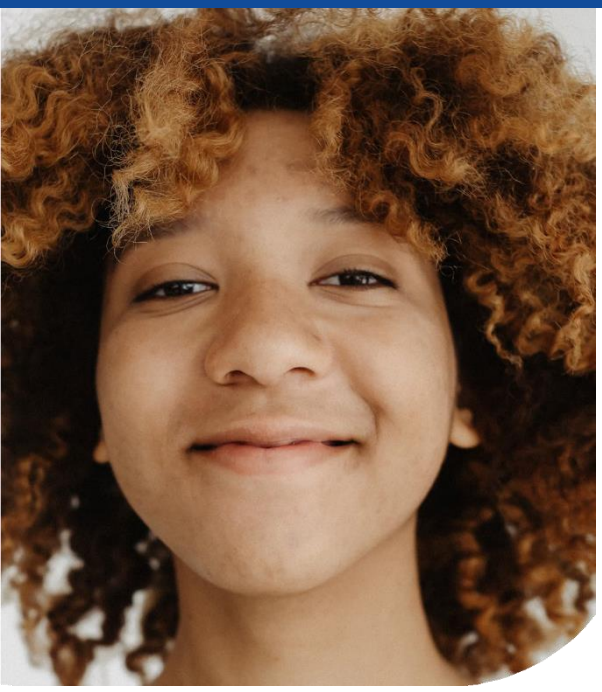
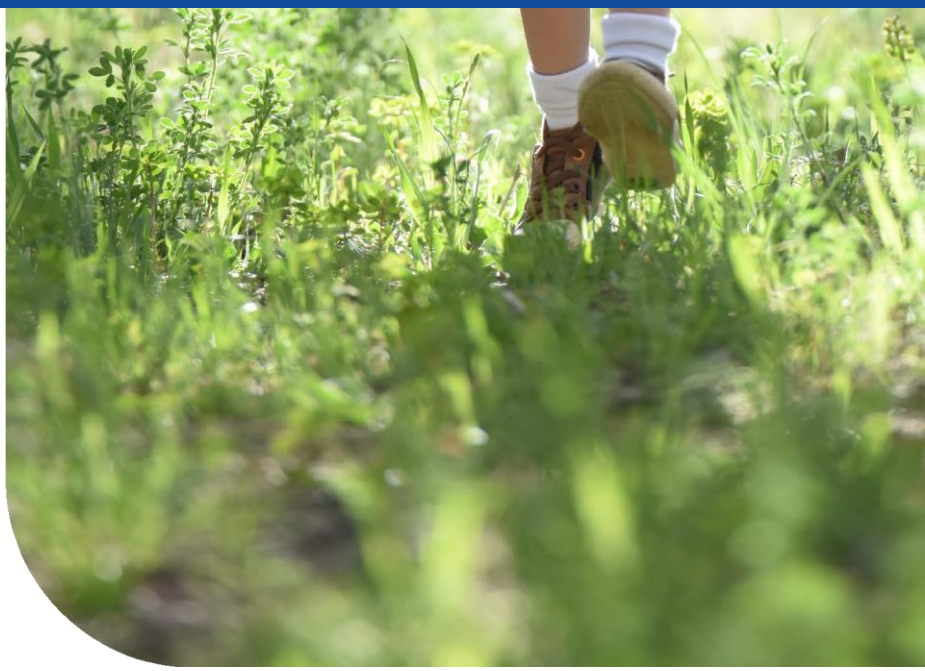
Buckinghamshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2021/22





Chair's Introduction

I am Walter McCulloch, the newly arrived Independent Chair of both the Buckinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board. Let me begin by paying tribute to my predecessor Sir Francis Habgood. Francis has provided excellent leadership and brought clear independent scrutiny to the work of both boards over the past three, quite extraordinary years. Furthermore, I am most grateful for his kind assistance on my recent assumption to this role.

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2021/2022 annual report of the Buckinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership. This report captures the work of the partnership in continuing times of strain for public services who are experiencing greater volumes of work in a period of national and indeed international turbulence. It is clear that children, young people and their families, across Buckinghamshire, have required more assistance in the past year than previously. In that context it is very creditable that both the external scrutiny of an Ofsted inspection, and indeed the self-assessment carried out by the partnership itself, has found that services for children are improving. There is clearly more to be done in this respect but a firm base is being established. Nevertheless, it is important to commend staff, managers, and leaders across the partnership.

The work of the board is evident in the contributions in the report from the chairs of the sub-groups and the record of its broader activities. As the incoming chair it is pleasing to see the good participation across the partnership in these sub-groups, and it is good and appropriate that these are chaired by senior colleagues from across the partners. It is notable that each of the sub-groups has spent time consolidating previous work, and it is a strength that each has identified a need to bring a sharper focus to their work, linking activity to the business plan and driving evidence of the impact of their work in practice. Similarly, the important work that ensures learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews has replicated this consolidation of earlier work. It is commendable that with their current work the intention is to compress their conclusions into two or three key findings.

