



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Bath & North East Somerset Joint Safeguarding Newsletter Winter 2016-17

Welcome to the B&NES Local Safeguarding Childrens Board (LSCB) and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) joint newsletter. [In this issue:](#)

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Members of both the LSCB and LSAB are very much aware of the huge volume of information that cascades to practitioners over the course of a year. The nature of work with children and adults in need of support is such that change and improvements are inevitable and all practitioners should keep themselves up to date. In this joint newsletter, we have attempted to deliver a brief summary of the latest

developments that every practitioner needs to know about. Furthermore we have selected content that is relevant to both domains of work. There are clear inter - dependencies between the needs of adults as well as children and I stress the importance of reading ALL of this newsletter, not just the bits that you think are relevant to the work that you do.

I hope that you find it both informative and useful. Please let us know what you think of it, especially if you have any suggestions about format or content, by contacting our Business Support Manager Dami Howard by email on dami_howard@bathnes.gov.uk or by ringing 01225 396350.

Mind of My Own (MOMO) App

When young people are cared for by the Local Authority in foster care, there is a very important requirement to ensure that their wishes and feelings are accurately represented at meetings that make plans for their futures. These meetings ('Looked After' Reviews) have a statutory responsibility to ensure that all agencies work together to ensure good outcomes for young people, particularly in relation to their education and health.

It is essential that the 'voice of young people' is represented as strongly as possible within these meetings and a number of creative and imaginative interventions are regularly employed to ensure that young people can contribute. The MOMO app ('Mind of My Own') provides young people aged 9 years upwards with an additional means of participating in these Reviews in a meaningful way.

The MOMO participation app is loaded onto a number of Council tablets so that the young person can work their way through a series of questions and scenarios. These questions have been designed to ensure that key issues/questions about their future plans, their care and their education can be raised in a way that seeks to maximise their level of involvement.

As all adults will already know, many young people find the use of technology a very comfortable way of receiving information and engaging with others. The use of this app seeks to capitalise on this preference, although it is also important to recognise that there will also remain many young people for whom this would not be a suitable method, and that the more traditional skills of foster parents, teachers, social workers, advocates and others, still represent very effective ways of encouraging young people to state their views, wishes and feelings.

The MOMO app has now been used with Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews for just over one year. Where young people have felt comfortable with using it, it has proved to be a valuable additional resource to assist in engaging with young people to ensure the plan for them reflects what they want to say.

B&NES Early Help Services App



The B&NES Early Help Services App is for use by professionals working with children, young people and families in the Bath and North East Somerset area, bringing details of local Early Help Services to any mobile smartphone and tablet. It is primarily aimed at colleagues who are not as familiar with local Early Help services and who may have previously directed any concerns about families straight to Social Care including Schools, GPs, Voluntary Organisations, community groups and charities.

The App provides details of local organisations, service providers and voluntary groups that support families.

Links to partner organisations are provided for different issues that families may encounter as well as screening tools, thresholds documents and quick access to other useful local directories like 1 Big Database, all helping to refer or signpost families to the most appropriate service for support.

One of the best features of the App is that you can use it without an internet connection.

This convenience means the App is ideal for use when 'out and about' and away from an office base.

All the information on the App either syncs with the 1Big Database website or is maintained by the Preventative Services Commissioning team at B&NES Council, so you can be certain it is up to date and relevant.

The Early Help App can be downloaded and used for free from the Apple or Android store by searching "B&NES Early Help"

We are planning to promote the App to a wide range of colleagues including Schools, GPs, Voluntary Organisations and local charities over the next few weeks and are working closely with the People and Communities Communication Team to help with this. Whilst the App is aimed at colleagues outside of the Council we are also working to ensure that key messages and referral information available on the App will also be replicated on the intranet through an "Early Help" tile.

