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

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Members of both the LSCB and LSAB are very much aware of the huge volume of information that cascades to practitioners over the course of a year. The nature of work with children and adults in need of support is such that change and improvements are inevitable and all practitioners should keep themselves up to date. In this joint newsletter, we have attempted to deliver a brief summary of the latest developments that every practitioner needs to know about. Furthermore we have selected content that is relevant to both domains of work. There are clear inter-dependencies between the needs of adults as well as children and I stress the
importance of reading ALL of this newsletter, not just the bits that you think are relevant to the work that you do.

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

Many of you will know that I am retiring from my role as Chair of the LSAB and LSCB. I leave with the highest regard for all of you. Everyone I have met is clearly committed to do well in spite of the many challenges that they face. You will read that Ofsted were impressed with children’s services and I would like to add my own view that an inspection of adult services would have been be at least as positive. I feel sure that your new Independent Chair, Robert Lake will feel as lucky as I did to work with such an amazing collaboration of professionals.

**Ofsted**


Bath and North East Somerset Council’s Children’s Social Care Services have been rated as ‘Good’ in their Ofsted inspection, with ‘Outstanding’ features – putting them in the top 20 nationally.

Local Adoption Services have also been judged as ‘Outstanding’, which is the first time a Council in the South West has been awarded an ‘Outstanding’ grading in any category under the current inspection framework.

The final report from the team of inspectors, who visited in April and May, gives the Council an overall rating of ‘Good’. The review of the multi-agency arrangements to protect children through the Local Safeguarding Children Board, carried out alongside the inspection of Council services, also received a ‘Good’ rating.

Reg Pengelly, the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board added: “I am delighted with Ofsted’s ‘Good’ rating from their review of the effectiveness of the LSCB. This reflects some fantastic work between local partners, including the Board’s three active lay members, and the strong work we do to actively seek the views of children through the Senior In Care Council and Youth Forum.

“I am particularly pleased to see an acknowledgment that we have created a ‘culture of openness, purposeful challenge and a well-driven and sustained focus on safeguarding performance’ ensuring that ‘outcomes for children continue to improve’. Whilst this report suggests that B&NES is a relatively safe place for children and families to live, with statutory agencies working well together, safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and we want the public and other professionals to report
concerns whenever they think a child or vulnerable person needs some help. I will ensure the Board picks up the inspectors’ three recommendations, to broaden the range of performance information we review; to add some additional areas of focus into our annual report; and to extend to a wider audience the ongoing work to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation.”

To view the full report visit:

https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/bath-and-ne-somerset

or to look on our new website please click here

Interested in fostering or adoption? Visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/adoption or call 01225 394949

Concerned about the welfare of a child? Visit www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk

Interested in joining the children’s services team? Visit http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/Childrens-Social-Care-Jobs

Stop Adult Abuse Week

Stop Adult Abuse Week is a local initiative that started in 2014 when a number of Local Safeguarding Adult Board Communications Groups in the South West decided to join together to run a week to focus attention on Safeguarding. Each area chose a week to run a series of communications and events to promote safeguarding called Stop Adult Abuse Week. Now in its fourth year we have learnt that small local events work better than public stalls. We have also identified that providing materials gathered from good practice over the last two years will help agencies to get involved.

Each area led on a theme. On Monday 12th June Bath and North East Somerset the theme was prevention. A Wordsearch was sent round and Paula Carter - Discharge Liaison Nurse from the RUH, Bath won the prize draw that was drawn by Reg Pengelly the Chair of the Local Adult Safeguarding Board at the June meeting. Videos were suggested to raise awareness with staff to raise awareness of prevention https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a927T34wFq and ‘Because you said something video’ https://vimeo.com/45561858

On Tuesday 13th June Bristol’s theme was Self Neglect. Bristol held a conference and tweeted live to raise awareness. A new self-neglect leaflet was developed and is available on the website and visa the link below.
Financial Abuse was the theme led by South Gloucestershire on Wednesday 14th June. Financial Abuse posters were designed and are available on the new website and via the links below to encourage everyone to spot the signs of financial abuse. A list of some indicators that may help were drawn up which include:

- Unpaid bills, eviction notices or notices to discontinue utilities
- Unusual withdrawals from bank accounts, transfers or ATM withdrawals that the person can’t explain
- Bank statements no longer come to the person’s home
- New ‘best friends’
- A caregiver is overly interested in the amount of money being spent on the person
- Belongings or property are missing
- Suspicious signatures on cheques or other documents
- The person is unaware of or does not understand financial or legal arrangements that have been made for them, such as Power of Attorney.

