



Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board

Annual Report 2019/2020



Bracknell Forest
SAFEGUARDING BOARD

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1. Preface

This report covers the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 and is published in accordance with the Care Act 2014, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the associated statutory requirements set out within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Prior to its dissemination via the Safeguarding Board's website, it will be submitted to the Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) Chief Executive, the Local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chairs of the local Health and Well Being Boards, Community Safety Partnership and Children and Young People's Partnership. It should also be presented to the Boards of the CCG and all partner agencies.

2. Introduction

The Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires each local authority area to establish a Safeguarding Board with core membership from the local authority, the police and the local Clinical Commissioning Group. In July 2019 the local Safeguarding Adult Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board merged to form the Bracknell Forest All Age Safeguarding Board.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) states that in order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activities undertaken, safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including reporting on Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

Under the Care Act 2014, Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board (BFSB) is also required to publish an annual report after the end of each financial year detailing what the Board has done during the year to achieve its main objectives, and what each member organisation has done to implement its strategies. The annual report must provide information about any Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) that the Board has arranged which are ongoing or have been reported in the year (regardless of whether they commenced in that year).

This is the first annual report of the all age Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board. It describes the implementation of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, progress to date and the contribution of the wide range of partners who are members of the safeguarding partnership that supports the work of the Board.

3. Independent Chair and Scrutineer Report

The Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Annual Report 2019/20 is the Board's first publication since partners within the borough made the significant decision to establish a joint Children and Adult Safeguarding Board (July 2019).

I am pleased to have been appointed as the Board's first Independent Chair and Scrutineer and I would like to thank my predecessors for their work, and the safeguarding team who placed Bracknell Forest in a strong position to be able make this exciting change.

The focus of the Safeguarding Board work for the year has been to establish the ethos of an 'all age' board, and at the same time to continue to have a robust oversight of safeguarding in Bracknell Forest. In addition, the Board has challenged partners to ensure that local safeguarding processes are effective and ensure vulnerable individuals are kept safe. The Board's Safeguarding Partnership is an instrumental feature of the local arrangements and as it is still in its early stages, it will need to develop further its oversight of the joint board.

As well as Chairing the Executive and Partnership Board I have had access to senior officers between meetings.

What was unforeseen was the devastating Covid-19 virus and its instant dramatic effect on all aspects of life, including safeguarding activities. While much of the Board's coordination has continued online, remote working has proved to be challenging for all agencies and has increased risks and challenges to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children.

3.1 Evidence of Effectiveness

I have observed a positive partnership ethos best demonstrated in the response to Covid-19 both in Bracknell Forest and across the East Berkshire Partners.

Relationships are good and there is an openness to challenge.

Progress has continued to be made on the action plan produced as a result of the January 2019 Joint Targeted Area of Inspection (JTAI). Evidence has been provided of improved partnership involvement in child protection strategy meetings and conferences, which has further strengthened the decision-making process to support children.

The joint rapid review process is very effective and has ensured that both adult and children referrals are subject to initial reviews within 15 days and has helped partners swiftly identify learning. The rapid review process is overseen by safeguarding partners and supported through the Case Review Sub-group, the work of which is evidenced in this report.

3.2 Areas for focus

The Board partners have continued to meet online on a regular basis, enabling the Board to identify the risks posed by Covid-19. We can anticipate that the 'new normal' will continue for the foreseeable future, therefore the focus of the Board for 20/21 will be to work flexibly so that risks in the new world can be quickly identified and responded to, working closely with all partners. The areas for focus will be:

- To develop effective strategies to improve our understanding of how inequalities, impact on all members of our community and to tackle all forms of prejudice and discrimination that impact on the effectiveness of our local safeguarding processes.
- To improve the collection of feedback from adults and children on the services they use and ensure this is incorporated into the work of the Board.
- To enhance relationships with other partnership groups such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children Partnership Group and the Community Safety, to ensure improved sharing of information to avoid duplication.
- To continue to develop the quality assurance process to ensure that the Board can focus on areas of the safeguarding process that require improvement.