This recurring theme of sharpening the product of the combined work of partners, ensuring clear and deliverable improvements for children and young people will be an area for my attention in these coming months. Likewise, I share the intention many colleagues have expressed to me in my first few weeks in post. That is to further strengthen the collaboration with children, young people and families in the work of the partnership.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the work of the staff of the business office which has been fundamental to the considerable work readers will see in this report.

Walter McCulloch
Independent Chair for Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

About Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

The BSCP is a statutory, multi-organisation partnership coordinated by a business unit, which oversees and leads children's safeguarding across the Buckinghamshire Council area. The main objective of the BSCP is to gain assurance that local safeguarding arrangements, comprised of partner organisations, are working effectively, individually and together, to support and safeguard children in its area who are at risk of abuse and neglect. The BSCP acts as a critical friend and a champion for best practice.

Over the last year the work of the partnership along with that of its partner agencies has been significantly affected by the Covid pandemic. We have continued to work towards all our key priorities whilst being flexible to the changing landscape in relation to demand for services, impact on children and availability and resilience of the workforce. Along with our partners we are grateful for all the efforts to across the multi-agency arena to continue to drive activity to ensure that we have met or worked towards the key priorities.

Whilst the single business unit, comprising business functions of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board, became embedded, we were also adapting to a largely online 'world'. The business unit continues to plan and move forward with joint strategic work, making best use of some of the working practices which have now become business as usual. The former three year business plans for both the partnership and board, which were designed to bring together the two structures and support a move towards contextual safeguarding, will continue. To this end the Executive agreed in April to a revision of the business plan to ensure that we are responsive to the change in needs and demand. In addition, the Executive agreed the joint training, learning and development approach, which we look forward to implementing in 2022.

Quality assurance remains our key driver across all the sub-groups, using frameworks that will measure the impact of subgroup activities and challenge those working in the safeguarding arena. We also continued to ensure that our policies and procedures are embedded in the work we carry out, that toolkits, guidance and procedures draw on the knowledge of subject experts locally and nationally to inform them, and that we can demonstrate the impact of learning that has taken place.

The partnership has an Independent Chair who provides leadership, vision and support and who is responsible for ensuring that all organisations contribute effectively to the work of the BSCP. The Chair provides accountability for the work undertaken by the BSCP by way of reports to relevant strategic committees and boards. Effective communication between the Business Manager and Chair ensures that there is a clear link between the sub-groups and executive group, enabling risks, themes and opportunities to be highlighted at an executive level, and challenge, direction and opportunities to be shared into sub-groups. This is supported by meetings for sub-group Chairs to provide clarity about the role of each sub-group in the priority areas and to raise any process or participation issues with the Independent Chair.

Our Vision

To work together to enable children and young people in Buckinghamshire to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse.

To ensure our approach is focused around ‘talk to me, hear my voice’ and it is central to everything we do.

SAFEGUARDING

Making safeguarding personal and the responsibility of everyone.

ENABLING

Enable children and young people to have choices and control over how they want to live.

COMMUNICATING

Ensure there is effective communication with youth communities in Buckinghamshire.

LEARNING

Learning from our experiences and improving how we work.

Our Partners

Working Together 2018 is statutory guidance that provides children's safeguarding with a legal framework, setting out the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners.

From a statutory perspective the three legally required bodies are:

- Buckinghamshire Council
- NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board
- Thames Valley Police

However, we work closely with a range of other partners:

- National Probation Service
- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

Children and Young People in Buckinghamshire

126,409
children and young people under 18 living in Buckinghamshire (2020):

- Age 0-4 - 31,437
- Age 5-9 - 37,055
- Age 10-14 - 37,546
- Age 15 - 6,922
- Age 16 - 6,877
- Age 17 - 6,572

23%
of the total population are children and young people.