Two case studies were provided to raise awareness of issues: Financial abuse case study A for professionals. And Financial abuse case study B for professionals.

Thursday 15th June the theme was Scams led by Somerset. Ideas were suggested such as Signing up to the Mail Preference Service to cut down on your junk mail: www.mpsonline.org.uk and sign up to the Telephone Preference Service to cut down nuisance calls: www.tpsonline.org.uk. Search for Trading Standards-approved companies at www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk and learn to protect yourself from scammers: http://devon.cc/x84ze

The theme on Friday 16th June was ‘When and How to report’ led by North Somerset. We have new posters you can print and display ensure everyone knows how to report. Posters are available via the links below.

We’d love to hear how you promoted Stop Adult Abuse Week and to gain feedback for next year. You can give your feedback through completing this short survey.

New LSAB Resources:

- Stop Adult Abuse Posters
- Stop Adult Abuse Leaflet
- Safeguarding leaflet – (easy read)

- FGM Poster
- FGM Leaflet (English)
- FGM Leaflet (Arabic)
- FGM Leaflet (Indonesian)
- FGM Leaflet (Kurdish Sorani)
- FGM Leaflet (Pashto)
- FGM Leaflet (Urdu)

- Self Neglect Leaflet
- Financial Abuse - tips
- Financial Abuse Poster
In Bath and North East Somerset we were chosen by the NHS BaNES CCG and the Council to deliver the ‘Your Care Your Way’ programme following a two-year long engagement programme defining how local people wanted services to be delivered and to run.

As part of the contract we directly provide some services in the area and commission other organisations, including NHS, social enterprise and voluntary sector, to deliver services.

We directly provide services for adults and children looking after the physical and mental health and wellbeing of everyone in our area through our community services.

Our aim is to provide a joined up service, to make sure you have all of the information you need and to make sure that you only need to tell your story once. By providing the right service to you at the right time we want to ensure that you feel supported and empowered to make informed choices.

We will achieve this by investing in technology systems which join up all of the information held about you and make it available to clinicians, with your consent, as well as directly to you – and all in a secure way – so you can be treated as a whole person and make informed choices.

Our approach:
Responsive to you;
Safe and consistent;
Improving your experience;
Care in the most appropriate place.

We have a wide experience of providing children’s services across the country. In Wiltshire, for example, we have been providing care and support to children, families and carers in Wiltshire since April 2016 when we brought services together from five providers to create a Wiltshire-focused children’s services team.

We provide everything from health visiting and school nursing to specialist support for children and young people with physical, sensory or learning needs and disabilities.

In B&NES we are now providing a number of services including Speech and Language Therapy, Health Visiting, School Nursing, Community Paediatrics and
Learning Disability services and we aim to strengthen our approach to more integrated, partnership working.

We are increasing the voice of children and families in the service and providing a joined-up service where families only need to tell their story once and where families, no matter where they live, have access to the same services.

We deliver services in the community, in families homes, schools and children’s centres and all of our services will aim to see patients as soon as possible.

**How can I find out more?**
Visit us at our website [www.virgincare.co.uk](http://www.virgincare.co.uk) and search for Bath and North East Somerset Community Health and Care Services or for Wiltshire Children’s Services. You will be able to give us feedback and make suggestions here.

**How can I get involved?**
In B&NES you can join our Citizens’ Panel. Find out more and sign up online at [www.bathneshealthandcare.nhs.uk/citizenspanel](http://www.bathneshealthandcare.nhs.uk/citizenspanel). Alternatively contact Martha Cox on 01225 831328

**Involving Children and Young People in Staff Recruitment**

As part of the Youth Offending Service Participation Strategy, young people from Compass have been involved in recruiting for the new Deputy Team Manager. Both young people prepared beforehand with their Keyworker. They came up with interview questions, and wrote a scenario based on a personal experience to ask the candidate how they would advise a Keyworker who was trying to help a young person with that issue.

“I felt really nervous about meeting the candidates at first. Would they be nice? Would they be mean?”

