Scrutiny Inquiry Progress Update on Recommendations
Interim/Final Progress Report 6 months on

Select Committee Inquiry Report Completion Date: 3rd November 2015
Date of this update: 12th April 2016
Lead Officer responsible for this response: Carol Douch
Cabinet Member that has signed-off this update: Lin Hazel and Zahir Mohammed

Accepted Recommendations	Original Response and Actions	Progress Update	Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status)
Recommendation 1: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) should increase the amount of the BSCB Chairman's time that is purchased from the partnership's budget.	Prior to the completion of this enquiry the Chief Executive of the County Council had agreed to increase this capacity from 30 to 40 days per annum.	This has already been completed (see previous update)	
Recommendation 2: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that contract managers are monitoring the compliance of	All commissioners are ensuring that contracts at the point of renewal include CSE. Training for the wider commissioned workforce is highly recommended at all contract monitoring	We continue to support commissioners in challenging compliance with the safeguarding requirements including specific training around CSE.

In addition, the placement form has been updated to include a risk assessment (risks children may pose to others and themselves).

As part of our business planning process we are reviewing all contracts and assessing / ensuring they are targeting children and young people | |

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providers with safeguarding requirements, including ensuring that the Council's wider commissioned workforce undertakes child sexual exploitation training.	meetings, commissioners will continue to highlight training opportunities, monitor and challenge take up.	most at risk and in need.	
Recommendation 3: Buckinghamshire County Council should commission the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust to develop a toolkit for use in primary schools to help schools foster resilience in their pupils.	We continue to work closely with BLT, especially on a range of suitable toolkits and opportunities for schools to feel confident about fostering resilience, this includes PSHE training. This work will be monitored and updates on the various types of support (including toolkits) will be reported on.	We continue working with BLT. We have been looking at additional material (toolbox) to support schools in this work. In September there is a partnership workshop on 'vulnerability', which will include CSE. Carol Douch has a standing item on PEB and BASH which further strengthens links and development opportunities.	
Recommendation 4: Thames Valley Police should roll out the Hotel	The remaining two Local Police Areas (LPA) in Buckinghamshire, Aylesbury and Chiltern &	Aylesbury Vale LPA are building on the Wycombe concept of Hotel Watch with a wider initiative that includes hotels, as well as a range of other premises. This is captured under an initiative called "Nightwatch".	

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Watch scheme across Buckinghamshire.	South Bucks, have agreed to roll out the model, which originated in the Wycombe LPA.		
Recommendation 5: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board should actively monitor that the thresholds document is being applied consistently and accurately by all partners.	Publishing a thresholds document and actively monitoring knowledge and application of this is a core part of the BSCB's business. We have an extensive programme of work in place to: • Embed thresholds across partners through communication, awareness raising and training. This is a tailored approach that recognises that staff need different levels of knowledge and expertise dependent upon their professional role and the amount of contact they have with vulnerable children and young people.	The work described at the last update continues, including targeted work with agencies where evidence has indicated that understanding around thresholds could be improved. We have now distributed well over 1,000 laminated thresholds documents and colleagues are reporting seeing these in a number of locations such as GP surgeries, children's centres etc. This has been supported by the publication of a clearer referral flow diagram which describes the action to take at different levels of need, and the production of two different wallet sized cards to remind professionals what to do when they have a concern about a child. We continue to monitor knowledge of thresholds through a variety of means including auditing activity and questionnaires. There is emerging evidence that knowledge is improving (for example, the recent DfE auditing activity in the local authority found threshold decisions to be sound, threshold decisions in relation to Early Help panels have improved steadily since the panel started, and after some recent work in Bucks the Home Office have commented that we have a strong threshold document which "is underpinned by an evidence base and draws on practitioner's knowledge and experience and has replaced a process that was not working".) However, the Board's own evidence is that there is still room for improvement. We ran a threshold survey last April which gave us a view of thresholds knowledge across the partnership. We plan to repeat this in April / May	

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	• Monitor understanding, confidence and application of thresholds using a variety of methods including questionnaires, audits and data analysis. This will continue to be a key part of the Board's work moving forward.	this year and would hope to see considerable improvement given the wide ranging activity over the last few months. We have also drawn up a multi-agency audit plan for this year which will include looking at the appropriateness of threshold decisions.	
Recommendation 6: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that all sexual health providers within Buckinghamshire attend the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference and facilitate the sharing of information	Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC) continues to be seen as a vital meeting for agencies to share information about potential or recognized risk to a child who has been or could become subject to sexual exploitation. We continue to have good representation and this will remain closely monitored.	We have since reviewed the protocol for SERAC and this has been approved by the safeguarding board, The focus is predominantly centred on individual children who are most at risk.	

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between sexual health providers.			
Recommendation 7: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the names of looked after children within Buckinghamshire at highest risk of child sexual exploitation are shared with sexual health providers on a quarterly basis.	It would not be appropriate to share the details of all LAC children as the majority that have come into care are not at risk due to CSE and this would be a breach of confidentially. However it is essential that children those who are higher risk of CSE have appropriate information shared. The LAC nurse identifies the necessary information and resources.	There has been a reconfiguring of the Swan Unit to not only include the focus on newly referred children but also to ensure those children who are allocated to the Children in Care service. We have developed further work on 'missing children' because of the known links with CSE. In March there was a successful short trail which ensured key partners were having discussion each week-day morning on the children previously gone missing for 24 hours. This was effective but an intensive resource. The longer trail period will be happening shortly.	
Recommendation 8: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the effectiveness of First Response is kept under regular	Performance of First Response and effective triage at the front door is monitored regularly and reported through the Improvement Board and Safeguarding Board. This continues to remain a focal point.	Effective triage at the front door continues to be monitored and is showing increased improvement in key performance indicators. Externally scrutiny by Ingson in January confirmed the progress that our self-assessment had identified.	

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review, including the staffing arrangements following the introduction of the new Contact and Referral Officer post to ensure accurate and timely triage at the social care 'front door'.			
Recommendation 10: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that all County Councillors undertake training on spotting child sexual exploitation.	Agreed. This was agreed by full Council in November 2015 and fully supported by Cabinet. Understanding not only CSE but all aspects of a child's journey through social care and important matters should be a priority for partners (both internal and external) as this enhances the challenge and improvement to the service. Children's Services will work with HQ Member services to ensure training sessions are held for	Members have been work shadowing social care teams, there are further opportunities available and a work shadow timetable and briefing documents has been developed.

A new member intranet page for safeguarding is under development (due April). It is envisage all key documents and latest news or links will be posted here. The aim to keep members up to date and have easy access to information.

Carol Douch and Karen Dolton will be leading a 'safeguarding' training session for all members on the 7th April. This informative and interactive session aims to highlight key information about safeguarding and the journey of the child through social care. Training slides and materials used will then be made available on the members intranet pages. Further sessions are timetabled and case studies will also be made available. | |

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	Members in early 2016 and thereafter at least annually. This will be included as an action within the revised Children's Improvement Plan and the strand of work on supporting Members.		

RAG Status Guidance (For the Select Committee's Assessment)

✔	*Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.*	🟠	*Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction*
⭐	*Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.*	🔺	*Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented*