



## Children's & Education Select Committee agenda

Date: Thursday 7 January 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: via MS Teams

### Membership:

S Adoh, D Barnes, M Collins, E Culverhouse, D Dhillon, B Foster, A Hussain, N Hussain, S Jarvis, D Johncock, R Jones, P Kelly, R Stuchbury, P Turner and J Ward

### Webcasting notice

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's website. At the start of the meeting the chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the council's published policy.

Therefore by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should ask the committee clerk, who will advise where to sit.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the monitoring officer at [monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
<b>1 Apologies for Absence</b>		
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>		
<b>3 Minutes</b>		<b>5 - 14</b>
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November as a correct record.		

<b>4</b>	<b>Public Questions</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Chairman's Update</b> For the Chairman to update the Committee on any Scrutiny related activity since the last meeting.	<b>14:10</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Children's Mental Health</b> The Committee will receive an overview of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Buckinghamshire and gain insight into the impact the Covid 19 pandemic might have had on children and young people this year. In addition, members will learn about how schools have been supported in encouraging positive wellbeing amongst pupils during this challenging time.  <b>Contributors:</b> Cllr Mark Shaw, Cabinet Member for Children's Services Cllr Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills Mr Tolis Vouyioukas, Corporate Director for Children's Services Mr Simon James, Service Director, Education Dr Eleanor Rowsell, Head of Psychological Therapies, Bucks CAMHS Dr Joe Clacey, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist/ Medical Lead for Bucks CAMHS Ms Debra Rutley, Executive Headteacher at Aspire Schools	<b>14:15</b>	<b>15 - 24</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership</b> The Committee will receive an update on the work of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership, which replaced the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board in mid-2019.  <b>Contributors:</b> Cllr Mark Shaw, Cabinet Member for Children's Services Cllr Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills Mr Tolis Vouyioukas, Corporate Director for Children's Services Sir Francis Habgood, Independent Chair of Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board	<b>15:15</b>	<b>25 - 40</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Work Programme</b> The Committee will note the work programme.	<b>16:00</b>	<b>41 - 42</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	<b>16:05</b>	

Thursday 4 March 2021 at 2.00 pm.

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Kelly Sutherland on 01296 383602, email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank



## Children's & Education Select Committee minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Children's & Education Select Committee held on Thursday 5 November 2020 in Virtual meeting via MS teams, commencing at 2.00 pm and concluding at 3.51 pm.

### Members present

S Adoh, D Barnes, E Culverhouse, D Dhillon, B Foster, A Hussain, N Hussain, D Johncock, P Kelly, R Stuchbury, P Turner, J Ward, A Cranmer, T Green and M Shaw

### Others in attendance

G Drawmer, Mr S James, G Morgan, K Sutherland, S Taylor, C Pease and M Skoyles

### Apologies

### Agenda Item

#### 1 Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies had been received.

#### 2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dominic Barnes declared that his wife worked for a grammar school in Buckinghamshire.

#### 3 Minutes

It was agreed that the name of the person who had submitted the public questions be added to the minutes; future minutes would also include the name of the person who submitted the question(s).

**ACTION: Mrs K Sutherland**

The actions of the previous minutes were reviewed:

- Mrs Sutherland had amended the previous minutes.
- Item 5 Chairman's Update - The presentation had been circulated to the committee members.
- Item 7 SEND Improvement Plan - Mr James had provided a response to Councillor Stuchbury on whether there was a waiting list for speech therapy. Mrs Sutherland agreed to circulate the response to the committee members.

**ACTION: Mrs Sutherland**

- The Chairman and Mr James had discussed the timeframe of the possible agenda item on the forward plan.
- It was agreed that councillors would be referred to as 'Councillor' in future minutes.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 were AGREED as an accurate record subject to the amendments mentioned above.**

**4 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**5 Chairman's Update**

The Chairman advised that the Select Committee was very fortunate to have Mr Mark Skoyles, the primary school representative and Ms Clare Pease, the secondary school representative, as co-opted members to assist with education scrutiny matters. Mr Skoyles and Ms Pease had served previously and were welcomed back to the Committee.

In response to an update on a councillor's request to move the Children's and Education Select Committee meeting to the evening; the Chairman advised that all the meeting dates were agreed by the Shadow Authority and these committee meetings were arranged in the afternoon.

**6 Family Support Service - One Year on**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mark Shaw, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Mr Tolis Vouyioukas, Corporate Director for Children's Services Mr Gareth Morgan, Head of Early Help and Mr Simon James, Service Director, Education.

Councillor Shaw advised that it had been agreed, by cabinet decision in March 2019, that a Family Support Service (FSS) be provided. The FSS launched on 2 September 2019 and aimed to provide local services to families at the right time. There were three teams; in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and the Chiltern and South Bucks area whose focus was to improve family resilience and obtain the best outcomes for children and young people. Positive feedback had been received and the Buckinghamshire Council Improvement Partner, Hampshire County Council, had been impressed with progress to date, bearing in mind the impact of Covid-19. Over the last year the FSS had seen a 16% increase in people seeking help and advice. Councillor Shaw expressed his gratitude to all staff over the last year and added that there would a greater sense of concern over children and young people's wellbeing during the second lockdown.

Mr James highlighted the recommendations in the report and emphasised that the focus of the service was to provide the right support at the right time and to intervene as early as possible. Mr James explained that there was flexibility in the way the service offered its support to families across the county and there were two primary aims for the service; firstly, to support vulnerable families and their children

to achieve positive outcomes and, secondly, to make sure that services were integrated wherever possible to improve the resilience of families and the local communities.

Between the start of the service and March 2020 the service ran as planned; however, following the first lockdown, the majority of the service was provided by virtual contact. There was also an online Family Information Service (FIS) to help families self-serve. 77% of the outcomes agreed with families had been achieved and the improvement had been noted by the Improvement Board. However, there was always scope for improvement and the FSS would continue to focus on three areas: to ensure that all plans reflected issues across the whole family and were considered in a holistic way; to ensure that a reflective approach was embedded, particularly in connection with supervision and to ensure that the recording and case summaries were always up to date and appropriately detailed. Performance would be monitored on a monthly and quarterly basis.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- A Member asked for clarification on whether the youth service would be brought back in-house as he reported hearing that young people had nowhere to go. Demand was rising and the Member asked how the service was coping with budget pressures and Covid-19. Mr Tolis Vouyioukas, Corporate Director, Children's Services, stated that the family support model included a youth offer targeted to those who needed it most. The report referred to a model that was based on local need instead of a 'one size fits all' approach. Buckinghamshire Council, like any other local authority in the country, knew that families were finding the situation challenging and were working to make sure they had the right support. Mr Morgan added that the oversight of the 16 community-led youth centres had been brought back in-house to enable the team to work alongside youth practitioners in community settings in order to increase capacity across the county for young people to obtain support and guidance appropriate to need.
- Covid-19 had provided the opportunity to create a virtual forum for shared ideas and to develop shared responses. There was a real pressure around the services as well as the voluntary community led groups; youth practitioners continued to operate within the integrated FSS to effectively target and support families with teenagers. The youth practitioners also carried out one to one work and worked alongside partner organisations to make the best use of resources to support young people through these difficult times.
- Mr Morgan noted that the Community Boards would also help to support the development of responses to local community need alongside FSS provision.
- A Member commented that the report did not provide a correlation between the old and the new service; a higher number of people were being seen but he queried how the quality of outcomes was being measured. Mr Morgan stated that there was no direct comparison. The report set out the progress

made against the three particular areas that the service wanted to change i.e. accessibility, being connected to communities and partner agencies and providing a more targeted service towards those families most in need of support. In terms of a direct comparison on the Children's Centre and family centre models, the nearest detail available was the increased number of sessions that were being run out of 16 sites compared to 35 children's centre sites; the comparison in terms of the age range and also the level of activity which was targeted at families who had additional needs compared to those using children's centres in order to access universal provision.