On the 2nd June, the two young people spent the day in Time Out Youth Hub. They prepared the room first by deciding on a breakout space and an interview space. They both liked the venue as it had a lot of space and games. Each candidate came in and introduced themselves, and the young people asked them where they would like to sit to make them feel welcome and comfortable. They then played icebreaker games designed beforehand by the candidates.

“My favourite bit about the day was interviewing the candidate with a Scottish accent! I asked him if he had a skirt and he did!”
There was a lot of laughter (and chocolate!) during the icebreakers when everyone got a chance to get to know each other a little better.

The interview questions were:
What makes you want this job more than any other candidate?
Why did you want this job?
What are 3 words to describe yourself?
Do you have any hobbies?
Why do you want to work with young people?
Do you have a favourite TV programme or film?

And the scenario:

Jeff is in year 8 and he is being bullied by Richard. Richard has been flooring Jeff and kicking him. Jeff thinks it is because they used to be friends and now Richard is jealous of his new friends. Jeff has told school and they gave Richard detentions so it has stopped in school but it is still going on outside of school. What could Jeff’s Compass Key Worker do to help?

“Asking the candidate for three words to describe themselves really helped us get to know them.”

They then scored each candidate based on all of the information they had gathered as well as how they felt about each candidate. At the end of the day, the adult panel had the opportunity to meet the young people and gather their feedback, finding out how and why they scored each candidate as they did. The young people both felt that the hardest part of the day was having to occasionally give lower scores - it was hard because they really liked all of the candidates.

Of the experience, the young people reflected:
“It was a good opportunity that we wouldn’t get again.”
“I enjoyed meeting another person from my school who I didn’t know before.”
“It gives the candidate a chance to show different side to their personality – they can be more relaxed than the formal interview.”

Here are some tips the young people who took part in this experience have to offer other young people who want to take part in interviews:
1. Don’t be nervous
2. Have more than one young person
3. Spend some time with the other young person first
4. Prepare questions before
5. Having regular breaks is important as it breaks up the day.

Each young person got a £10 voucher, as recognition of the time and work they have put into this.

“I’m going to spend it to buy something nice to wear for my holiday in the Isle of Wight!”

Carla Cooper, Operational Manager Youth Offending Team gave her feedback on her thoughts on involving young people in the recruitment process.
“Given that being able to engage with young people is one of the most important aspects of our work, it is vital to have young people’s views taken into account as part of the selection process for any practitioner or manager role. It is really helpful to hear the young people’s view about each of the candidates, as they may well have a different perspective to the ‘adult’s panel’. The process also gives us the opportunity to assess the candidate’s ability to engage and motivate young people to participate in an activity.”

Preying on the vulnerable – what you can do to help stop Scamming

Scams amount to financial abuse. They can happen via phone, email, the internet or on the doorstep and cost consumers in the UK £5-10 billion a year. Added to the financial hardship they can cause people, is the huge cost to someone’s physical and psychological wellbeing.

Victims of scams are often those most vulnerable, such as the elderly or those suffering poor health (the average age of a scam victim is 75). The consequences can be devastating, with increased social isolation, worsening self-confidence and, often, a sense of shame at have fallen prey to such opportunistic fraud.

So what can you do?
Protecting potential victims and those currently being targeted is the joint responsibility of Trading Standards and Social Care and Health. It requires this joined up approach to tackle the perpetrator and protect the victims.

ADASS have published some very useful top tips Top Tips on Financial Abuse and Scams to help you spot the signs and act quickly, as well as an excellent on-line training session at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk (which takes about 40 mins to complete). Here are some questions to ask yourself if you think someone may be being scammed:

1. **How are they coping at home?** Being under such financial pressure may take a toll on their home and personal appearance so you may notice:
   - Dirty and untidy living conditions
   - Poor personal hygiene and domestic routine
   - Unpaid bills

2. **How are they behaving?** People you see may appear very anxious and distracted and may:
   - Hide the problem due to shame or a fear of what will happen to their independence
   - Turn in on themselves and seem isolated and out of touch
   - Be confused and upset about what is happening to them

3. **How can I talk to them?** Scams completely destroy a person’s sense of trust so you will need to tread carefully:
   - Be conversational rather than interrogatory and ease them towards discussing the issue
• Be empathetic and patient and be prepared for their sense of embarrassment or shame
• Find out as much as you can and reassure them that you will help and support them

Remember this is a team effort, so get to know your local Trading Standards Team. You might want to ask them to talk to you about the work they do.

