up approach understood by all those who agencies who took part in the audit.

Basic information was up to date and recorded very well in the vast majority of records with only a couple of omissions in regards to this. Overall, agencies contributed well to assessments and provided their own updates at meetings which were detailed and contained analysis.

There was evidence of purposeful communication between agencies between review periods.

However, multi-agency plans were not always clear regarding what the desired outcomes are and this needs to be tightened up to measure progress more effectively. Strategy discussions were not always multi-agency and specialist DV services (e.g. MARAC, Women's Aid) were not always well referenced on agency files. Management oversight was generally not well evidenced on the files and more formal processes such as the LSCB escalation policy should be more widely used among partner agencies when they have concerns about a child.

Private Fostering

When a child is being looked after for 28 days or more by a:

- Cousin
- Neighbour
- Family friend
- Someone who is not a close relative (a close relative is a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt)

It is known as a Private Fostering Arrangement, by law the London Borough of Bromley need to know about it.

If you know about a Private Fostering Arrangement you should contact the Referral and Assessment team on 02084643333. You can also find out more information by visiting www.bromley.gov.uk/privatefostering

Bromley FGM Protocol

The Bromley Multi Agency Female Genital Mutilation Protocol has been published and is available to download [here](#).

There is also a one-page referral flowchart for children, pregnant women and adult women, which can be downloaded and printed [here](#).

The BSCB recommends the Home Office/Virtual College's FGM online training module to everyone who works with children in Bromley. The training is free and provides a good overview of this harmful cultural practice, together with advice on what to look out for that a girl may be at risk or has already been cut. Registration for the training is simple and you do not need to complete the module in one sitting. <https://fgmelearning.co.uk/>

Department of Health FGM Prevention Programme

As we near the start of the summer school holidays when the numbers of girls taken outside of the UK to be cut increases, the DoH is raising awareness of the severe health implications of FGM for those living in UK who are members of communities affected by FGM. They are using TV advertising to directly reach out to communities with this message.

The film features a roundtable table discussion led by Henry Bonsu, a well-known British African broadcaster, together with a panel of experts all speaking openly and candidly about FGM. Alongside the film, they have produced some short social media videos which are being distributed via Facebook.

The film will be broadcast on several UK African satellite TV channels from 9 – 31 July. You can view the video, called 'FGM: The Facts' on NHS Choices – www.nhs.uk/fgm or you may have seen it on Vox Africa this morning where it premiered at 11:58 am.

You can promote this campaign via your own channels, sharing the video and using social media help the campaign reach further;

Breast Ironing

Breast ironing is a harmful traditional practice which involves massaging or pressing the breasts of adolescent girls by using a stone, a hammer or a spatula heated over coals in order to suppress and reverse their development. It is widely spread in West African countries such as Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Togo, Benin, and Guinea-Conakry but also occurs in some regions of East and Central Africa. There is concern amongst women's groups that the practice has been brought to the UK and occurs in some communities.

As with Female Genital Mutilation, this is a form of child abuse and therefore can be reported to the Bromley Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub to be managed under child protection procedures. More information on the practice can be found [here](#).

BSCB Annual Conference November 2016

SAVE THE DATE – 1st November 2016 – The Warren

This year's BSCB Annual Conference will be 'Safeguarding Children and Young People in a Digital World'. The key note speaker will be from CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre). The day will also include presentations and workshops from the Predatory Offenders Unit, the Police Counter Terrorism Unit in Bromley, The Breck Foundation, Bromley Youth Council and ChildNet. We have had excellent feedback about some of the speakers from other areas and expect this will be a very informative and useful day. The cost this year will be £120 and this includes lunch and refreshments.

More information will be coming out in August. Check our website for booking information. www.bromleysafeguarding.org

BSCB Consultation with Young People

A priority of the BSCB is to get out in to the community and talk with children and young people about their experiences and views of safeguarding issues. In March 2016, the BSCB was delighted to take up the invitation from the Youth Offending Service to hold the quarterly Board meeting at their base. The BSCB was also delighted to hold a consultation with 5 young people at the service. The Board explained the role of the BSCB and asked the students who they would talk to if they felt unsafe, what issues young people are facing, whether services are accessible and understood. We also were very keen to find out what methods are most effective in communicating with young people.