- Accessibility had improved as there had been a 21% increase in demand; 16% of those accessing the service came from the individuals themselves. The other accessibility improvement was the online and digital offer that the service provided; demand had increased across all the platforms resulting in increased access to support services.
- In response to concern over the expected surge at the end of the second lockdown and how the FSS would deal with the increased demand, Mr Morgan explained that much of the work with families started pre-lockdown would have concluded which had created capacity now to respond to increasing demand. The Service had adapted their way of working during the second lockdown and had continued to see families face to face where possible.
- A Member asked where the 16 centres were and requested assurance that those who needed help were able to access help; Mr Morgan agreed to re-circulate a list, but confirmed that the 16 centres were chosen after careful data and needs analysis. Mr Morgan reiterated that demand had increased and that the right people were being reached.

**ACTION: Mr Morgan to circulate a list of the 16 Family Centres.**

- Concern was expressed over the impact of lockdown on young people's mental health and whether the strategy supported the children individually or just as a family. Mr Morgan explained that the service did recognise that young individuals needed help; a family support worker was linked to every school in the county; staff had been seconded to the mental health support scheme in schools (an externally funded partnership project) and the FSS played a significant part in formation of those teams in order to respond early and support young people to build their resilience.
- Mr Morgan confirmed that the FSS was promoted via the FIS and social media but communication was not sent out via the school children; however, the FSS had regular dialogue with all the schools and there was a reliance on partner agencies. Mr James stressed that it was a targeted service and that not all parents would necessarily know about it.
- Following a query on whether there was sufficient resources to support the virtual clubs and health and wellbeing in youth clubs and whether analysis had been carried out to determine which sessions should be prioritised to reach the right people; Mr Morgan advised that the FSS was constantly considering requests to deliver sessions and would like to be able to deliver session in more community based locations; there was more work to be carried out with the Community Boards to explore new opportunities. Mr

James added that he was confident there were sufficient resources which were used in a targeted, careful way, in partnership and collaboration with partners, across Buckinghamshire. Mr Morgan confirmed that training would be provided to youth centres if required, once it was safe to do so.

- Reference was made to the graph on page 17 of agenda pack. The report stated 77% of families achieved their outcomes but the graph showed 63% family outcomes achieved. Mr Morgan explained the discrepancy in that 63% was the percentage of outcomes of everyone who was referred into the FSS (the gross figure). The figure of 77% was the percentage of families who positively engaged with the FSS i.e. a net figure measured against a slightly reduced cohort.
- In response to being asked whether use of the 'positive parenting' scheme had been considered as a preventative measure; Mr Morgan stated that the FSS did deliver the course where possible. The 'Family Links' programme was used by the Service as it focussed on mental wellbeing within the family as the foundation for change. It was a targeted offer at level 2. The FSS did not have the resource to roll parenting support out as a universal offer but with the health visitor service and various other services there was a large parenting offer across the county to address a significant amount of need. Mr Morgan highlighted that the non-targeted part of the service was available via the FIS; every school had been provided with an FIS information pack but it would be possible to send out a refresh. One of the Members added that a link could also be posted on school web sites.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution.

**RESOLVED: The Children and Education Select Committee NOTED the progress made and impact achieved by the Family Support Service in the first year of operation.**

## **7 Educational Standards**

Councillor Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills thanked the schools for their work over the last six months and reported that all the schools were currently open; only two schools had had to close for a short period of time. 16 schools had been mildly affected by Covid-19 and there had been 39 reported cases in 85,000 children. Councillor Cranmer highlighted that the information in the report related to educational outcomes for children and young people in Buckinghamshire for the academic year 2018-2019 and did not include this year's GCSE results as they would not be reported nationally. Exclusions were still below the national rate and, nationally, Buckinghamshire schools still had a higher than national rating of good and above.

Mr James also formally thanked the schools and advised that the purpose of the detailed report was to provide the Select Committee with updated information on educational standards and attainment. Mr James highlighted the following key points:

- Buckinghamshire was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the country for good level of

development in the Early Years Foundation Stage; the inequality gap had decreased and a higher percentage of Buckinghamshire pupils with an EHCP achieved a good level of development compared with national data.

- Key Stage One levels for reading, writing and maths were above the national average. Pupils with an EHCP achieved above national attainment levels in Reading at Key Stage 1. Pupils with SEN Support also achieved attainment levels above the national in reading and writing.
- Combined attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths for pupils on SEN Support and those with an EHCP, was above national at Key Stage 2.
- Key Stage 4 results were above the national, including those with SEN. Looked after children were also above the national average in reading and writing.
- Exclusion rates were positive.
- The percentage of pupils in Buckinghamshire schools rated as Ofsted good or outstanding had increased to 90% in 2019. The national average was 85%.
- The percentage of children in Buckinghamshire Early Years settings rated as Ofsted good or outstanding had increased to 96% in 2019 and was in line with the national figure.
- Disadvantaged children remained the highest priority; focus and a clear plan of action would continue to narrow the attainment gap.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Following a query on whether the high exclusion rates for Black and Ethnic Minority (BAME) pupils would be addressed; Mr James confirmed that this had been included in the action plan. Mr Gareth Drawmer, Head of Achievement and Learning, added that BAME, Pakistani heritage and disadvantaged children in rural areas were disproportionately represented and that these three groups were at the heart of the work being carried out. It was agreed that the outcome of the forthcoming conferences on Narrowing the Gap and monthly workshops be included in the next report to the Select Committee.
- The Chairman requested an updated figure on the number of children missing from education and whether there had been an increase in elective home education since March 2020. Mr Drawmer stated he did not have the precise figures but confirmed that there had been an increase in elective home education. The number of children missing in education had also risen, partly due to people moving in and out of the area whilst the schools were shut and the time lag in the information from the schools.

**ACTION: Mr Drawmer**

- It was noted that there had been a noticeable increase in the attainment gap across all age groups and it had been reported in the media that the gap was likely to increase further due to Covid-19. Mr James assured the Committee that this issue was the biggest priority and an action plan was in place. It was agreed that a report be provided at a future date setting out how the action plan/strategies had performed.

**ACTION: Mrs Sutherland**

- A Member stated that it had been a continuous problem to narrow the attainment gap in Buckinghamshire; he felt the report did not adequately reflect the fact that many children came into the county to be educated in grammar schools. There was also concern that many disadvantaged children would have missed out on a large part of their education due to Covid-19. Mr James stated that the reporting style and details contained in the report were in line with the best practice required by the Department for Education (DfE). Mr James advised that many disadvantaged children were now in receipt of a laptop; schools had worked to ensure the right interventions were in place and public exams had been delayed by three weeks to allow vulnerable children to progress.
- Mr Skoyles reiterated how well the schools had done during Covid-19 and asked whether any data was available on the Side by Side Programme to show the difference the resource had made to the intervention schools. Mr Drawmer stated that there had been improvements in the latest results for secondary schools; however, the results had been teacher assessed rather than by exam so a direct comparison could not be made with previous years. It had not been possible to make a judgement on 2019-2020 on primary school results as all formal exams had been stopped from early years through to Key Stage 2. The Side by Side Programme was introduced in 2018-2019 and initial feedback had been very positive and demonstrated the schools had improved their outcomes. Mr Skoyles advised it would be useful for the Select Committee to see the results data and trends. Mr Drawmer clarified that the funding for this project was provided via a grant from the DfE.