If you believe someone is being targeted by scams, whether or not you know they are responding, seek advice from your local Trading Standards Team. They will have well established mechanisms for providing support to break the cycle of victimisation. This will either be through themselves or via partnerships with other organisations.

It may also be worth considering making a referral for safeguarding if the person has care and support needs and you think they cannot take action to protect themselves against scamming.

**Private Fostering**

B&NES Children’s Services are required to provide a Lead person with knowledge of Private Fostering who will act as the lead for all aspects of private fostering activity within the Council. This role will include support and advice to colleagues when notifications are received or there are arrangements coming to light that may fall under this legislation. The role also includes a responsibility to oversee and ensure that the care provided to Privately Fostered children remains safe and appropriate.

The new lead for Private Fostering in B&NES is Karen Kopp, who is the manager of the Permanence team responsible for co-ordinating all Special Guardianship Orders as well as Private Fostering matters.

In B&NES the most prevalent reason for notification of an arrangement tends to be as a result of relationship breakdown between the parents and the young person and the young person is staying with a friend’s family with parental agreement. Processes are in place to complete assessments of these arrangements where notifications are received.

It will also be vital that the Children’s Services remains alert to all other types of referral, including private over-seas arrangements and those involving “host families” from independent schools and language schools. Our area has a number of these types of schools and it is a priority to ensure that they remain aware of their responsibilities to notify the Council where foreign students and groups of students stay either outside of regular term-time arrangements or with families for longer than 28 days.

**Definition of private fostering from the Replacement Children Act 1989**

**Guidance on Private Fostering**

“A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made privately (that is to say without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.
Private foster carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt. However, a person who is a relative under the Children Act 1989 i.e. a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full or half blood or by marriage) or step-parent will not be a private foster carer. A private foster carer may be a friend of the family, the parent of a friend of the child, or someone previously unknown to the child’s family who is willing to privately foster a child.

The period for which the child is cared for and accommodated by the private foster carer should be continuous, but that continuity is not broken by the occasional short break. Exemptions to this definition are set out in Schedule 8 to the Children Act 1989.”

The Council has detailed action plan for Private Fostering and reports annually to the LSCB.
For further information please look on the Council Private fostering page on the Council website or on the safeguarding website. New resources and leaflets will be published there shortly.

Dementia Action Alliance

Sarah Williams-Martin attended the June LSAB to talk about the B&NES Dementia Action Alliance and showed a short video of what it is like for someone with dementia trying to cope with everyday life. The Dementia Action Alliance was launched in 2012 as part of the Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia and aims to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their carers through working with local businesses and organisations to see how they can become more dementia friendly and asking them to sign up as a member of the DAA. Links have been made so far with the statutory agencies (Local Authorities, Ambulance Service, Police and Health) as well as schools and colleges and supermarkets (e.g. Morrisons and Sainsbury’s).

The aim of the DAA is to build as many dementia friendly communities as possible. There a several simple actions that you can take to help this process including; using appropriate language when talking about someone living with dementia (not suffering from it). The more the general public are educated about dementia, the easier it will be for people with dementia to be understood, feel included and involved and be helped in their community.

There are currently around 4,500 people living with dementia in B&NES and it is estimated that around 10,000 family and friends are acting as primary carers.

The B&NES DAA can offer a 1 hour Dementia Friends awareness training sessions, and are also looking for local Dementia Friends Champions who are trained volunteers who encourage others to learn a little bit about dementia. Champions run Information Sessions in their community and inspire others to help those living with dementia live well.
For more information on either the training or champions visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk

For help with becoming a member of B&NES DDA contact; bathdaa@gmail.com

**New Safeguarding Website for B&NES**

We are delighted to write that the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) joint safeguarding website is now launched!

[www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk](http://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk)

The site is very accessible and contains information on both adults’ and children and young people’s safeguarding, with sections for children/adults their carers, people working with them, the public and wealth of information from the Boards.

Please take some time to have a look and share it widely within your agency to both staff and service users/children/students etc.

If possible please add a link to it from your own website.

If you see any inaccuracies or are aware of information that should be added please let Dami Howard know.

LSCB/LSAB Joint Newsletter August 2017