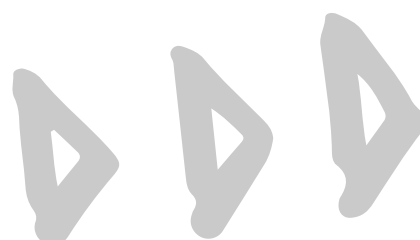
This report evidences the work of the board and the impact of partners.

I would like to thank all the staff working across all of our partners for their response to Covid-19. Their response has been outstanding and has ensured that vulnerable people have continued to be supported.

I hope that you find this annual report informative.

Brian Boxall

Independent Chair and Scrutineer





4. Governance (including requirements of Care Act and WT18)

The main objective of the Safeguarding Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements, and partners, act to help and protect adults, children and families in the area. The Board has responsibility for overseeing safeguarding partnerships working across other key agencies; this oversight ensures that partners apply effective processes and procedures to protect those most at risk and offers appropriate support. It also ensures that those agencies practise safeguarding to a high standard and can evidence their performance.

The Board has a strategic role and this is comprised of core duties which include:

- publishing a strategic plan for each financial year setting out how it will meet its main objectives
- publishing an annual report detailing the activities of the Safeguarding Board
- deciding when a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) or Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is necessary following a Rapid Review of the circumstances of a case, then arranging for its conduct and if it so decides, implementing the findings

The role of the Board is set out within the Care Act 2014 and Working Together 2018.

In line with Children and Social Work Act and statutory guidance the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are jointly agreed by the local authority, Thames Valley Police and East Berkshire CCG.

4.2 Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 requires that the Safeguarding Board has a role in overseeing and leading adult safeguarding across the locality and in providing advice and assistance. In this context the Board is responsible for:

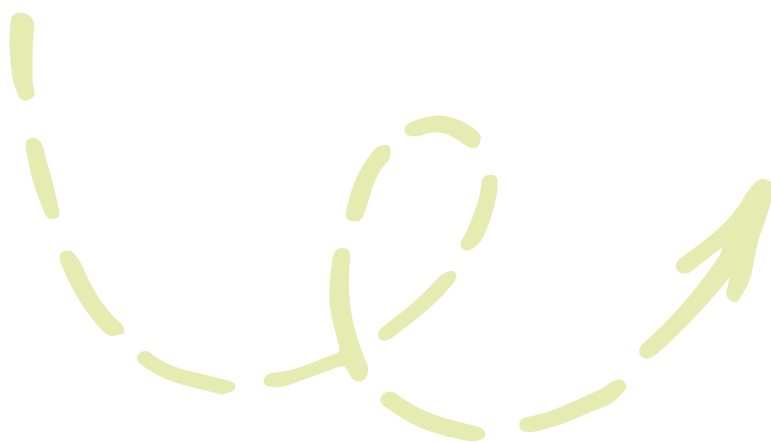
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- Seeking assurance that agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- Ensuring that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

4.3 Children and Social Work Act 2017/Working Together 2018

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 Act placed duties on three 'safeguarding partners' (Bracknell Forest Council, East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Thames Valley Police) to make safeguarding arrangements that respond to the needs of children within the borough.

The Act and the statutory guidance set out within Working Together 2018 identify their key responsibilities main responsibilities as being:

- To involve 'relevant agencies' in their area
- To identify and supervise the review of serious safeguarding cases
- To publish their local safeguarding arrangements
- To arrange for independent scrutiny of their local safeguarding arrangements
- To publish a report every 12 months on what they and the relevant agencies have done as a result of the local safeguarding arrangements and how effective the arrangements have been in practice



5. Development of the Safeguarding Board and Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Until July 2019 there was a local safeguarding children's board in Bracknell Forest as required by The Children Act 2004. The safeguarding adult board, required under the Care Act 2014, has been a joint Board covering Bracknell Forest and Windsor & Maidenhead since July 2017.