**ACTION: Mrs Sutherland**

- Ms Pease reported that it was noticeable how happy the children were to be back in school and that the impact on the children's mental health and education could not be underestimated. There would be a number of children in Buckinghamshire who would have been borderline for a grammar school place and, who having missed six months of school, and perhaps not had the capacity to be tutored, would be looking for a place in a non-selective school resulting in filling the grammar school places with children from out of the county. Would the local authority be monitoring the potential increase of requirements for non-selective places in schools within the County from September? Mr James advised that monitoring was required, and was reviewed monthly, to ensure accurate forward planning, particularly with the impact of the 11+.
- Ms Pease stated that the Government had recently released a statement saying the allocation of laptops to schools had been reduced and asked whether any provision was in place to ensure that all children could access a laptop if schools were closed. Mr Drawmer reported that the number of children who required a laptop was smaller than initially thought. The Service was working on the fact that there were enough laptops in the system but the situation would be monitored carefully.
- Concern was raised over families who might only have one laptop between three children. Mr James explained that the government scheme provided laptops to specific groups of children e.g. those with an allocated social

worker. Most schools now had an allocation of laptops and could provide a laptop to children if need be. Regular meetings took place with school leaders to ascertain if there were particular children in need and Mr James was confident that the needs of the disadvantaged children would be addressed.

- A Member asked for information to be provided in the future of how children from a low economic background had fared during the pandemic. Mr James stated that the country was still in unprecedented times and it was unknown how the children would fare; the Service was doing everything it could to support the children and, once life was back to normal, the service would take stock and look at the lessons learned for the future. Mr Drawmer added that there was focus on self-regulation in the pupils to develop strategies for resilience. The Service was working carefully to manage the impact on this cohort of children and additional funding was available for disadvantaged children in terms of tutoring and support.
- In response to being asked if the Council had taken steps regarding the Supreme Court's decision on the capability of SEN children taking the 11+; Mr Drawmer stated that SEN children had appropriate adjustments made to access the tests.

The Chairman thanked all the officers, school staff, head teachers and social workers on behalf of the Select Committee for their hard work.

**RESOLVED: The Children and Education Select Committee NOTED the report and the action plans it contained.**

## **8 Work Programme**

It was proposed that the following items be included on the Select Committee work programme for the meeting on 7 January 2021:

- Children's Mental Health
- A report from the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership (if there was no monitoring visit by Ofsted).

Following Mr Skoyles' request for clarification on the youth offer, it was agreed that this would be discussed after the meeting..

**ACTION: Mrs Sutherland**

Mrs Sutherland advised that a small working group would be set up to carry out initial scoping on the recruitment of social workers. It was agreed that Mrs Sutherland would circulate an email to the committee members asking for volunteers to contact her.

**ACTION: Mrs Sutherland**

**RESOLVED: The Children and Education Select Committee NOTED the work programme.**

- 9**      **Date of Next Meeting**  
Thursday 7 January 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank



## Report to Children's and Education Select Committee

**Date:** 7 January 2021

**Title:** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Buckinghamshire

**Presenters:**

Dr Eleanor Rowsell, Head of Psychological Therapies CAMHS / Consultant Clinical Psychologist

Dr Joe Clacey, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist / Medical Lead for Bucks CAMHS

Debra Rutley, Executive Headteacher at Aspire Schools

**Background**

1. In 2014/15, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in Buckinghamshire was recommissioned and a new service model was introduced in October 2015. The service is provided by Oxford Health Foundation Trust (OHFT) in partnership with Barnardo's and is jointly commissioned by NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Buckinghamshire Council.
2. The service is based on the [Thrive model](#) embracing a whole system approach, promoting resilience, early intervention, prevention and collaboration with the aim of reducing escalation of need, and improving outcomes for children and young people.
3. The service was rated as 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in 2019 and continues to develop in response to the voices of children, young people and parents, stakeholder feedback and the changing needs of Buckinghamshire residents. Developments include: the delivery of mental health into schools through a multi-agency team including children's social care, education and Bucks Mind, as well as enabling children and young people to access digital interventions initially through Kooth and Helios.
4. [Buckinghamshire CAMHS Local Transformation Plan 2019/20](#) was developed to demonstrate the journey taken since 2015 and to show the direction of travel for the next year. The refreshed plan takes account of local developments including changing need and demand as well as reflecting national priorities set out in documents such as the NHS Long Term Plan. It sets out the current local offer and levels of investment into mental health services and outlines our future plans for transformation to help us meet

local need and national expectations. The plan and priorities have been developed in partnership with our stakeholders.

5. Since COVID-19, we have rapidly moved the CAMHS workforce to remote digital intervention/working for all but essential face to face clinical work. There is now an established 24/7 mental health helpline for CAMHS accessed through NHS 111.

**Main presenting issues**

6. Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, children and young people have experienced major changes in their lives. These have affected their family situation as well as their access to education, leisure and other services. As a result, we can see a significant rise in the number of referrals in May 2020 and then again in August 2020:



7. More detailed information relating to the referrals received between April and November 2020 is detailed below. It shows that referrals both received and accepted for assessment exceed those nationally whilst the proportion of emergency referrals are significantly below those nationally. In addition, Within CAMHS there was a rapid move to digital working at the beginning of lockdown in March, over double the national average. This has increased significantly since.

	Bucks	Mean	Median
Total CAMHS: referrals received per 100,000 population (0-18)	6016	3872	3645
Total CAMHS: proportion of referrals received marked urgent / emergency	3%	12%	10%
Total CAMHS: referrals accepted per 100,000 population (0-18)	3976	2998	2733
Total CAMHS: referral acceptance rate	66%	79%	78%

	Bucks	Mean	Median
Total CAMHS: conversion rate	60%	70%	69%
Total CAMHS: patients on the caseload per 100,000 population at 31st March 2020 (0-18)	1837	1638	1465
Total CAMHS: contacts per 100,000 population (0-18)	27880	24124	21988
Total CAMHS: proportion of contacts delivered non face to face (telephone or digitally)	30%	24%	24%
Total CAMHS: proportion of non face to face contacts delivered digitally (e.g. video conferencing, telemedicine)	32%	14%	2%
Total CAMHS: discharges per 100,000 population (0-18)	3114	2279	1980
Total CAMHS: DNA rate	6%	10%	9%

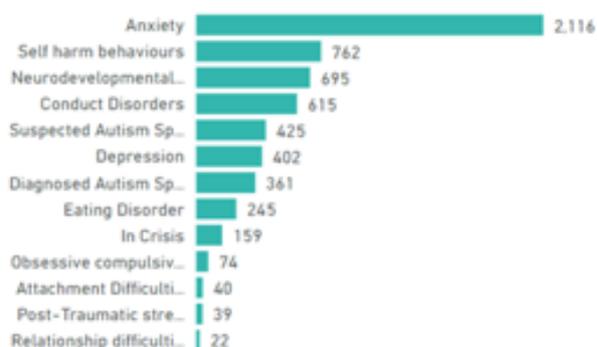
8. The CAMHS Access Indicator is also showing increased demand/activity with Buckinghamshire exceeding the 35% target at 44.5% (this includes Kooth Counselling which is commissioned by CAMHS). Please note due to the national submission and need to verify data only September 2020 data is currently available.