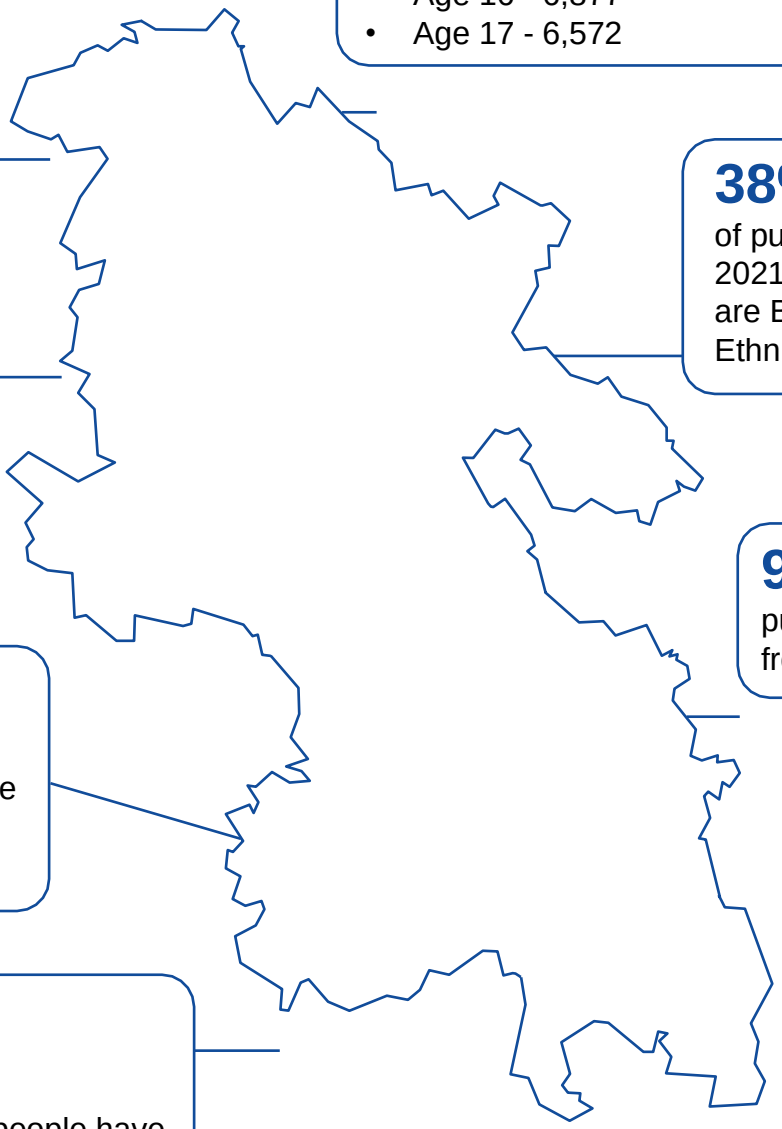
87,160
pupils attend state-funded schools (Jan 2020).

38%
of pupils in the January 2021 school census are Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME).

1,514
pupils attend special schools in Buckinghamshire.

9,495
pupils are eligible for free school meals.

18%
of pupils in the January 2021 school census have a first language other than English.



4,910
children and young people have Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) maintained by Buckinghamshire (Jan 2021).

65
children are missing from education.

8,546
with Special Educational Needs (SEN) support in Buckinghamshire

schools(Jan 2021).

987
children and young people are electively home educated (May 2021).

Schools in Buckinghamshire

184

primary schools (including 36 academies/free schools).
38 infant schools
23 junior schools (inc. five academies)
123 combined schools (inc. 31 academies/free schools)

34

secondary schools.
13 selective (all academies)
21 non-selective (inc. 16 academies/free schools)
123 combined schools (inc. 31 academies/free schools)

2

All Through mainstream schools (including one academy).

2

nursery schools.

3

Pupil Referral Units
(inc. one academy).

10

Special schools
(inc. two academies).

Chapter 1
The work of the subgroups and evidence of impact

The BSCP has a number of sub-groups, whose role it is to undertake the scrutiny work, as well as disseminate and share evidence-based best practice to the wider safeguarding workforce. All of the subgroups experienced changes in Chairs and membership, and some disruption to support provided by the business unit. However, this settled throughout the year.

Please see overleaf for the sub-groups operating in this reporting period, as well as summaries from the Chairs.

Modern Slavery and Exploitation

Chairperson - Palvinder Kudhail (Interim Service Director, Children's Services, Buckinghamshire Council)

Formerly the Child Exploitation Sub-group, this merged in the reporting period to become an all-age exploitation sub-group.

A message from the Chair

I am the Service Director for Children's Social Care in the Local Authority. I took over the Chair of the Child Exploitation Sub-Group in 2021 and soon realised that there was a need to review both the meeting structure and links with other groups, and address a number of overdue actions on the plan. A wider review took place, and it was agreed that there would be a single sub-group that addressed exploitation for adults and children. All the previous actions were addressed and we started with a clean slate in 2022. The membership, governance arrangements and terms of reference have been revised. Membership includes a parent representative. The sub-group reports into the Safer Bucks Board. Meetings take place six-weekly and there is an Improvement Plan in place that addresses six key objectives:

- Early intervention and prevention for young people becoming at risk.
- Raise awareness of child exploitation.
- Identify and safeguard victims of child exploitation.
- Identify and monitor vulnerable locations across the area.
- Empower those affected by child exploitation by supporting them to identify strategies to exit and withdraw safely.
- Use intelligence to disrupt perpetrators and bring them to justice, using modern day slavery and trafficking legislation.

The Improvement Plan has impact measures and each objective is led by a partner agency.

Key achievements:

- Successfully created a joint, all-age, exploitation-focused group with balanced representation.
- Increased the opportunity for collaborative working with the Community Safety Partnership and the range of partners working with the group.
- Agreed and commenced work on a measurable action plan.

Policy, Procedure and Practice

Chairperson - Gilly Attree (designated nurse for safeguarding children and looked after children, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board)

The role of this group is to ensure that the partnership has an up to date, relevant, and accessible online policy manual, as well as useful resources and toolkits. It is then tasked to scrutinize the impact on practice.