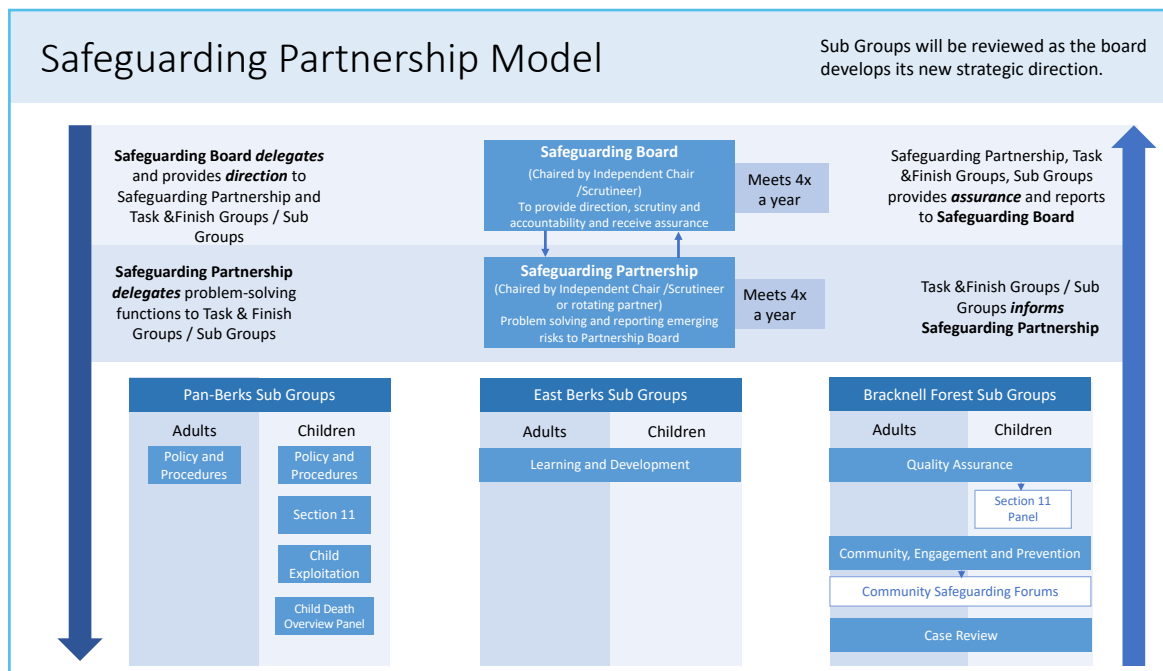
The Children and Social Work Act and the associated statutory guidance "Working together 2018" required a new multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements to be agreed by the local authority, Thames Valley Police and East Berkshire CCG and then published by 29 June 2019.

A decision was taken to end the joint Bracknell Forest and Windsor & Maidenhead Safeguarding Adult Board on 30 June in order to focus on local safeguarding arrangements in each local authority area from 1 July 2019.

The three statutory partners, the local authority, Thames Valley Police and the CCG agreed the model for combined multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to be implemented from 1 July 2019. See model below.

This outline model consists of:

- a safeguarding Board whose membership includes senior decision makers of each of the three statutory partners; the Board will fulfil the statutory responsibilities of a safeguarding adult board and the requirements of the Children's and Social Care Act.
- a safeguarding partnership whose membership include representatives of organisations already represented in each of previous adult and children's safeguarding partnership.
- sub groups and working groups which report to the Board.



The Board has continued to grow following the merger which was effective from 1 July 2019. The Board comprises senior leads from statutory partners, has an independent chair and scrutineer and meets on a quarterly basis. The Board leads adult and children safeguarding arrangements across its locality. There has been 100% attendance by statutory partners at Board meetings.

The Board is supported by a safeguarding partnership and by both local, East-Berkshire-wide and pan-Berkshire-wide sub groups. All partner organisations in Bracknell Forest are expected to prioritise safeguarding with an approach based on promoting dignity, rights, respect, helping all people to feel safe and making sure safeguarding is everyone's business. The partnership member organisations are currently:

Bracknell Forest Council	Berkshire Care Association
East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group	Royal Military Academy
Thames Valley Police Local Policing Area	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Thames Valley Police Protecting Vulnerable People	Involve
Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust	Public Protection Partnership
Public Health	Community Rehabilitation Company
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Care Quality Commission
Healthwatch	CAFCASS
West London Mental Health Trust	Silva Homes
National Probation Service	Department of Work and Pensions
South Central Ambulance Service	Police and Crime Commissioners Office
Headteacher representatives	

The Board met four times in the year providing oversight and direction to strategic and operational safeguarding activity across Bracknell Forest.

6. Progress on priority areas

During 2019/20 the safeguarding board has developed its priorities and embedded its new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Existing strategic plans agreed under the previous arrangements have continued to be monitored.

Progress on initiating multi agency safeguarding arrangements priorities

Action	Progress
Workshops held to ensure all partners and community representatives were consulted and helped shape the design of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements	completed
New model agreed by statutory partners	completed
Agreed multi-agency arrangements communicated to local stakeholders	completed
Publication of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements before the statutory deadline	completed
Development of new terms of reference for the Board and Sub-groups	completed
Hosting of implemented workshops to develop strategic priorities	completed
Work programmes established to support the functioning of the Board, Partnership and Sub-group meetings	completed
Recruited Independent Chair and Scrutineer	completed

Priorities transferred from the Safeguarding Adult Board

Action	Progress
Communication and Community & User Involvement	
To work closely with the voluntary sector in recognition of its growing role in safeguarding, early intervention and prevention and community resilience	Strong links have been developed with the CVS sector. A representative of the CVS sector chairs the Boards Communication, Engagement and Prevention Sub Group. Volunteers are promoting safeguarding messages in the community and gaining feedback on safety and safeguarding matters. An audit of safeguarding for local volunteering projects has taken place. Further work to strengthen the relationship will take place during 2020/21 including work with the local community cohesion and engagement group to improve work with those members of the community that are difficult to engage
Risk Management	
To review of the risk framework	The evaluation of the multi-agency risk framework took place between November 2019 and January 2020. Further work will take place during 2020/21 to take account if the findings including increasing use of the framework in certain partner organisations
Learning and Development	
Assuring the Board is sighted on the impact that single / multi agency adult safeguarding training is having on frontline practice	A task and finish group met to develop a new training and professional development framework was developed during 2019/20. The framework focusses on evaluation and determining impact of training and learning from case reviews. The framework will be rolled out during 2020/21
Prevention	
Partner agencies demonstrate that safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable young people during transition are appropriate. Establish clear understanding of definition of transition	A multi agency audit of transition was planned as part of the Boards multi agency audit programme. However this has been delayed due to Covid-19.
To ensure awareness of indicators of risk and ensure safe responses through awareness of referral routes and sources of support. To include fire and new abuse types	This work has been absorbed into the new communication, engagement and prevention sub-groups terms of reference and action plan. Raising awareness of indicators of risk including fire risk has been rolled out through the multi-agency risk framework and via the communications strategy which has been redeveloped particularly during the start of the Covid-19 period
Quality Assurance	
To develop a programme of multi-agency audits to test effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements	Multi agency audits of child neglect and the adult safeguarding reporting process took place during 2019/20. A draft programme of multi-agency audits was developed during 2019/20 for implementation during 2020/21. However final agreement of the actual audits was put on hold due to Covid-19

Action	Progress
To ensure a robust system is in place to join up intelligence to enable quality concerns in provider services to be identified early on and to put into place support to address concerns before they become significant safeguarding issues	The care governance board has been developing into an all age board during 2019/20. The Independent Chair and Scrutineer has received updates of its work and its development. Reports from the care governance board will be received by the quality assurance group on an ongoing basis during 2020/21