The most significant issues that the young people raised were linked to fitting in, boredom, and sex education. The feedback provided by the young people was really helpful in identifying their concerns and helps to inform the priorities of the BSCB's constituent partners.

On 9 June, the BSCB Business Manager worked with the Bromley Youth Council (BYC) to feed our Bromley young people's ideas about the new sexual abuse services model for London (Child House model) to the commissioner, NHS England. The BYC were also consulted about the content of this year's BSCB Annual Conference and the new BCSB website which is due to be launched in October 2016.

The BSCB very much appreciate the honesty, engagement and willingness of young people in the borough to give up their time to speak to us. These are small, but important opportunities for us to meet young people. The BSCB will pull together the themes from the various consultations it carries out with different groups over the year to inform its priorities and hold agencies to account for safeguarding children in Bromley.

The Child House model

The Child House model is a multiagency service model for children and young people following sexual abuse or exploitation (CSA/CSE). The model was recommended in 2015 by the "*Review of child sexual abuse services in London*" and by the Children's Commissioner for England. The Review also recommended the establishment of a Children and Young People's Havens service (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) and the creation of sector-level CSA Hubs as a first step towards the Child House model.

Nationally momentum is building with support for the model from the Ministry of Justice, Home Office, Department of Health (DH), NHS England (London), Mayor's Office of Police and Crime (MOPAC), the Metropolitan Police and the Criminal Justice System. Hong Tan and Dr Andrea Goddard have been selected by DH/NHS England to represent England in the EU Promise project. This project aims to implement of the Child House model across Europe over the next two years.

In 2016/17, progress has been made towards establishing CSA Hubs in London's five geographical sectors. CCGs from South East, North Central and North West London have used CAMHS transformation funds to invest in a demand and capacity mapping project of CSA/CSE services.

The South East sector group includes the boroughs of Greenwich, Bexley, Lewisham, Southwark and Bromley. In the South East Sector:

- The Paediatricians conducting CSA medical examinations in the sector are supportive of working together as a CSA Hub should funding become available

- 4 of the 6 South East CCGS have funded demand and capacity mapping to be completed in July 2016
- Guy's and St Thomas's Charitable Fund are funding a feasibility study for South East London to be completed by November 2016. The study will identify and architecturally design suitable premises for a Child House in the sector. The study will also create a detailed costing of the Child House with the opportunity for applying for phase 2 funding of the model in November 2016.
- A multiagency co-design workshop ran in February 2016 with more than 60 professionals attending. A smaller multiagency group is now working to develop the detail of the Child House model for the sector.
- Engagement with children and young people is ongoing with consultations already conducted with Youth Parliaments in Greenwich and Bromley Youth Parliaments, Greenwich in Care Council, and Lewisham Youth Offenders Participation Group.

Learning from Serious Case Reviews

In July 2016, the BSCB held a multi-agency lunchtime briefing, attended by 45 people regarding learning from national serious case reviews (SCRs). The briefing focused on neglect and balancing the needs of the parent with the needs of the children. The full presentation can be found on the BSCB website [here](#). It provided a good opportunity for discussion about information sharing, clarity of wording included in referrals and the importance of building chronologies whenever you have a concern about a child.

The BSCB's Case Review Sub Group meets quarterly to progress Serious Case Reviews or Learning Reviews which can provide useful learning across agencies. It also looks at other national SCRs to identify learning points.

In February, Greenwich LSCB published an SCR called 'Child T'. The subject was a 15 year old girl who committed suicide by hanging at her school. Full information on the case is available on their website [here](#). Advice and learning for practitioners should be shared in training and supervision, as follows:

- Child T was guarded and chose to share different pieces of information with different people so the whole picture was hard to see. This highlighted the **importance of effective information sharing** within a school setting.
- As Child T was doing well in school her **troubled history had become hidden** until closer to her death which meant that links with her self-harm and previous experiences may not have been made early enough.
- Make sure that you are **familiar with policies and practice guidance in relation to self-harm**. If a young person tells you they are self-harming **share this information** with your designated safeguarding lead
- Where problems are complex with a number of different practitioners involved, convene **Team Around the Child** meetings to share information
- Make sure that you are familiar with **children's histories** to ensure that they get the right type of support when problems emerge.