A message from the Chair

The Policy, Procedure and Practice Sub-group review the multi-agency policies when they are due for review, or sooner if there are national policy changes or guidance published. The sub-group is well attended by the multi-agency partnership and membership consists of health, social care, police, education and other key agencies. In the year 2021-2022, the sub-group met bi-monthly and reviewed the following policies:

- Pre-birth guidance.
- Escalation procedure.
- Children missing.
- Self-harm guidance.
- Female genital mutilation.
- Abuse of disabled children.
- Bereaved children/young people.
- Bullying guidance.
- Child sexual exploitation.
- Managing allegations against staff.
- Child protection toolkit for schools.

A forward planner assists with identifying when policies need to be reviewed and the multi-agency group take responsibility for supporting specialist input where required.

The sub-group members work closely with the Performance, Quality and Improvement Sub-group to ensure that policies are adhered to and are effective.

Key achievements:

- Met deadlines for reviews against a backdrop of resourcing challenges.
- Reviewed the policy schedule to ensure it is current and reflects best practice .
- Made good use of subject expertise to inform the work.

Performance, Quality and Improvement

Chairperson - Aman Sekhon-Gill (Interim Assistant Director, QA, Children's Services, Buckinghamshire Council)

A message from the Chair

I am Aman Sekhon-Gill, Interim Assistant Director for Quality Assurance for Buckinghamshire Council. I became Chair of this group some way into this reporting period and it was fair to say that, due to staffing issues and the impact of the pandemic, the activity had slowed and the group needed to re-focus. My priorities were to streamline the data coming into the group, making it clear that it was the responsibility of partners to identify potential stressors and strengths in the system and to offer their analysis; this included their narrative on what this meant for children and what specifically needed to improve. We also looked at the audit schedule partners already had within their organisations and agreed that they would bring periodic updates to the group about key areas identified through audits, along with learning linked to this. This enables the sub-group to support identification of themes across the partnership and develop/explore further. In addition, this group receives requests to support bespoke pieces of work and is well connected to the other sub-groups; we may be made aware of 'testing' work required following a review or a policy launch which would benefit from quality assurance. In line with the business plan for next year, my priority is to be clearer about the evidence of impact, to bring user voices to the front and to ensure we have a clear agreed audit plan. Now that both the chairing and staffing issues have been resolved, I am confident that we will go into the new business year on a stronger footing.

Key achievements:

- Updated and improved data collection, with regular highlight and exception reports going to the executive meetings.
- Understanding partner organisation audit plans and starting to plan for how we might make use of this to inform the partnership.
- Good engagement with the group by partners. The group benefits from the commitment of members as well as their contextual understanding of the organisation.

Education and Learning

Chairperson - Simon James (Service Director, Education, Children's Services, Buckinghamshire Council)

A message from the Chair

A bit about me:

- I have worked in education for my whole career and have worked in local government for over 20 years.
- I am a qualified teacher and was the youngest Principal Educational Psychologist in the country.
- I am responsible for all statutory education duties of the council.

Reflections from the Education Sub-group – key points

- The group has good representation and regular attendance. This means that the continuity of the work is strong and all understand their roles.
- Safeguarding in education settings has been a consistent theme.
- Emma's support and organisation has been invaluable.
- Inspections and issues in schools remain a high priority.
- The group aims to keep close to the priorities in the executive plan.
- Crossover and intelligence sharing between sub-groups could be improved.
- Lessons learnt activities could increase in frequency.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Chairperson - Nick Glister (DCI, Child Abuse Investigation Unit, Thames Valley Police)

The partnership is required to undertake local child safeguarding practice reviews, where the relevant criteria are met. Working Together 2018 *states that 'The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'. In addition, the sub-group continues to track the agreed actions from legacy serious case reviews (SCR) and, within this reporting period, undertook a review of outstanding actions - resulting in a SMART tracker document.*

A message from the Chair

The objectives we set over the last two years were primarily to deal with the SCR legacy cases, which had lengthy reviews resulting in multiple, broad, non-specific actions. We have made some good progress, but we have not fully achieved our target of completion and conclusion, significantly due to the impact of Covid (agency prioritisation) and widescale changes in personnel/standing member group.

This has, however, helped us learn through reflection and consultation, leading to a far more dynamic and timely process being tested and introduced, utilising the strategic objectives to prioritise. The use of an independent chair through Rapid Review, who receives and analyses the agency information in preparation, ensures key learning is identified to aid the discussion and decision making.

Reviews within LCSPR can range from a single agency short term audit, to a large scale author-led process, but we remain determined to influence a smaller number of recommendations based on specific areas which require improvement, with ownership and success measures included as part of the planning

Key achievements:

- Updated and improved the rapid review process, making use of an Independent Chair and maximising learning at that point.
- Reviewed all the action plans from previous SCRs and pursued outcomes for any that were outstanding.
- Began to capture the lived experience of families in reviews, to ensure their voice is heard.