Priorities handed over by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board

Action	Progress
1. Ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements to provide early help	
To scrutinise revised proposals reflecting Bracknell Forest Council's transformation of children's services.	The Independent Chair was cited on the work of the Transformation Board and members of the LSCB received regular updates from officers within the council.
To receive evidence of audit and evaluations undertaken in respect of the current provision of Early Help, to include that in respect of other partner agencies	Multi-agency audits commissioned by the LSCB provided important insight into the strengths of partners work in respect of early help and highlighted areas for improvement. The transformation work led by the Local Authority is ongoing and will play an important part in shaping the future support for children and their families.
2. Ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements for disabled children	
To receive assurance as to the effectiveness of current safeguarding in Education, LA and Health including: a. Analysis of the issues for disabled children placed out of area b. Evidence of the effectiveness of arrangements for the transition of disabled children between children's and adults' services.	In addition to its programme of multi-agency audits the LSCB received routine reports detailing the safeguarding activities taking place within local health services, the LA and across school in the Borough. The assurances provided by partners were further scrutinised by the LSCB's 'S11' panels. In addition, the Board's Learning and Improvement Sub-group received and scrutinised performance data in order to identify areas for improvement.
3. Ensure that children and young people are protected from 'online' risks	
To support all agencies involved in the safeguarding of children in developing policies, procedures and strategies related to e-safety.	A Task and Finish group commissioned by the LSCB undertook a multi-agency review of partners activities in respect of e-safety. This helped identify areas of good practice and areas in which they could further develop their work.

Action	Progress
Explore effective mechanisms that support learning and equip staff, parents, carers, children to help prevent online abuse.	As a result of the above work, the LSCB identified the need for future clarity in respect of the governance required in respect of online abuse and exploitation.
4. Ensure the effectiveness of services promoting children's emotional wellbeing	
Performance leads routinely share analysis and conclusions in relation to audit and scrutiny activities. Partners disseminate findings from QA activities and to ensure successful implementation.	Significant progress was made by the Board's L&ISG and facilitated by an inter-disciplinary panel who oversaw a programme of multi-agency audits. While a number of partners also shared details of their QA activities the LSCB identified this as area that could be further strengthened.
Intelligence and CP data to be subject of multi-agency scrutiny and monitored routinely.	The trusted relationships established within the L&ISG and other sub-groups enabled the routine gathering of data/ intelligence that in turn was the subject of robust and transparent scrutiny.
CSP and Child Exploitation Sub-group to verify whether this continues to be an area of concern.	Through the work of the LSCB, local/regional strategic partnerships and drawing on research evidence from across the UK, it is clear that the emotional wellbeing of children remains and are of concern and remains an area in which partners continue to work together on the need for more effective long-term strategies. Specific concerns remain in respect of the harm experienced by children who are exploited and as in other areas of safeguarding a 'trauma informed' approach is recognised to be an important aspect of the philosophy that underpins partners approaches to safeguarding.
To review guidance in light of proposed changes in legislation and local evidence.	The Pan Berkshire Policy and Procedures Sub-group ensured an ongoing programme of review and revision of guidance has supported the transition to the new multi-agency arrangements,. All LSCB's across Berkshire agreed to re-commission TriX as the provider of the online platform supporting access to our guidance.
5. Implement learning to ensure effective practice.	
Partners support the work of 'Futures in Mind' group and CCG strengthen its membership to include voluntary sector organisations.	The LSCB received regular updates from partners who have worked together to develop this important areas of work (see section 4 above) and provided critical support to ensure the work remained a collaborative venture and involved all key stakeholders.
Partners promote collaborative working and the use of evidence based early help.	As referred to in section 1 above, the LSCB provided both support and challenge to facilitate the strengthening of the early help available to children and their families in order that any new early help strategy draws on the most effective interventions.