If you have any enquiries regarding the app please don't hesitate to contact Marcia Burgham, Strategic Commissioning Officer for Preventative Services, on 01225 477065 or email Marcia_burgham@bathnes.gov.uk

The Complex (Toxic) Trio

Considering recent Serious Case Reviews, Ofsted noted that the most common issues [relating to the children's families] were domestic violence, mental ill-health and drug and alcohol misuse. As Working Together notes these issues rarely exist in

isolation. There is a complex interaction between the three issues (often referred to as the toxic trio). In one situation domestic violence may be the result of women who use drugs being more likely to be in relationships with volatile men. In another situation maternal drug misuse may be a consequence of their experience of domestic violence. Maternal mental ill health may be a result of violence or abuse that they have experienced or depression may lead a parent to misuse drugs or alcohol.

Work has been undertaken locally to improve early identification, recording, information sharing and service pathways for the toxic trio. Current Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) provision will support people who are experiencing substance misuse and/or mental ill-health but there is recognition that the support required is different from the general IDVA service, and a funding application has been submitted to support a wider remit.

The Council has begun a piece of work to develop a better understanding of the support and safeguarding being provided to B&NES families with children where at least one parent/carer is these issues present. The aim is that this information will identify strengths and weaknesses within the system to help develop more effective, coordinated and targeted support and interventions. This is in line with Ofsted requirements and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board's (LSCB) commitment to keep children in B&NES safe.

Domestic Abuse

The 25th November was the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Domestic Abuse Partnership linked with Avon and Somerset Police's month long campaign to promote the message that domestic abuse is everyone's business. In B&NES we hope to make this an annual event and have already stated planning for next year.

Around 2.1 million people suffer some form of domestic abuse in England each year, with women far more likely to be victims than men. Almost a third of domestic violence and abuse starts while a woman is pregnant, and on average, high-risk victims live with abuse for over two and a half years before getting help. Domestic abuse accounts for 16% of all reported violent crime but domestic abuse is not always physical.

Every week three women take their own lives to escape domestic abuse, and there is no way in law to attribute liability for these suicides. The Government has gone some way to recognising the nuanced nature of domestic abuse and since December 2015 has made controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship illegal. This includes circumstances like being isolated from family and friends and having access to money and bank accounts restricted.

To mark the day and help spread the message that there's no excuse for domestic abuse, there was a breakfast event at the Guildhall which was hosted by the Chairman Cllr Alan Hale and a candlelight procession and vigil which culminated outside Bath Abbey that evening. Both events were attended by survivors and staff who gave talks, read poems and were on hand to answer questions. They also wore T-shirts bearing quotes from survivors of domestic abuse, which gave poignant insights into their experiences. Other events included colleagues in Safeguarding running lunchtime domestic abuse awareness sessions for staff.

2016 was somewhat of a landmark time for domestic abuse and linked issues:

- On the 2nd of the month the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) ran a very successful joint stakeholder day with the aim of encouraging a 'Think Family' approach to working with those impacted and affected by domestic violence and abuse.
- Domestic Abuse strategic arrangements for B&NES were reviewed and a new Domestic Abuse Partnership was constituted and is now chaired by the Director of Public Health.
- Locally, in its first year of operation the new offence of controlling and coercive behaviour has already led to 55 arrests and two convictions in the Avon and Somerset Police area.

There are places to get help. Remember that victims suffer on average 37 incidents before they finally seek help. Anyone either a member of the public or any professionals who come into contact with someone they suspect is suffering any form of domestic abuse should report their concerns. This can be done by contacting the Police 101 non-emergency number; victims of domestic abuse are prioritised by the Police and in all cases will be referred to a victim care officer. If there is an emergency, always call the Police on 999. Concerns can also be reported to Sirona Care and Health on 01225 396 000.

For more information on local organisations that support anyone suffering domestic violence and abuse <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/domestic-violence>

Training Opportunities Available from LSCB

All agencies need to understand their role in identifying the signs that may indicate domestic abuse and how to work with those affected by the issues.

The LSCB training programme includes a number of courses throughout the year on the topic of domestic abuse. Three Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding and Child Protection courses are run across the year. This course is for those looking to refresh and build on their knowledge and skills to support children and families living in environments with high levels of domestic abuse. Three courses are also provided across the year with regard to the 'complex (toxic) trio'. This course is aimed at professionals looking to update and expand their knowledge and skills to support children where parents or carers experience poor mental health, misuse substances and issues of domestic abuse impact on their parental capacity. Both of these one day courses are provided as specialist inter-agency training and aimed at members of the workforce who have completed the advanced inter-agency child protection course or who have a specific role within their agency related to the subject. Each course draws together current evidence based practice, children's experiences, and information on local services and referral pathways, to improve outcomes for children and young people living with domestic abuse or living in environments where the 'complex (toxic) trio' are present.