Child Death Overview Panel

Gilly Attree (designated nurse for safeguarding children and looked after children, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board)

Working Together 2018 *states that, 'When a child dies, in any circumstances, it is important for parents and families to understand what has happened and whether there are any lessons to be learned. The responsibility for ensuring child death reviews are carried out is held by child death review partners, who, in relation to a local authority area in England, are defined as the local authority for that area and any clinical commissioning groups operating in the local authority area. Child death review partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, if they consider it appropriate, for any non-resident child who has died in their area. Child death review partners for two or more local authority areas may combine and agree that their areas be treated as a single area for the purpose of undertaking child death reviews'. Buckinghamshire is paired with neighbouring authority, Oxfordshire. However, we continue to have locally based panels, alongside joint learning and themed events.*

A message from the Chair

The role of a designated nurse includes, but is not limited to, providing safeguarding, child protection expertise and leadership throughout health and multi-agency partnerships. The role is pivotal to complex case management, improved partnership working, strategic planning, quality assurance and performance monitoring. It is essential when advising on the development and provision of services. It is a statutory post and I work closely with my adult counterparts and designated doctors.

In CDOP, we have reviewed a number of cases where recommendations for further analysis and understanding have been identified and these have been shared locally and nationally. The panel meets on a bi-monthly basis and is attended by the two statutory partners - the Local Authority and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), as well as other key partners, including education and police. All learning points and modifiable factors are notified to a national database for additional analysis, which facilitates improved understanding of the subject matter and supports wider national changes in practice, where indicated.

The panel have agreed future dates to meet, and cases are being prepared for review, once all relevant information has been returned to the panel administrator.

In CDOP, all child deaths (under 18 years of age) are reviewed. In the year 2021-2022 there were 3068 in England. In Buckinghamshire, there were 30 deaths. The table overleaf demonstrates the number of child deaths by age in Buckinghamshire in 2021-2022.

The table below demonstrates the number of child deaths by age in Buckinghamshire in 2021-2022.

Death notifications by age group and year

Age group	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
0-27 days	9	17	13
28-364 days	6		1
1-4 years	2	3	4
5-9 years	2	1	7
10-14 years	4	6	2
15-17 years	1	5	3
TOTAL	**24**	**32**	**30**

Key achievements:

- CDOP has continued to meet and review cases against significant resource implications.
- Attendance by a wide range of relevant professional has been consistent and valued by the partnership.
- The backlog has been recognised, and a plan of action was in place by the end of this reporting period.

Learning and Development

A newly formed joint sub-group between BSCP and BSAB. The primary function is to oversee the implementation of any training plans and undertake a learning needs analysis. This group did not form until early 2022 and then, unfortunately, the Chair left her role. In the reporting period, this group had not progressed the action plan.

Chapter 2
Areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities

In the reporting period, the Independent Chair, supported by the Business Manager, undertook a self-assessment of the partnership. This was based on the document *Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny* by Jenny Pearce. The intention was to measure progress against agreed priorities, as set out in our published arrangements and the current business plan. All the members of the executive contributed their assessment, and it was encouraging to see that there was a consistency in view about which areas of work should be the focus for the coming year. The document detailing the conclusions from the Chair (completed in September 2021) and the RAG rating can be found in Appendix A.

Chapter 3
Decisions and actions taken to implement the recommendations from LCSPRs

During the 12 year period, there were 16 reviews commissioned in Buckinghamshire. Themes include:

- Parental learning difficulties and autism.
- Understanding, response, and management of exploitation.
- Lack of referral/ongoing referrals/pre-birth assessments poor or not carried out.
- Adolescent mental health and suicide.
- Domestic abuse/substance abuse/parental mental health, increasing the risk to children.
- Inadequate assessments/failure to take account of family history to inform assessments and lack of understanding regarding trauma of abuse.
- 'Invisible' men.
- Lack of professional curiosity.
- Lack of leadership and inadequate supervision.
- Missed appointments/difficulty accessing family.
- Lack of understanding of impact of risk factors/vulnerability and no plan as to how to deal with them.
- Cross-border working/communication.
- Planning/assessment incident driven. Requirement for risk management plan for children at risk.
- Lack of/poor recording of social care decision-making processes/CSC records not sufficiently detailed.

During the reporting period there were two referrals submitted to the BSCP, both relating to young people who had taken their own lives. One progressed to a commissioned LCSPR, which is in progress at the time of writing. One did not meet the criteria but, as there were ongoing concerns about the setting in which the suicide took place, this was appropriately escalated to the CQC with LADO involvement.

During this period the partnership considered the learning from a report issued by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The report, entitled *The Myth of Invisible Men, safeguarding children under one from non-accidental injuries caused by male carers* (accessible on the Government publishing service website), reflected the findings of historic reviews in Buckinghamshire. The partnership was satisfied that recommendations and actions previously identified locally were in keeping with the findings from this review and work was in progress.

The sub-group also used the LCSPR-related findings of the annual report to inform the changes made to the review process, leadership, and approach to actions and recommendations. Annual review of LCSPRs and rapid review. The annual review of LCSPRs can be accessed on the Government publishing service website.

Locally, one review was published in this period which can be found on the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

There was one serious case review still awaiting publication in this period, with delays due to issues with a mental health homicide review, which forms part of the review.