<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	<i>Apr-20</i>	<i>May-20</i>	<i>Jun-20</i>	<i>Jul-20</i>	<i>Aug-20</i>	<i>Sep-20</i>
<i>Access % - Last 12 months</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>41.0%</i>	<i>42.7%</i>	<i>43.2%</i>	<i>43.4%</i>	<i>44.5%</i>

9. Anxiety, Neurodevelopmental (numbers inflated by a change in service provision), self harm and conduct are the top reasons for referral so far this year. This is also consistent with 2019-20 data. In addition to the overall total, a further breakdown of the referrals received by Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) is provided. Further information relating to the MHST is provided below the reason or referral breakdown.

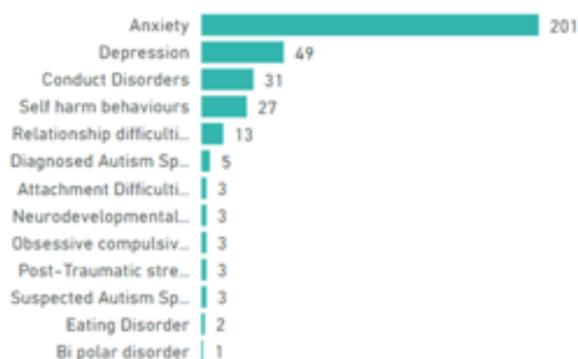
### Reason for referrals Total

Why are patients being referred?



### Reason for referral MHST

Why are patients being referred?



10. The MHST into school's service was set up as part of the original green paper trailblazer to support the delivery of the long-term plan ambitions for children and young people. They were set up to ensure all children and young people have access to high quality mental health and wellbeing support linked to their school or college. The MHST support links into more specialist services (within and beyond the NHS) where this is needed. In Buckinghamshire, our partnership was set up with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Buckinghamshire Council and Bucks Mind to deliver the trailblazer to education settings in Buckinghamshire. 32 schools were originally involved; however, during the pandemic the offer was opened up to any schools within Buckinghamshire who remained open. This opportunity was used to identify additional schools requiring MHST services and an additional 8 schools became part of the trailblazer. 15 additional schools which were part of a collaborative or group have been included, allowing the MHST service to widen the reach from 16.5% to 28% of all young people in Bucks who attend a state-run education setting.
11. Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in Self Harm presentations amongst children and young people. We have carried out data analysis looking at both our care notes recorded data and data recorded by our Psychiatric Liaison service at BHT. The data is somewhat unclear, although looking at the time period in question there is an increase in presentations via A and E (29.5% in same period 2019 v 2020), looking at the pattern of referrals for the last 3 years there have been similar peaks throughout this period of time. There has been an increase (67%) in presentations reporting suicidality which may offer some indication of why this peak is generating concern. It is also important to acknowledge the data we have will not pick up increases that are not seen in A and E or generate a new referral.
12. Some examples of best practice in Buckinghamshire is shown below:
- a) Partnership working:
- Single Point of Access (SPA) - a core part of CAMHS provision. Any professionals or families with concerns regarding a young person's emotional well-being can call into SPA for a consultation with a mental health clinician Monday-Friday 8am-6pm (consent required for this to become a referral).
  - Child Protection and links with MASH - CAMHS are actively working with Social Care to review processes where a child has attempted to end their own life or caused themselves significant harm. Responding to MASH enquiries and taking part in strategy discussions where appropriate.
  - Links with the Family Support Service (FSS) and the NEET solutions panel - CAMHS attend the multi agency NEET solutions meetings and work with Bucks FSS in relation to the NEET offer and developing appropriate multi-agency processes and support.

- FSS have an identified Lead Practitioner for Mental Health whose role includes strengthening connections between FSS and relevant partner agencies. They are currently attending CAMHS team meeting to introduce this role, learn more about what each other do, and think together about how the organisations can work more closely together.
  - Looked After and Adopted Children’s CAMHS Team – a Clinical Psychologist embedded within Buckinghamshire CC children’s homes allows joined up, person centred care for these young people.
  - Dynamic Support Register – part of the nationally led transforming care programme for people with learning disabilities and / or Autism. A multiagency group aimed at proactively managing adults, children and young people who are deemed to be at risk of admission. The Clinical Lead for the CAMHS intellectual disabilities pathway attends these meetings regularly and co-ordinates the CAMHS input.
- b) Support to schools including special schools – This is delivered in a variety of ways, including from our neurodevelopmental and intellectual disabilities specialists, CAMHS and Barnardo’s link workers, Kooth and the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST). Bucks CAMHS has a close partnership with Aspire, the Pupil Referral Unit in Buckinghamshire. A senior Clinical Psychologist employed by Oxford Health has been seconded to work 27 hours a week directly into Aspire during term time. This post is co funded between Aspire and Oxford Health.
- c) Specialist Practitioner for Neurodevelopmental conditions within CAMHS - This role is community facing with the aim of improving awareness of services for children and young people with Neuro-developmental conditions including:
- how to access services and awareness of how to support within mainstream provisions.
  - advice to stakeholders including parents, schools, and community services regarding reasonable adjustments and understanding ways to support children and young people with ASD/ADHD including those who may not yet have been diagnosed.
  - support with early identification of neuro-developmental needs through a raising awareness of indicators including behaviours that challenge.
  - encouraging families and professionals to use proactive measures in line with positive behaviour support approaches; hopefully encouraging longer term strategies to be in place rather than reactive responses resulting in families reaching crisis.
  - promoting a needs led approach rather than adjustments once a diagnosis has been made.

- facilitated through consultation to a range of stakeholders and by running training directly to education and other professionals.
- d) School Link workers - Every Primary School and Secondary school within Buckinghamshire has a CAMHS link worker who provides:
- Support and advice
  - Non-urgent Consultations
  - Updates within CAMHS
  - Information regarding relevant training and services
- e) Training for schools:
- PPEPCare has been designed to help staff in primary care and education to recognise and understand mental health difficulties in children and young people and offer appropriate support and guidance to children, young people and their families using psycho-education and relevant psychological techniques (e.g. using a cognitive behavioural framework). Training consists of didactic teaching, experiential learning, group discussion and DVD material and is delivered by appropriately qualified staff from local CAMHS services. It aims to:
    - Enhance primary care consultations skills so that children and young people receive better quality, integrated care and so that health professionals can make more effective use of brief consultation sessions
    - Enhance knowledge and skill of staff working within the school setting to help them more readily identify mental health issues in their students and support them and their families
    - We presently provide 15 locality training events a year. On top of this, we provide free training directly into schools as requested (8 bespoke events since February 2020).
- f) Support after suicide - If there has been a suicide within a school, then support via CAMHS has been provided by our SPA and Crisis Team into the school. This may involve additional training for teachers or offering direct consultations / assessments with young people.
- g) Buckinghamshire Special Schools:
- Clinicians, Medics and Leads from the service continue to build on positive relationships with senior leaders, teaching staff and other key professionals in each of the special schools to develop effective multiagency working, as well as improving access to the service by having a positive and regular presence in each of the Special Schools. For example:

- Clinical lead and Head of Service attended Special Heads Meeting at beginning of last academic year to improve understanding of CAHMS provision for different groups of children with SEN and to establish a named person (Clinical Lead) for any of the Special School Heads to contact with questions.
- Clinical Lead has established termly meetings with 4 Special Schools who refer the most cases to CAMHS. This allows for efficient monitoring of cases open to CAMHS, as well as providing a consultation service to allow for early intervention and preventative work for children who may not meet the threshold for a CAMHS service.
- All the other Special Schools in the county have a named CAMHS link worker allocated from the CAHMS-ID pathway to provide specialist link worker support to meet the needs of children with SEND.