The topics of domestic abuse and the 'complex (toxic) trio' are also considered on every standard and advanced child protection course, which take place monthly. The training programme also offers courses or Elearning packages concerning wider issues of violence which affect young people including Modern Slavery and Human

Trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Ending Violence against Women and Girls and Forced Marriage.

Information and online bookings for all Children's Workforce Training can be accessed through the Learning Pool <http://bathnes.learningpool.com>

Or please contact the Children's Workforce Training Team on 01225 394210 for further information.

The Purpose of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)

The duty on Local Authorities to establish LSABs was made law in the Care Act 2014, which became law on 1.4.2015, although most (if not all) Local Authorities already had them in place well before 2015.

The purpose of the LSAB is twofold. Firstly to coordinate the work of all local organisations in their efforts to provide protection and safeguarding support to the most vulnerable in our community. In practical terms this is achieved through the work of a number of sub groups of the LSAB who develop guidance, training opportunities, leaflets, multi-agency policies and procedures that support a consistent and coordinated approach by professionals.

The LSAB's second purpose is to monitor the effectiveness of the safeguarding work that takes place. This includes the routine examination of case files, interpretation of performance data and commissioning detailed reviews of practice when serious harm has occurred (known as a Safeguarding Adults Review) or whenever it is thought that a review of any case would identify opportunities for learning and improvements.

Membership of the LSAB itself is comprised of senior managers from all of the main agencies associated with safeguarding such as Local Authority, Adult Social Care, the Police, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), RUH, as well as representatives from support organisations such as Care Homes, the Voluntary Sector, Carers and Housing. The Chair of the Board is Independent of any agency. There are also independent volunteer Lay Members providing a perspective from the community. The Board meets four times per year. Minutes and associated documents are included on the LSAB website.

Meet the New LSAB Independent Lay Members

Following the success of our recruitment drive advertised in our joint summer newsletter we are delighted to welcome our first ever Lay members to the Local Safeguarding Adults Board. (We also recruited 3 new Lay Members for the LSCB to join our existing Lay Member.)



Amanda Cranston – Profile

With a background in Law, Amanda has served as Chair of Governors at a Pupil Referral Unit and frequently Chairs Schools Appeals and Permanent Exclusion Reviews for B&NES and Bristol Councils.

Her work as a business and schools relationship broker brings her into contact not only with the local business and school communities but also with young people,

many of whom have benefited from the innovative and creative programmes she has devised to support less-able students.

Amanda has also worked with elderly people with care and support needs in the community and is aware of the risks that they can be exposed to through scams and rogue traders in particular.

As well as being appointed one of the first Lay Members to sit on the Local Safeguarding Adults Board in B&NES, Amanda is also a School Governor at Norton Hill and Somervale Schools near her home.



Marjorie Stephinson MBE (aka Marjorie Lofthouse)

Born in India where her father served in the British Army, Marjorie arrived in the UK at the age of 8 and eventually settled in Bath. She was a pupil at schools in Bath before going to Teacher Training College in the Midlands. After a brief spell teaching at Ralph Allen's she moved to the north east where she had a successful career ending up as the Senior Mistress in the largest Comprehensive School in Newcastle upon Tyne.

But she had already had a taste for broadcasting, having been involved in BBC local radio through the Sunderland Drama Club and so after 17 years in teaching she left teaching and stepped into the freelance world of radio and television.

Her first contract was with BBC Leeds, HTV West then 'Pebble Mill at One' and eventually she settled into her first love, radio - where she presented a variety of programmes on Radios 2, 4 and 5: Woman's Hour, music and a raft of Features and Documentaries. One of her Radio 4 series- 'Enterprise'- profiled small businesses and she was made an MBE because of her work in this area. Her book 'The New Adventurers' became a useful tool for those setting up in business.