Chapter 4

Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision

It was recognised as part of the self-assessment that this is the least developed part of the work of the partnership. The work has been affected by staffing issues throughout this reporting period and, therefore, the priority has been to ensure the sub-groups continue to be active. Within this period, the sub-groups were asked to agree a group level plan for the coming year and, within that, to detail how they were going to seek and gain information about experiences of children and their families. This will be the main focus for the next reporting period.

Next steps for the partnership

Informed by the Jenny Pearce Review, the partnership agreed a new business plan for April 2022-2023, which included clearer reporting expectations for sub-groups. There is an expectation that all partners will be able to account for the impact they are making against the specific business plan priority and practice areas. It is recognised that there have been wide-ranging expectations of the sub-groups and that the impact of the pandemic is still a current issue in terms of resource available to the partnership. Therefore, the partnership is seeking to focus on a more defined set of priorities, which evidence from the sub-groups tells us negatively affects children and young people the most. The plan sets out the overarching priorities that will remain constant. It then sets out the key practice areas, which can be updated once the required impact can be evidenced.

The Business Plan also clearly sets out the intention to reach out more to people who use services, operational staff and to community members so that we can better understand the needs of the people whose lives we are seeking to improve.

The Business Plan can be seen in full below.

Buckinghamshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

BSCP Business Plan 2022-2023

Introduction

In 2019 Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (BSCP) created a joint business unit while it is maintaining separate Board and sub-group structures. We currently have a business plan running 2020- 2023 however, events of the past year have brought into sharp focus the importance of understanding the needs of our service users,communities and workforce in relation to safeguarding. With this business plan, we are striving to ensure that the Partnership adds value
and is better able to evidence the impact of our work on operational staff and people who use our services.

How we will do this

From 1st April 2022 -1st April 2023 we will work on fewer priorities but in a more focused way. These priority areas are informed by the evidence arising from reviews and from our Board partners. It is proposed that the practice area will change each year; providing we can evidence that the required changes have been achieved and that they are known and understood by relevant members of the workforce. Each sub-group will be required to share a workplan with the Board which evidences how they will impact on the following areas:

Our vision

To work together to enable people in Buckinghamshire to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse and to ensure a strengthening families approach and contextual safeguarding approach is central to everything we do.

Our aim is that as a Partnership we will:

- Make safeguarding personal and the responsibility of everyone
- Ensure there is effective communication with communities in Buckinghamshire
- Enable people to have choices and control over how they want to live
- Learn from our experiences and improving how we work

Priority	Practice area in focus 2022. Sub groups are requested to scrutinise the current position and drive best practice based on research and evidence on the following areas:
Early intervention and prevention	The first 1001 days. The first 1001 days. Issues relating to multi agency risk enablement and coordination, availability and appropriateness of interventions pre and post birth, insight into the level of demand and need in Buckinghamshire, quality of interventions with male carers

People who use our services	Adolescents – the Board to benefit from the experience of children who have been the subject of assessments, consistency of use, understanding their needs and their context, staff confidence and competence in identifying key issues such as exploitation and neglect .
Contextual safeguarding think family, think community	Transition from children to adult services People with autism diagnoses System issues relating to access to services, definitions of need and professional language, contextual safeguarding, planning and coordination of services, hearing the voice of the child

How will this be measured

- We will use the Jenny Pearse framework within the sub groups to continually assess our progress in each of the priority areas (see appendix A for baselines assessment). This will be shared with the Executive and will also be used to help us understand the added value of the sub group structures.
- We will gather the views of operational staff to ensure that the work of the Partnership is reaching those who should benefit from it.
- We will gather relevant quality assurance evidence from our partners in our PQ&I sub group.
- We will listen to people who use our services and be accountable for how we use their information.

Next steps

- Sub groups to create a targeted work plan based on the priority areas.
- Membership of the groups to be reviewed to ensure that the right people, at the right level are actively working together on the multi agency approach to these priority areas.
- A review of the function of the LCSPR sub group to ensure that we are maximising the learning from this work.

Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny: Safeguarding children partnership arrangements

Comments: Chair and Business Manager . RAG rating agreed by all Executive Partners.

The three core partner leads are actively involved in strategic planning and implementation	**The wider safeguarding partners (including relevant agencies) are actively involved in safeguarding children**	**Children, young people and families are aware of and involved with plans for safeguarding children**	**Appropriate quality assurance procedures are in place for data collection, audit and information sharing**	**There is a process for identifying and investigating learning from local and national case reviews**	**There is an active program of multiagency safeguarding children training**
Have the three partners agreed a process for developing, reviewing and funding a child centred strategic	Is the wider safeguarding children partnership, including all relevant agencies and the private and	Are children and young people consulted, inputting into, and influencing the development, implementation and	Are mechanisms in place for the three core partners to collect and analyse relevant data pertaining to safeguarding	Are all safeguarding partners aware of the criteria and process for referral of cases for consideration of meeting the threshold for local or	Is there a transparent and clearly understood process for identifying, providing and evaluating training

