



**Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board**

What does the LSCB do?

The LSCB is an independent body made up of representatives from the range of agencies that work with children and young people. There are also six sub groups of the LSCB. There are lay members who also sit on the board and there are links with Children and Young People's Equalities group, so ensuring the voice of children and young people is heard.

Welcome to the May 2015 issue of the B&NES LSCB e-newsletter

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CSE and the Willow Project

B&NES has now developed a frontline response to at risk and victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Through the development of the Willow Project and the links with BASE (Bristol Against Sexual Exploitation) CSE victims are offered support dependent on their level of need.

The Willow Project is a multi-agency/multi-disciplinary team made up of five professionals (8 more will be trained during June and July) who have been trained to work with young people at risk of or involved in CSE. All of the team have a substantive role in another service within B&NES and are working half a day a week in the Willow Project to support young people. There have been a number of young people referred into the project and they have all been allocated a Willow worker who will work with the young person for as long as is needed. The aim of the project is to support, advocate and provide time to potential victims and victims of CSE.

Early Help in Bath and North East Somerset

Following on from our successful stakeholder Event in Nov 2014 the Early Help Agenda has been moving on..

1. Context

Early Help is understood to mean 'providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life', as defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013).

Bath and North East Somerset Council continues to make good progress in embedding the common assessment framework. Numbers have continued to rise year-on-year:

- 2012-2013 360
- 2013-2014 454
- 2015-2015 501

The workforce is supported by two Assessment and Information Officers who deliver training and coaching as part of the Integrated Working Team. Team Around the Child/Family activity is well-embedded to take forward integrated packages of support.

The Early Help agenda is endorsed and owned by the LSCB. Reports are provided to the LSCB on a quarterly basis and areas of concern owned by the board and sub-groups.

The Integrated Working Team links closely with the LSCB training team to ensure that Early Help processes are an integral part of all safeguarding training. In 2015, additional training is being provided to address emerging developmental needs in terms of the quality of common assessments and will cover:

- Assessment skills
- Cycle of change
- Voice of the child
- Challenging conversations

A multi-agency common assessment Quality Assurance group meets quarterly to review a sample of common assessments and provide feedback to assessors and their managers across the workforce and this has informed the revised training offer.

Processes are in place to collate review/impact information centrally via the Integrated Working Team. Evidence is being gathered at an early stage which indicates improvements in area such as successful transition to school, improved behaviour in school and improved family relationships. Of the information returned to the central team, in the year 2014-2015, 69% evidenced improved outcomes as a result of Early Help processes and service delivery.

The Integrated Working Team, along with the Family Information Service, can also support in advising on relevant services that may be able to support children, young people and families once needs have been identified.

2. Development of the a multi- agency Early Help Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset

The annual LSCB stakeholder day was held in November 2014 with the theme of Early Help. It was agreed at this event that we would develop a multi-agency Early Help Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset. An Early Help group comprising a broad range of stakeholders and partners has been established to take this work forward. This will include developing a shared definition and understanding of Early Help across the workforce, along with a set of underlying principles and priorities which will improve outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families in Bath and North East Somerset.

3. A brief overview of services to deliver early help:

The provision of universal information to families with children and young people aged 0-25 is provided by the family Information service (FIS) through a variety of channels such as face-to-face, telephone, web and outreach support.

There is a wide range of provision which can provide Targeted Early Help to children and families within Bath and North East Somerset. This includes:

- Pastoral support in schools
- Transitional support for young children into primary school (Theraplay)
- Interventions and support arranged through school-led Behaviour and Attendance Panels
- Children's Centres
- Health Visitor universal, universal partnership, and universal partnership plus services
- Family Nurse Partnership
- Community Play Services
- Parenting Programmes/Parent Support Advisers
- Mentoring support
- Youth work and Connexions
- Compass
- Specialist Family support
- Connecting Families (Troubled Families Programme)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability and Inclusion Team
- Special Educational Needs Partnership
- School Nurses
- PCAMHs

4. Goals of the improvement journey

Further developments are planned within Bath and North East Somerset which include:

- Establishment of a multi-agency Early Help strategy
- Training to improve the quality of assessment and planning, with a focus on the voice of the child
- Continued engagement of the workforce with a focus on 11-25 age range
- Further development of understanding of thresholds across the workforce
- Further work to evidence the impact of Early Help

Debbie Forward and Caroline Dowson

Report to Conference (new document)

All services contributing to Child Protection Conferences will notice that the CP5 has been replaced by the new Report to Conference. This new format is the result of a multi-agency consultation and we hope that you like it.

All schools have now been issued with Training Guidance from the LSCB to clarify the expectations at each level of training that is required for Designated Safeguarding Leads. This is on The Hub.

Any feedback is welcome. Please email the Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Children and Quality Assurance Jackie_deas@bathnes.gov.uk.

Training

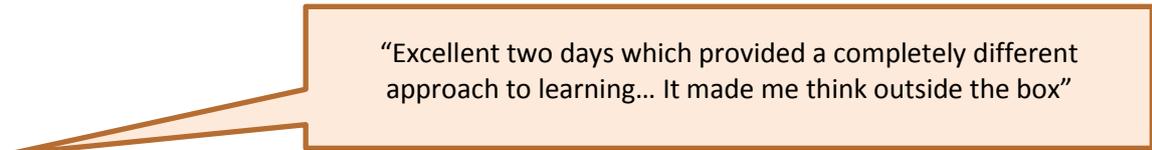
The LSCB training unit continues to develop its training programme and offer multi-agency training across a range of key safeguarding issues. The training programme for 2014/15 can be accessed on the website at the link below.

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/childprotectiontraining>

Inter-agency Child Protection: Working with Hostile and Aggressive Behaviors

New for 2015!!!!

The LSCB training team are excited to announce our new and innovative two day course 'Working with Challenge and Hostility' offering a safe inter-agency environment where delegates will develop their skills in working constructively with resistant and hostile behaviours.



"Excellent two days which provided a completely different approach to learning... It made me think outside the box"

The training uses 'Active Learning' methods, where theory is complimented by opportunities to practice and review skills through the use of actors and recording of scenarios. This teaching style has been positively evaluated by academics in helping professions.

For further information and forthcoming training dates please go to <http://bathnes.learningpool.com> or call Children's Workforce Admin 01225 394210

Useful Links

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

A guide to interagency working to promote the safeguarding and welfare of children

Working Together sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004.

Highlights include:

- Even bigger emphasis on early help
- We no longer have a LADO –just a designated officer
- Thresholds document needs to include thresholds for legal action
- Child centred approaches to practice
- Young carers assessments
- Education, Care and Health Plans included
- Children returning home from care
- Further SCR guidance

New working together 2015 guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

New information sharing guidance 2015:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419628/Information_sharing_advice_safeguarding_practitioners.pdf

Keeping children safe in education 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418686/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf

Local Safeguarding Children Board

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection/local-safeguarding-children-board>

Local Safeguarding Adults Board

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/adult-social-care-and-health/safeguarding-adults-risk-abuse>

The next e-newsletter will be sent out in Nov 2015