### **Outcomes for children**

13. Outcomes are measured, monitored and reported in a variety of ways, both locally and nationally. For example, the outcome of interventions delivered by Bucks Wellbeing Practitioners for children and young people are included in the national CAMHS reports prepared for the National Adviser on Child Mental Health. Locally we provide commissioners with regular case studies across our clinical pathways. We have also reported the use of Routine Outcome measures across groups and workshops delivered within CAMHS between April 2019 - March 2020. Goal-Based Outcomes (designed to evaluate progress towards a goal by comparing how far a young person believes they have moved along a 10-point scale towards reaching their target) across all groups demonstrated significant improvements in progress towards goals.
14. The Revised Children's Anxiety and Depression Scale (RCADS) was also commonly used across many groups. The RCADS showed an improvement in symptoms in the majority of groups; however, there was a slight increase in average symptoms for 1 out of 6 Autism Spectrum Disorder Anxiety groups and 1 out of 6 Teen Anxiety groups.
15. Other routine outcome measures used within CAMHS also demonstrated positive results. Within the Looked After Children pathway there were significant increases in carer-reported knowledge and understanding of different topics, and a reduction in carer-reported difficulties experienced by looked after children. The Re-Connect pathway demonstrated a decrease in symptoms of both anxiety and depression following the 20-week group for parents. The Multiple Family Therapy group for Eating Disorders showed an increase in parents' self-reported caregiver skills, and in one out of two groups this was also sustained at follow-up.
16. Example feedback from a school consultation is shown below:

'I really wanted to thank you on behalf of both of us for coming in to chat to us about ways we can support some of our most vulnerable pupils in school. We are becoming increasingly concerned about the mental health of our pupils and the impact anxiety and low self-esteem is having on their education and ability to enjoy school and their childhood. The training schedule that you shared with us is really helpful as staff in the school really want to be doing the right thing to support these children. Having the confidence to deal with situations and know when to make a referral is so important.

The advice you were able to give us on strategies to support our pupil who has a diagnosis of ADHD, and demonstrates traits of ASD was incredibly useful, and you were also great at explaining how he may be feeling in certain situations and ways we can understand how to identify triggers and challenges he may be experiencing.

It is not always easy to access advice and we know that professionals are always really busy, so we appreciate the time you gave us and the advice is already making a positive impact.'

### **Wellbeing Support for Buckinghamshire Schools**

17. It was well understood that following the full return to school in September 2020 , children and young people may be presenting with a range of mental health and wellbeing issues. To help, the Department for Education worked with the Department of Health and Social Care, Health Education England, Public Health England, NHS England and Improvement and an expert advisory group to develop "Wellbeing for Education Return" - a new, national training package for education staff. The aim was to help schools and colleges to provide wellbeing support for children and young people, preventing as many as possible from developing mental health problems and ensure those with pre-existing or emerging difficulties access the right support.
18. Aspire School was commissioned by Buckinghamshire Council to deliver this project that focused on increasing Buckinghamshire schools' ability to respond to the challenges that many of our young people and their families will be facing as a result of COVID-19. The specific objectives of the project were to:
  - Increase the knowledge and expertise of the school workforce, so that staff feel confident and competent in dealing with the challenges raised by Covid-19, such as trauma, emotional self-regulation and community expectations.
  - Provide opportunities for meaningful peer to peer collaboration and support, and champion best practice so that models of excellent practice are widely accessible and adaptable for other schools.
  - Create agile and adaptive processes for getting support to those children and young people who need it the most, and the teachers and school leaders who work with them so that our most vulnerable children are fully supported by an integrated system.

19. Between September and October 2020, Aspire and Buckinghamshire Council ran five expert sessions (free to schools) for school leaders, including heads, SLT and SENDCos. The content of these sessions were based on the needs and priorities identified from a survey of headteachers in June 2020. The sessions were advertised through communications with headteachers and Teaching Schools and run by Zoom. The below provides an overview of the key themes covered:

- Looking after staff wellbeing
- Emotional regulation
- Trauma and PTSD
- Attachment Disorder
- Loss, bereavement and anxiety

20. Approximately 250 staff attended the sessions and feedback survey links were sent out with the resources from each session. Participants were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the session(s) they had attended on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being 'very dissatisfied' and 5 being 'very satisfied'. All respondents rated themselves at a 4 or a 5, with 67% reporting satisfaction rates at the highest level. Participants were asked to be specific about how they will use the training. Again, responses were overwhelmingly positive and included:

- Practical strategies staff had already started using with staff and specific students and groups (e.g. nurture groups)
- Use of materials shared by speakers with staff (Powerpoint, videos of sessions)
- An intention to disseminate

21. In addition to the support provided through the Wellbeing Support Project, Buckinghamshire Council's Educational Psychology Team has introduced a dedicated 'Well-being Support and Advice Line'. The helpline is primarily intended to provide school leaders (including headteachers, deputy and assistant headteachers, SENCOs and other members of each senior leadership team) with a safe and confidential space in which they can talk through the challenges, stresses and frustrations of operating schools and settings during this unprecedented situation. Although many conversations through the helpline will stand alone, more regular contact can be established if both parties feel this would be appropriate and beneficial. Furthermore, where necessary the Educational Psychologists can provide guidance on accessing more intensive medium- and long-term support. The Educational Psychology team has also curated some really helpful for schools on how best to manage bereavement and grief during the COVID-19 pandemic. It covers different situations and the difficult emotions bereaved people may have to deal with.

This page is intentionally left blank



## Report for Select Committee

<b>Date:</b>	07 January 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019/20
<b>Relevant councillor(s):</b>	All
<b>Author and/or contact officer:</b>	Sir Francis Habgood, independent Chair for Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>For Select Committee to note the progress made by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership during the last year.</b>

### 1. Content of report

- 1.1 In 2018, a review was commenced to consider new local safeguarding arrangements in line with the revised Working Together 2018 statutory guidance. The arrangements have been developed by the statutory safeguarding partners following initial work by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and from ongoing collaboration with relevant agencies and partners. This review has resulted in the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, which were agreed and signed off by the Statutory Partners in June 2019, changing the Safeguarding Children Board into the Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP).
- 1.2 The BSCP is a statutory, multi-organisation partnership coordinated by the local authority, which oversees and leads children safeguarding across the Buckinghamshire Council area. The main objective of the BSCP is to gain assurance that safeguarding arrangements locally, and its partner organisations work effectively, individually and together, to support and safeguard children in its area who are at risk of abuse and neglect.
- 1.3 The BSCP has worked over the last year with our partners across the multi-agency arena to drive activity to ensure that we have met or worked towards the key priorities. As a result of the business functions of the Safeguarding Children

Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board becoming a single business unit, we will be seeking to undertake some joint strategic work over the next two years. The focus of this work will be to streamline and aligned the new three year business plans for both the Partnership and Board to demonstrate closer working together and a whole-family approach to our work. We are seeking to provide a joint learning and development plan to again provide closer training and learning opportunities across all our multi agencies, voluntary and charity sectors. Through the work in our subgroups we are seeking to produce quality assurance frameworks that will support the subgroup activities and challenge those working in the safeguarding arena to ensure that our policies and procedures are imbedded in the work we carry out and that we can demonstrate the impact of learning that has taken place.