safeguarding children plan: identifying agreed desired outcomes in line with national guidelines and recent research findings, including contextual safeguarding?	business sector, appropriately informed of and engaged with the safeguarding children partnership arrangements and safeguarding children plan?	review of the safeguarding plan and related activities?	children?	national review?	needs for safeguarding children with all safeguarding partners, including children, families and communities?
Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green
The Partnership has a 3- year business plan that is currently being updated. The new operational priorities for 2021/22 have been agreed. The actions will include outcomes. The budget for the partnership is agreed. The new plan will be more in line with the	The wider partnership is represented on the sub groups and they are leading on the business plan. Updates are provided to the wider partnership at conferences and in a newsletter but there are gaps in engagement	Young people are involved in specific themes and agency specific work, but there is limited involvement in development of safeguarding plan. This is a priority for 2021/22. It has already been stipulated that actions should	Data is collected and discussed in the P,Q &I sub-group. Audits are also commissioned through this group. The group now gets data from all agencies though the format and analysis is being reviewed. The report is presented to the partnership. There	There were some issues regarding referral of cases to Ofsted / national review in 2021. However, a meeting with the national panel helped to clarify this. The case review sub-group manages all referrals and has revised forms and process to meet	The partnership has revised the training delivery over 2020/21 with more online training delivered by an external partner. The training and development plan was reviewed and agreed at the partnership in June 2021. A specific

test set out above. There is a gap around the evidence and research base for the approaches to be taken, which will be addressed.	(particularly the private / business sector / voluntary sector and faith/independent sector)	document how the voice of the user is captured.	are gaps when the data relates to specific areas of activity e.g. the exploitation VOLT scorecard	national guidance. Partners are more aware about the different ways of reviewing at different points in the process e.g. we have recently updated the process for the rapid reviews to ensure we have better quality evidence coming into them.	strand includes evaluation of impact of training (which is in the early stages). However, the partnership doesn't have a current analysis of training needs, nor is one available from communities /voluntary sector. A decision also needsto be taken as to whether the partnership QAs other agencies' core safeguarding training (to give assuranceand also alert to any risks)
Are representatives of the three lead	Is the wider safeguarding children partnership research informed	Is there an outreach (engagement) strategy	Are agencies from the wider partnership undertaking and	Are case reviews adequately resourced to enhance learning, to embrace	Is the planning and delivery of multi-agency

partners strategically placed on relevant partnership meetings, sub groups, and working groups, reviewing progress against the questions within this 'Six Steps' model?	and adhering to national guidelines regarding issues impacting on safeguarding children, including contextual safeguarding?	to ensure that those impacted most by safeguarding concerns are aware of their right to be safeguarded and to play a part in developing initiatives to prevent, respond to and report about safeguarding threats?	sharing their own audits of data pertaining to safeguarding children?	contextual as well as individual and family concerns and to involve the full range of personnel to extract learning?	training informed by the local safeguarding children plan; review of local data; local and national policy; legislative contexts; and up to date research findings?
Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green
Representatives from the 3 statutory partners attend the partnership meeting and sub-groups. However, the level of attendee is not	Partners are well represented on national bodies and at learning events, and bring back good practice and guidance. A	Active engagement with front line users is a key part of the updated requirements of the business plan subgroup (though	Audit activity is discussed in the P,Q and I sub-group. Examples of audits and their impact were outlined in the annual report. CSC	A significant number of SCRs have been published over the last year. Each of these has a detailed action plan for all recommendations.	The training proposal discussed in June partnership meeting set out the priorities (drawn from the plan, reviews and engagement). A full

always at an appropriate level to ensure effective decision making. A light touch review of progress was reported in the annual report (2020/21) and a more substantial assessment done in 2021 (this review). Covid has had an impact in terms of capacity.	conference was held in 2021 on contextual safeguarding with over 150 attendees from across the partnership.	there is limited evidence to date).The partnership doestake part in initiatives e.g. delivering training to staff and users of hate crime projects which would tick the above questions.	carry out significant audit activity and most organisations undertake some form of 'checking activity'. Partnership audits are hampered by resource limitations.	Whilst progress is being made – this needs to be more robustly followed up and reported by partners. Evidence of change and impact are now required before any action is closed. The partnership is also implementing more innovative ways to communicate the learning and expected change and the LCSPR sub is clear that engagement with operational staff is key in terms of info gathering and understanding the systems issues	plan with costingswas presented andagreed by the Exec in September. Any training proposals will also be asked to consider the research basis.
Are the three partners	Are all safeguarding partners engaging	Are opportunities in place for children and	Is all relevant data from within the core	Is learning from reviews being	Is the take up and use of