When her husband, Ken Stephinson, set up his own television production company, Marjorie joined him as researcher, scriptwriter and general dogsbody. Stephinson Television's success was not only in broadcasting but also in the corporate world; one of their customers was British Waterways.

Marjorie's Voluntary work has embraced the Prince's Trust in Greater Manchester and she became the first female chairman in the country. She was President of the local Cancer Research committee and worked for 8 years as an Associate Manager in Mental Health for Pennine Care.

When she lost her husband to cancer in 2012 she decided to move back to Bath and settle again near her family. Marjorie is looking forward to bringing to the Board her somewhat eclectic experience and expertise.

Safeguarding Team Workshop October 2016

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) organised their first safeguarding workshop. The RUH has safeguarding adult and children practitioner networks that are held quarterly and the team decided to set up the workshop to address different areas of practice to promote the "think family" agenda. Once the practitioners confirmed attendance the team widened the invites to other partner agencies in B&NES and Wiltshire. In total there were 45 attendees as well as the RUH safeguarding team.

Reg Pengelly, as chair of the B&NES Safeguarding Adult and Children's Boards, opened the day with an overview of the role of the Safeguarding Boards. All the speakers generously gave their time with some of them staying for the whole day. The areas covered were; people with a learning disability experiencing domestic violence, FGM, self-neglect in the homeless and the experience of travellers, research being undertaken locally about hoarding and modern slavery/human trafficking. The speakers were very informative and gave attendees the opportunity to think about their roles and the part they can play in many different aspects of safeguarding.

The closing comments from Lisa Cheek, Deputy Director of Nursing, RUH demonstrated the learning from the day:

"One of my observations from today has been the shocking statistics we've been presented with...

- 200 million women and girls worldwide living with the consequence of FGM
- Life expectancy of homeless males is 47 and 43 for homeless women
- 85% of young travellers experience racist abuse
- Irish travellers are 3 times as likely to die by suicide than the general population
- 26.6% of hoarders interviewed for the study reported symptoms starting at the age of 11 – 15
- 1.2 million trafficked children each year
- Only 1 – 2 % victims of modern slavery rescued

Sobering thoughts, as well as being left with these shocking statistics we've also been left with the positive work which is happening to help address these issues:

- The safe lives risk assessment for Domestic Violence
- Leanne and team – raising awareness on FGM and the horrific impact this has
- Julian House and outreach teams and the work being done to create environments where rough sleepers can get off the streets
- Work on building bridges of trust and signposting for the gypsy and traveller communities
- Research into hoarding and potential for support (CBT treatment) and for more studies.
- Work by Wiltshire police force on human trafficking"

The speakers were;

Sue Leathers and Kathryn Kambitis-RUH Specialist Nurses Learning Disabilities

Caz Snell - RUH Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)

Leanne Pook - Detective Chief Inspector, Avon and Somerset Police

Matt Hana – Service Development Manager, Julian House

Sam Worrall - Gypsy and Traveller worker, Julian House

Dr James Gregory - Lecturer/Clinical Psychologist, Bath University

Graham Deeley - Wiltshire Police

New Safeguarding Website in B&NES

In February the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) will be launching a new safeguarding website Safeguarding Bathnes, which will be independent of the B&NES Council website. This site will be much easier to find and to navigate around and will have information about both children and young people and adults all in one place.

Specific pages are being set up for the following groups to access: children and young people; adults with care and support needs; families/parents/carers; people who work with children or work with adults; information for the public and finally full information from both the LSCB and LSAB.

We will be sending out information to promote the new site soon.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The LSCB and LSAB have a joint FGM sub group which has been working on raising awareness of this issue in B&NES. The group have created an advert which is displayed on the TVs in the One Stop Shops and large libraries and a poster which is available on the LSCB and LSAB websites. [FGM poster](#)

In September 2016 B&NES Council passed a Motion against FGM which includes Zero Tolerance to the act.

The FGM sub group are updating the current [LSCB FGM Guidance](#) to be appropriate for both women and girls and this will be disseminated when available.

They are currently promoting **FGM International Day of Zero Tolerance on 6th**

February 2017 <http://www.un.org/en/events/femalegenitalmutilationday/> and would very much like to hear of any events that you agency does to promote this day.