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 2019-2020 saw the Safeguarding Children Board change into the Safeguarding Children Partnership halfway through the year. One of the leading strategic aims was to complete this transformation with a new executive body and a new overarching chair and management structure to support the business unit functions of both the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership. The transformation also included a revision of Partnership participation at the executive level. Alongside this work, the strategic priorities for the BSCP during this period have been:
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Child Exploitation
  - Neglect
  - Commitment to a high level Improvement Plan
- 1.6 The Board is currently supported by five subgroups that carry out the day to day work in order to help deliver the Board's objectives and Strategic Plan. The new partnership arrangements advocate for a new Learning and Education subgroup to support the ongoing multi-agency work with children and young people. This subgroup will work closely with them in their educational years, seeking to deliver positive outcomes that have a lasting effect on their lives. The work of each subgroup is covered in detail during the Annual Report itself.

- 1.7 This year was a significant one for the safeguarding children's world as the Children's Board was reformed into the Children's Partnership following guidelines laid out in Working Together 2018. A number of objectives set out in the previous Annual Report have been achieved this year. Of note, in August 2019 the business functions of the Safeguarding Adults Board merged with the Safeguarding Children Partnership to form one business unit. The business unit now has one Safeguarding Partnership Manager to oversee the daily operation of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and one Joint Independent Chair. This has streamlined the business processes but not impacted on the valuable work the Safeguarding Children Partnership carry out to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people in Buckinghamshire. A review was undertaken with regards to the membership of both the Partnership and subgroups which led to a more focused membership, ensuring that work of the subgroups was sufficiently supported from our multi-agencies and third sector volunteer and charity sectors.
- 1.8 The joint protocol that exists between the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Safer Stronger Bucks Board has been under review leading to a new but slimmed down joint protocol that will be published in 2020. This document will set out defined structures for joint working between these four groups, leading to more cohesive strategies to support our local communities.
- 1.9 The Partnership, through the Serious Case Review subgroup, commissioned a thematic review into serious youth violence in Buckinghamshire after the report of a serious incident in the County. The commissioning decision sought to take the opportunity to review serious youth violence in a national context to provide the best possible learning outcomes and ensure that learning was fully understood, and had an impact on the lives of children and young people. This approach involved a practitioners' learning event in November 2019; the full report will be published in 2020. Some feedback from this event included that the conference was 'invaluable' and 'it will change the way I work with children subject to serious youth violence moving forwards'.
- 1.10 The death of a child is always tragic and leaves families with a sense of shock, devastation and loss. However, it is important that we review child deaths to see whether we can learn any lessons to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of other children, or to improve the support for bereaved families. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) fulfils this function.
- 1.11 In the period 2019-2020, the Panel reviewed 22 child deaths. None of these were referred to the Children Safeguarding subgroup for consideration of a serious case review. 12 deaths have now been closed and 10 remain open. Of those remaining open there are ongoing processes that are being concluded to allow closure to take place.

1.12 A very brief overview of child death is included within the Annual report and the CDOP will provide their own annual report later in the year.



Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
**Annual Report 2019/20**



# Contents

## Introduction

Page 2

## About Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Page 3

## Our Vision

Page 4

## Our Partners

Page 5

## Children and Young People in Buckinghamshire

Page 6

## Schools in Buckinghamshire

Page 7

## What We Achieved 2019/2020

Page 8

## Safeguarding Children Subgroups

Page 9

## What's Next For 2020/2021?

Page 11

# Introduction



I was delighted to be appointed as the Independent Chair of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership in August 2019 and to continue the work of my predecessors. There can be no greater priority for organisations, communities and individuals than ensuring that people, particularly children and young people, are protected from abuse.

Buckinghamshire took the decision to appoint a single Independent Chair for both the adults' Board and children's partnership to ensure opportunities of working together and managing the transition between childhood and adulthood are realised.

In 2019 Buckinghamshire made the transition from the Children's Board to the Partnership. The new arrangements place the joint responsibility for safeguarding children and young people on the Council, the police and the Clinical Commissioning Group. It is vital that the changes are more than just a change of name as we seek to strengthen our local delivery and build on the improvements that have been made in recent years. There has been a review of the subgroups across the children's and adults' partnerships – these have been aligned, new chairs have been appointed and more focused terms of reference agreed. I have also worked with the Partnership to ensure that it has clear priorities, an effective performance framework and adds value.

The 2019-20 year ended with the emergence of the Covid-19 virus sweeping across the world. Protecting children and young people was a key priority during the crisis and organisations have responded to this with new working practices and with greater sharing of information. Whilst this period has inevitably highlighted major challenges it has also brought some benefits that must be embedded.

The annual report is an opportunity to highlight the progress that has been made through the year in delivering against the business plan. This year we have decided to produce a shorter report that highlights the key performance data and the activity of the board. We have already published our plan for 2020-23 and this sets out the priorities for the future and has picked up on those issues that remain priorities from this period. One of the key activities for the future is the launch of a new website where further updates about the activity of the BSCP will be posted.



**Sir Francis J S Habgood, QPM**  
*Independent Chair for Buckinghamshire  
Safeguarding Children Partnership*  
Page 30



# About Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

In 2018 a review was commenced to consider new local safeguarding arrangements in line with the revised *Working Together 2018* statutory guidance. The arrangements have been developed by the statutory safeguarding partners following initial work by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and from ongoing collaboration with relevant agencies and partners. This review has resulted in the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, which were agreed and signed off by the Statutory Partners in June 2019, changing the Safeguarding Children Board into the Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP).

The BSCP is a statutory, multi-organisation partnership coordinated by the local authority, which oversees and leads children safeguarding across the Buckinghamshire Council area. The main objective of the BSCP is to gain assurance that safeguarding arrangements locally, and its partner organisations work effectively, individually and together, to support and safeguard children in its area who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

The BSCP has worked over the last year with our partners across the multi-agency arena to drive activity to ensure that we have met or worked towards the key priorities. As a result of the business functions of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board becoming a single business unit, we will be seeking to undertake some joint strategic work over the next two years. The focus of this work will be to streamline and align the new three year business plans for both the Partnership and Board to demonstrate closer working together and a whole-family approach to our work. We are seeking to provide a joint learning and development plan to again provide closer training and learning opportunities across all our multi agencies, voluntary and charity sectors. Through the work in our subgroups we are seeking to produce quality assurance

frameworks that will support the subgroup activities and challenge those working in the safeguarding arena to ensure that our policies and procedures are imbedded in the work we carry out 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.