assured that the safeguarding children partnership works effectively alongside other partnerships: for example the safeguarding adults board; community safety partnership; health and wellbeing board?	with safeguarding children information sharing and staff training protocols?	young people to lead or co-lead safeguarding initiatives; safeguarding training for adults and children; and attending relevant meetings, working groups, and sub groups?	and wider partnership being used to review the impact of safeguarding initiatives on desired outcomes for children?	cascaded and used to improve outcomes for children, their families and community?	safeguarding children training reviewed in both core and wider partnership agencies including take up and use of training by children, young people and communities?
Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green
The chair and business unit cover BSCP and BSAB. There is a quarterly meeting which brings together the chairs of the strategic meetings (chaired by CEO of BC). A	ISAs are in place (though some need to be reviewed). These are managed by the P,P &P sub-group. There is good engagement across partners for training with a desire to share	The involvement of young people in partnership activity is limited. The partnership are considering the best way to address this and this is a priority.	At the current time data is scrutinised in several places, given the involvement of Ofsted in CSC. Partners' data is presented to the P,Q & I sub-group but the link between	All recommendation in case reviews now have robust action plans with identified deliverables and outcomes. There is evidence of change (e.g. Baby N changes within housing). The	The business unit manage all training courses. Covid did impact on delivery, though the shift to online has enabled greater access for some. Training for wider groups is

protocol ensures that the partnerships work together effectively and there is evidence of good work across the groups (serious youth violence, DVA). Chairs and business managers have attended other meetings.	training where appropriate. Conferences and learning events are held and are well attended across partners.		initiatives and outcomes needs tobe developed further.	reporting process by partners could be improved. All new contracts with authors will require that they produce a 7 minute briefing as part of the set of documents at the end point. The partnership is also going to push out any thematic learning from the rapid review part of the process and establishing action learning sets for staff, some of which will be allocated for learning from reviews.	limited but could be improved as part of the new training proposal. The L&D sub group will oversee and monitor training provision
Are necessary reporting and scrutiny processes in place,	Are all safeguarding partners engaged with identifying and	Do young people play a role in assessing and representing	Is all relevant data shared across the partnership and used	Is there evidence of the integration of learning from case	Are the core partners assessing the impact of safeguarding children

with review of required outcomes, and forward planning procedures?	reviewing safeguarding children priorities: facilitating safeguarding concerns up to and down from the three lead partners?	safeguarding concerns in their transition to adult services?	to inform: an assessment of gaps in data, identification of priorities, and future safeguarding plans?	reviews into future training, policy and practice for safeguarding children, young people and communities?	training (impact on practice and desired safeguarding outcomes) and using this to inform future training needs?
Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green	Red/Amber/Green
There is a 3 year business plan for the partnership which was reviewed early 2021 and is being revised to be more focused on operational outcomes. This will involve engagement of all sub-groups and partners. The sub-groups will then own the plan and report	There are some good examples of the route of information and escalation into and out of the subgroups, and into and out of the Exec . In terms of individual cases, the threshold document was reviewed in 2020/21 and a new process launched in 2021. This should help	The partnership is in the early stages of scrutinising this so young people do not play a role at this time (this might be different for individual organisations). This is a priority and there was a joint audit on this a couple of years ago. A working group about several SCRs	The partnership is in a better position in terms of being able to see the journey of the child through services who are members of the sub-group. However, the gaps are a reflection of the gaps in partner agencies' collection (e.g. the lack of clear exploitation data, the limited data from	There is evidence of how action plansfrom case reviews are transferred into learning. Specific learning events are held to address these issues and processes / policies have been changed in light of actions. The gap is around the L&D looking at this action from a multi-agency	This is an area that was highlighted at the last partnership meeting. The business unit will look for good practice (the education psychology service are supporting this work).

progress and escalations to the partnership. The revision will ensure actions are SMART and it is clear what good looks like to enable clearer scrutiny. The Chairs of sub-groups meeting will scrutinise whether the assurance process is making sense. There will be a tighter escalation process to minimise drift and delay. The future of scrutiny post Oftsed needs to be considered (plus the role of CYP in scrutiny).	partners with escalation of concerns. There have been some challenging (healthy) discussions between partners about safeguarding cases which help to resolve any issues. Learning probably needs to extend beyond the 3 statutory partners.	(AA /Family T and the new SAR SS) will meet to discuss an action about the assessment practice around parents with additional needs and 2/3 of these explicitly involves transitions.	early help, the overreliance on criminal justice data for DVA reporting).	perspective not just the partnership training plan, this should increase ownership of the dissemination of learning.	

APPENDIX A – UPDATED DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (will be displayed as in infographic).

At the time of writing the report Buckinghamshire had;

- 88942 Pupils attending state funded schools in Buckinghamshire (May22)
- 1594 Pupils attending special schools in Buckinghamshire (May22)
- 19% Pupils with a first language other than English (Jan22 school census)
- 5635 CYP with an EHCP maintained by Buckinghamshire (5th Sept22)
- 41% Pupils BAME (Jan22 school census)
- 10892 Pupils eligible for free school meals (May22 school census)
- 67 Children missing from education (Jul22)
- 902 Electively home educated (Jul22)

- 237 schools
    - 185 primary schools (including 48 academies/free schools)
        - 36 Infant (2 academies)
        - 23 Junior (7 academies)
        - 126 Combined (39 academies/free)
    - 35 Secondary (26 academies/free)
        - 13 Selective (all academies)
        - 22 non selective (academies/free)
    - 2 all through mainstream (1 academy)
    - 2 nursery
    - 3 PRU (1 academy)
    - 10 special (2 academies)