BSCB's Escalation Policy

Generally there is a good working relationship between agencies, but occasionally there will be a difference of professional views. Staff across all partner agencies are reminded of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board's Escalation Policy. The aim of this document is to inform the quick resolution of cases where a child or young person may be at risk of significant harm and agencies cannot agree a way forward. BSCB's Escalation Policy was updated in October 2015. To view a copy of the protocol and relevant forms, go to: [BSCB webpage](#)

LADO Contact Details for Allegations against Staff Referrals

How to respond to an allegation against a member of staff working with children.

If you receive information to suggest a member of staff 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 s/he would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children

Please report the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) by calling:
0208 461 7669 / 0208 313 4325

Or emailing [**LADO@bromley.gov.uk**](mailto:LADO@bromley.gov.uk) or [**lado@bromley.qcsx.gov.uk**](mailto:lado@bromley.qcsx.gov.uk)
Children's Social Care Out of hours Emergency Duty Team: 0300 303 8671

Please do not:

- Investigate the allegation
- Ask leading questions
- Promise confidentiality
- Discuss the allegation with the accused person even if you have to suspend them

Please do ensure:

- If the child is injured the parents are advised and medical attention is sought
- The child and other relevant children are safeguarded from any potential risk of harm

IF IN DOUBT SPEAK TO THE LADO

Bromley's Protocol for Dealing with Allegations against Staff can be found on the [BSCB website](#).

BSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme



The BSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme 2016-17 is available on the BSCB website. We have 27 different courses this year plus many more free e-learning courses.

Go to [BSCB Training](#) to view the courses and other information on the current training programme, contact details and how to apply are set out, including the application form and costs (if applicable).

The training programme is available to staff working in statutory, independent and voluntary agencies in Bromley. Multi-agency training is an excellent way to understand our partners better, make useful contacts and improve communications. The BSCB expects all professionals working with children and young people in Bromley to undertake some multi-agency safeguarding training.

Did you know...

The BSCB sees every licensing application (for new applications and variations to existing licenses) to Bromley Council? We are able to raise objections if we believe children/young people may not be protected from harm by the applicant.

We require anyone selling alcohol in the borough to 'Challenge 21' or 'Challenge 25' to see an approved form of identification proving age and to keep a log of all refusals. We have asked for staff in a local establishment to have DBS checks before working with young people, and have asked the CSE Team to visit premises to train their staff about risk signs that children are being sexually exploited. We work with London Borough of Bromley's Licensing team and Trading Standards team as well as the police to ensure children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted.

BSCB Contact Details

Annie Callanan, Independent Chairperson

Kerry Davies and Joanna Gambhir,
Business Managers (job share)

020 8461 7563 and 020 8461 7041

kerry.davies@bromley.gov.uk
joanna.gambhir@bromley.gov.uk

Hazel Blackman, Business Support Officer

0208 461 7816

hazel.blackman@bromley.gov.uk

Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)
Address: Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

Web: www.bromleysafeguarding.org

Email: bscb@bromley.gov.uk

bscb1@bromley.gcsx.gov.uk

BSCB Sub Groups

Here is an update on the recent work of the BSCB sub groups:

Training Sub Group:

- Audit of single agency training now completed.
- Training Evaluation for 2015/16 complete.
- 'Mystery shopping' of training courses continues with improvements made subsequently.
- Evaluation scores and impact of learning for staff continues to be high
- Number of schools attending training has increased from 136 to 250
- FGM training modules investigated with Virtual College chosen as most effective for all professionals/children's workforce.
- Joint training session for CSC and Health staff on child sexual abuse well attended and well evaluated.

Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Sub Group

- Audit action plan amalgamated to one action plan covering last four audits and Serious Case Review. This is a live document and is regularly reviewed.
- Performance dataset continues to be improved and was robustly challenged at a multi-agency workshop. Principles were agreed for information and a small working group met for first time on 6 July to challenge every indicator in our dataset and whether it was needed by the Board.
- Vast improvement in data returns from agencies with hard work acknowledged.

Policy and Procedures Sub Group

- FGM Protocol ratified and disseminated with good feedback
- CSE Protocol final draft is due to be ratified
- Parental Mental Health Protocol due to be ratified
- Proposals put forward for a multi-agency information sharing protocol

Vulnerable Children Sub Group

An in depth look at multi-agency work around child sexual exploitation and missing children, identifying areas for development and making recommendations to the Board. The Vulnerable Children Sub Group will play a key role in scrutinising the elements relating to CSE/Missing/Gangs in the Ofsted improvement plan.