2019-2020 saw the Safeguarding Children Board change into the Safeguarding Children Partnership halfway through the year. One of the leading strategic aims was to complete this transformation with a new executive body and a new overarching chair and management structure to support the business unit functions of both the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership. The transformation also included a revision of Partnership participation at the executive level. Alongside this work, the strategic priorities for the BSCP during this period have been:

- Domestic Abuse
- Child Exploitation
- Neglect
- Commitment to a high level Improvement Plan

The Board is currently supported by five subgroups that carry out the day to day work in order to help deliver the Board's objectives and Strategic Plan. The new partnership arrangements advocate for a new Learning and Education subgroup to support the ongoing multi-agency work with children and young people. This subgroup will work closely with them in their educational years, seeking to deliver positive outcomes that have a lasting effect on their lives.

# 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.



## **COMMUNICATING**

Ensure there is effective communication with youth communities in Buckinghamshire.



## **ENABLING**

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



## **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:-

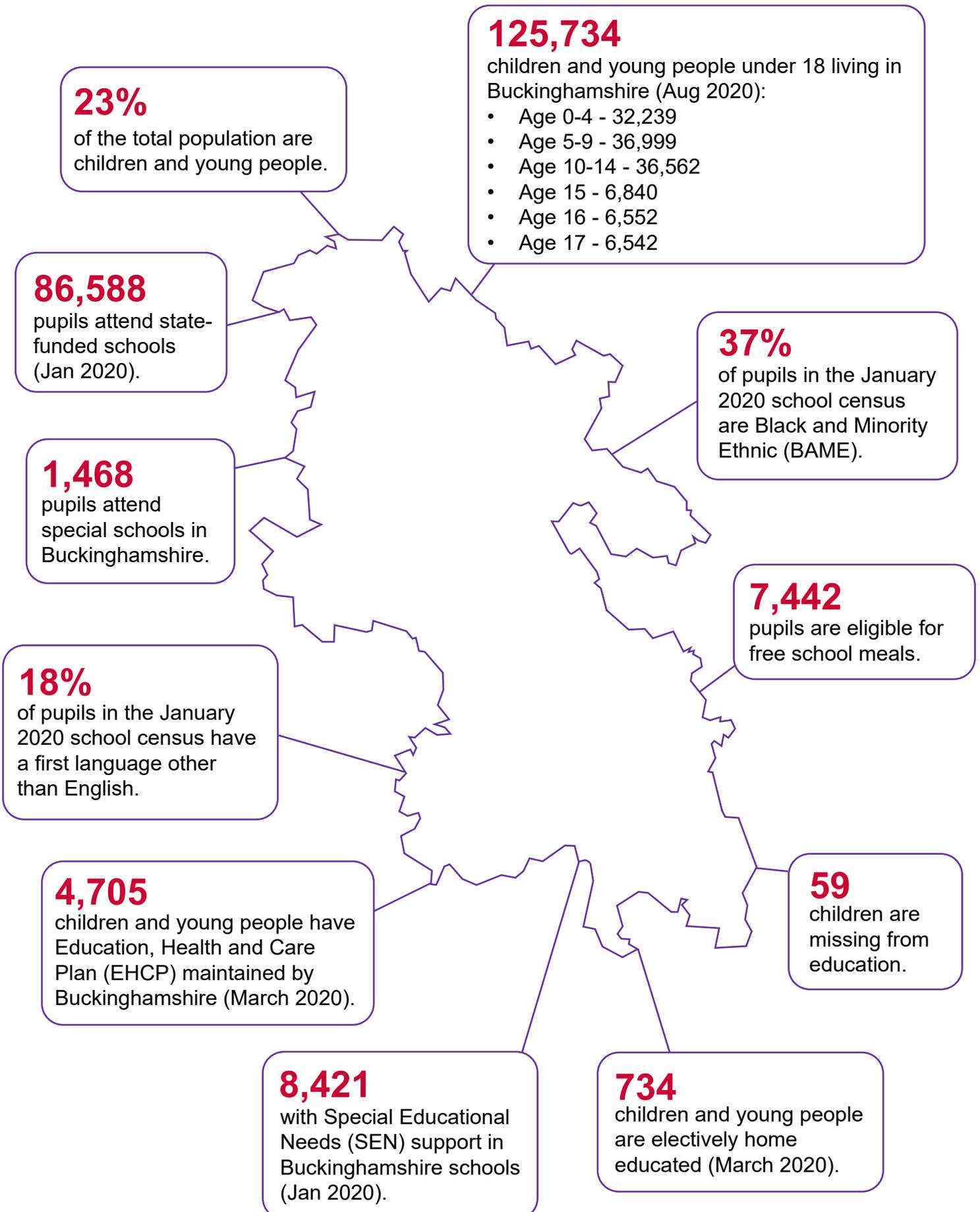


However, we work closely with a range of other partners:

- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- National Probation Service
- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company



# Children and Young People in Buckinghamshire



# Schools in Buckinghamshire

**184** primary schools (including 36 academies/free schools).

**38** infant schools.

**23** junior schools (including 5 academies).

**123** combined schools (including 31 academies/free schools).

**2**

All Through mainstream schools (including one academy).

**2** nursery schools.

**34** secondary schools.

**13** Selective (all academies).

**21** Non-Selective (including 16 academies/free schools).

**10**

Special Schools (including two academies).

**3**

Pupil Referral Units (including one academy).



## What We Achieved 2019/2020

This year was a significant one for the safeguarding children's world as the Children's Board was reformed into the Children's Partnership following guidelines laid out in *Working Together 2018*. A number of objectives set out in the previous Annual Report have been achieved this year. Of note, in August 2019 the business functions of the Safeguarding Adults Board merged with the Safeguarding Children Partnership to form one business unit. The business unit now has one Safeguarding Partnership Manager to oversee the daily operation of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and one Joint Independent Chair. This has streamlined the business processes but not impacted on the valuable work the Safeguarding Children Partnership carry out to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people in Buckinghamshire. A review was undertaken with regards to the membership of both the Partnership and subgroups which led to a more focused membership, ensuring that work of the subgroups was sufficiently supported from our multi-agencies and third sector volunteer and charity sectors.

The joint protocol that exists between the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Safer Stronger Bucks Board has been under review leading to a new but slimmed down joint protocol that will be published in 2020. This document will set out defined structures for joint working between these four groups, leading to more cohesive strategies to support our local communities.

The Partnership, through the Serious Case Review subgroup, commissioned a thematic review into serious youth violence in Buckinghamshire after the report of a serious incident in the County. The commissioning decision sought to take the opportunity to review serious youth violence in a national context to provide the best possible learning outcomes and ensure that learning was fully understood, and had an impact on the lives of children and young people. This approach involved a practitioners' learning event in November 2019; the full report will be published in 2020. Some feedback from this event included that the conference was 'invaluable' and 'it will change the way I work with children subject to serious youth violence moving forwards'.

# Safeguarding Children Subgroups

The Safeguarding Children Partnership has five subgroups that lead on various areas of business and help the Safeguarding Adults Board deliver on a range of priorities identified in the strategic and business plan. Each subgroup has a nominated chair and representatives from across the multi-agencies.

## Safeguarding Serious Case Review Subgroup

Working Together 2015 states that a Serious Case Review (SCR) must be undertaken by the Safeguarding Children Board/Partnership where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and either the child has died or the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concerns to the way in which the Authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child. To support the changes from safeguarding children boards to safeguarding children partnerships, the Government produced a document called *Working Together Transitional Guidance* which was published in July 2018. This document provided guidance with regards to SCRs that had already been underway at the time the board was to change to a partnership.

The overall purpose of a Safeguarding Child Review is to promote learning and improve practice, not to re-investigate or to apportion blame.