Please contact Dami Howard with any information or photos of your event on dami_howard@bathnes.gov.uk

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub which has a shared focus for adults with care and support needs and children's safeguarding issues was launched in September 2016. The key partners in delivering the MASH are Sirona care and health, B&NES Council Adult Services and Children's Services, and the Police. MASH's have already been established in a large number of areas across the remainder of the County. Although each MASH is slightly different, the common element is that these arrangements are designed to ensure a much quicker and more effective way of sharing information to assist decision-making where agencies need to rapidly make a decision about whether or not a safeguarding intervention is required.

The B&NES MASH is located at Keynsham Police Station and all of the above agencies participate in the information sharing and daily meetings which review cases that have been passed into the MASH for consideration and a decision. Representatives from each of the above agencies sit together and have access to their own databases. When a referral is received, each agency checks their own data to see if they have information that is felt to be relevant or appropriate to the presenting concern. Any relevant information is then collated onto a shared template held within a secure site, so that a decision on an appropriate intervention can be jointly agreed. Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) are working towards joining us in this co-located arrangement.

Although there have been some initial difficulties in bringing together a number of different databases into one place, the B&NES MASH is already proving to be a positive addition to the range of services that assess presenting need for both adults with care and support needs and children. The MASH has now begun to consider

concerns in relation to young people who might be at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. The effective sharing of information will greatly assist in reducing risk for this vulnerable group.

All referrals will continue to come through the established 'front door' arrangements for both Adult Services and Children's Services. It is these 'front door' arrangements that will then make a decision about asking the MASH to quickly access information where a decision can only be made with the assistance of additional information.

Introducing Virgin Care (new members of the LSAB and LSCB from April)



From 1 April 2017, Virgin Care will be the prime provider of community health and care services in Bath and North East Somerset with responsibility for the delivery and coordination of over 200 local NHS and social care services.

In B&NES, Virgin Care will deliver some services directly and oversee others provided by sub-contracted local providers. A full list of the services that Virgin Care will deliver and the services they will subcontract is available at www.yourcareyourway.org.

In most cases, the staff currently delivering services in B&NES which Virgin Care will provide directly in the future will transfer too – ensuring local expertise and knowledge is not lost.

Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (BaNES CCG) and Bath & North East Somerset Council carried out over two years of extensive engagement with service users, members of the public and health and care professionals before awarding Virgin Care a seven year contract to co-ordinate and deliver these services, with the option to extend for a further three years.

Virgin Care believes in putting the customers' experience at the heart of every interaction. They have been providing health and social care services on behalf of the NHS and local authorities across England for more than a decade improving NHS and social care services so that everyone feels the difference.

During that time Virgin Care has made significant investment in technology and workforce, investing in services so their teams can provide the best care and support possible to the communities they serve. Virgin Care now supports more than a million people a year across England and has a strong track record of increasing service user and staff satisfaction.

People in B&NES will continue to receive high quality care and support and in most cases they will still see the same front line professionals as they do today. Virgin Care will take into account all of a person's strengths and needs and those of their wider support network and community in delivering person-centred health and care. As Virgin Care complete transformation work over the coming years, people's care and support needs will be met by a range of people and resources, starting with their community. Community services will be organised around locality hubs aligned with groups of GP practices. Multidisciplinary teams will talk to each other on a daily basis to agree coordinated plans for people with complex or increasing needs.

Virgin Care will also launch a care coordination centre, which will be open seven days a week from 8am until 10pm to provide a single point of contact for those in need of support, their families and the professionals involved in their care. Care navigators from a range of voluntary and community sector organisations will raise awareness of the wide range of support and activities available in the local area and help people to access the right services for them.

As well as local safeguarding and other support services, the services Virgin Care will deliver in B&NES will join their national support network with robust national safeguarding policies and safeguarding professional leads for adults and children supporting the local teams.

Virgin Care and the current providers are working closely together in the months before transfer, alongside commissioners, to ensure the safe transfer of services on 1st April to Virgin Care, before transformation and improvement work can begin.

LSCB/LSAB Joint Newsletter February 2017