Safeguarding Child Review Reports are published on our Safeguarding Children [website](#).

During the period 2019 to 2020 the subgroup completed three safeguarding reviews that had been commissioned in 2018. These reviews related to Baby N, Baby V and Child AA. The subgroup have also been working on the completion of a thematic review into serious youth violence across Buckinghamshire that will be due for publication in 2020.

Learning from all reviews undertaken is shared within the multi-agency arena to develop and inform working practices and improve services to children, young people and their families who need support.

Some key learning themes have been taken from the SCR's during this period of time:

- The need to ensure that we work closely with agencies from other Authorities when there are cross border concerns in any safeguarding enquiry.
- To ensure that the voice of the child or young person is heard and listened to and take their views forward into developing better working practices that support families as a whole.
- Ensure that learning from SCR's is shared across the whole multi agency system so that it can be embedded in working practices. This will ensure that subsequent reviews are not making the same recommendations.
- To support the needs of unborn babies and have adequate pre-birth assessment processes in place.

Feedback from families who were involved in the serious case review process was positive in the fact of a safeguarding enquiry being undertaken and that the main focus would be to develop better learning practices. A common observation being that they wanted to support the work being undertaken to ensure that others would benefit from improved understanding of the needs of children, young people and families.

The SCR subgroup have one remaining review underway with regards to Family T and a Practice Review that supports the learning from the lived experience of Family T.

## Quality Performance and Improvement Subgroup

The subgroup was renamed Performance, Quality and Improvement as part of the transition to the new safeguarding partnership arrangements. The group has been chaired by Children's Services Head of Quality, Standards and Performance and enjoyed consistent multi-agency input over 2019/20. The redefined purpose of the group is to co-ordinate and embed quality assurance and to produce an analysis on the effectiveness of what is being done by partner agencies, individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has oversight of all multi-agency and single agency audits, and analyses performance data and qualitative information relevant to safeguarding children that is produced by individual agencies.

Notable achievements over the year include the refresh and update of the performance dashboard. Each agency has agreed a set of key performance indicators relevant to the services and interventions they provide to children and families. This is discussed on a quarterly basis and a narrative produced for the Executive Group on what is working well and achieving good outcomes, and known or potential risks that could have or are having an adverse impact on safety and welfare of children and families. This led to changes by Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust to the training they deliver to their staff on domestic abuse to improve awareness and understanding; and in Children's Services there has been a focus on improving the quality and input from partner agencies to child protection plans.

The subgroup has continued with its multi-agency audit plan and this included domestic abuse and child protection; this audit found that the voice of the child isn't consistently being heard over the parents' voices, plans are too adult focused, there is not consistently enough support and intervention prior to an initial child protection conference and there needs to be greater awareness of coercive control. There was also a deep dive audit completed that looked at services, procedures and practice regarding children at risk of sexual exploitation. The key recommendation's arising from this audit were that children should be encouraged to write their views down to give them an opportunity to agree or disagree with professionals reports, and the referral pathway across commissioned and non-commissioned services should be improved to avoid delay for families in receiving support.

The subgroup sought assurance around the board's strategic priority of sexual exploitation through a targeted practice audit activity that assessed the quality and timeliness of return home interviews for children who had been missing. The findings from this audit contributed to informing the introduction of the exploitation hub and the commissioned service return home interview service and support delivered by Barnardo's.

The multi-agency audit plan for the 2020/21 will be focusing on neglect in adolescents, the effectiveness of the local pre-birth procedure and introducing a targeted section 11 audit specifically picking up themes from recent serious case reviews.

## Policy, Procedure and Practice Subgroup

The Policy, Procedure and Practice (PPP) subgroup, formerly Policy and Practice, have continued to work closely with the performance, quality and improvement sub group. There are natural links between these two groups, with agendas that complement each other well.

The PPP group have reviewed and updated many policies and procedures, including but not limited to pre-birth procedures, anti-bullying, and individuals who pose a risk. The group have welcomed a newly appointed principal social worker and a new education representative to support this work stream, and received welcome input from the local early help service. The

terms of reference have been revised and updated and the forward planner is maintaining focus on future work. It is anticipated that much activity will take place next year to support the recommendations from recent serious case reviews.

Local resources have been added to the safeguarding partnership website, including the exploitation toolkit, which supports the work of the exploitation subgroup. Further work to support this agenda is being undertaken via the PPP subgroup, with a suite of documents supporting the management and addressing of the exploitation activity affecting young people.

The electronic MARF was introduced and following a pilot is now being utilised routinely.

Priorities for next year include the neglect strategy and the work from the serious case reviews, as well as adhering to the forward planner.

## Child Exploitation Subgroup

The Children and Young People's Exploitation subgroup is a multi-agency forum that aims to support the strategic development of an effective and coordinated multi-agency response to all forms of child and young people's exploitation, including actual or likely significant harm due to child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation ('county lines'), modern slavery, trafficking, radicalisation, exploitation as a result of being lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and in respect of being a missing child/young person. The subgroup also provides assurance about the way agencies are working individually and collectively to safeguard and support children and young people at risk of exploitation. The subgroup oversees and monitor the delivery of any multi-agency action plans and recommendations designed to safeguard and protect children, including children and young people with disabilities, who are at risk of harm as a result of exploitation.

## Child Death Over Panel

The death of a child is always tragic and leaves families with a sense of shock, devastation and loss. However, it is important that we review child deaths to see whether we can learn any lessons to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of other children, or to improve the support for bereaved families. As set out in *Working Together 2015*, the BSCB has a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which fulfils this function.

In the period 2019-2020 the Panel reviewed 22 child deaths. None of these were referred to the Children Safeguarding subgroup for consideration of a serious case review. 12 deaths have now been closed and 10 remain open. Of those remaining open there are ongoing processes that are being concluded to allow closure to take place.

The below data provides a very brief overview of child death. CDOP will provide their own annual report that will be available in 2020:

- 24 deaths in 2019/2020.
- 48% male, 52% female.
- 19 deaths between the ages of 0-9 and 5 deaths between 9-17.
- 19 cases involved white children.
- No cases were referred to the Safeguarding Children Partnership for consideration of a serious case review.

# Budget for BSCP for 2019-2020

£293,565.00 was received from partner's contributions, training courses brought an income of £42,359.00 and £37,136.00 was transferred from reserves to help cover redundancies and agency staff.

Board costs	Actual Year End 2019-20
Partners contribution	-£293,565.00
Training	-£42,359.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>-£335,924.00</b>
Expenditure	£373,060.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£37,136.00</b>
Transferred from reserve account	-£37,136.00
<b>Accounts total 2019-2020</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

## What's Next For 2020/21?



Review plans for a joint training provision with the Safeguarding Adult Board.



Provide a new website for the Children Safeguarding Partnership.



Develop a new three year business plan.



Deliver two themed conferences.



Establish a Learning and Development subgroup

Children's & Education Select Committee Work Programme 2020-21

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 2pm	Support to Care Leavers	To receive a report on support that the Council provides to Care Leavers  (to include housing options – full scope of discussion TBC)	Richard Nash	
	Ofsted – Improvement Plan Update	TBC	Richard Nash	Mark Shaw, Tolis, Richard Nash

\*Possible in depth inquiry into Social Worker Recruitment – Timescales and Scoping document to be discussed in 2021

This page is intentionally left blank