Action	Progress
Further development of multi-disciplinary performance data.	During 2019/20, partners again reviewed the performance data required in order that the LSCB could effectively scrutinise the effectiveness of local practice and its impact on the lives of vulnerable children. This work will inform the scope of the new arrangements to be overseen by the Safeguarding Board's Quality Assurance Sub-group.
Improved reporting of service provision and case management quality assurance activities	As referenced in section 2 above, the LSCB worked to strengthen the reporting on key initiatives and the quality assurance activities of partner agencies. This work has informed the development of the new safeguarding arrangements and following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic mechanisms for more frequent reporting were introduced.
Audit of children/families' experiences.	The principle of children/family involvement became central to the work of the LSCB's L&ISB and has help inform the QA work of within the new safeguarding arrangements. As a result, the experiences of children and their families will be a feature of both the activities of the QA and Case Review Sub-groups.





7. Impact of Covid-19 and the Board's Response

Since the establishment of BFSB in 2019, the local all age approach to the protection of children and adults has increasingly been embedded within the work of the statutory partners and local partner organisations. This work has benefited from the recent appointment of its Independent Chair and Scrutineer (ICS) who has provided both challenge and support to ensure a culture of continual improvement.

At the beginning of the year BFSB reflected on the progress made during 2019 and consulted with local partners as to the key priorities for its work during 2020/21. However, following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the Board revised its work and sought to be proactive in supporting the efforts of local organisations by ensuring the principles of safeguarding underpinned the work of staff and volunteers deployed to support local residents.

Board response to Covid19

i. Communications

The Safeguarding Board was mindful of the amount of work required of partner organisations during the outbreak of the pandemic and sought to concentrate its efforts on supporting organisations and co-ordinating communications. Priority was initially given to the provision of safeguarding advice in this new context and appealing for residents to be vigilant to spot signs of abuse/neglect, and to know how to report any concerns promptly.

A revised website (www.bracknellforestsafeguarding.org.uk) was established to provide additional information relating to the introduction of local and national measures and continues to be supported through the increased use of social media such as:

- Facebook - www.facebook.com/bfsafeguarding
- Twitter - www.twitter.com/BFSafeguarding

These enhanced activities linked closely with the work of other Boards, Bracknell Forest Council and partners. The approach has been guided by a strategy that ensures any information is disseminated using one of the three channels below:

1. Local residents
2. Front line staff and volunteers
3. Strategic partners

In addition, a new fortnightly bulletin from the ICS helped co-ordinate partners' messaging and promoted key priorities identified by safeguarding partners and supporting information provided by trusted sources. Further communication approaches were explored and developed to ensure all communities are engaged.

ii. Local and regional leadership

Regular meetings of the Board ensured good communications between the statutory safeguarding partners within the borough and enabled a risk register to be established based on the collective information they shared. A three weekly wider safeguarding partnership meeting was established to facilitate information sharing and problem solving amongst wider stakeholders. Feedback received from these partners indicates such support to have been helpful in co-ordinating their safeguarding activities during such as challenging period.

The activities of the Board, the Partnership, and the essential work of sub-groups were transferred to online platforms that enabled functions to be maintained in accordance with the statutory guidance. In addition to providing valuable information sharing opportunities, the work undertaken provided assurance regarding current safeguarding measures and helped maintain effective partnership working during such an exceptional time.

While the longer-term effects of Covid-19 will require the Board to frequently review its work frequently, early data/information gathered has supported the Board's objective to understand the safeguarding risks and to consider how these can be addressed in partners' planning for the recovery. The existing links with other strategic partnerships have been strengthened helping to ensure the Board works collaboratively with the:

- Community Safety Partnership
- Domestic Abuse Executive
- Care Governance Board
- Children's Strategic Partnership
- BF Community Response Group
- BF Covid-19 Communication Group

iii. Planned work

During the initial stages of the pandemic, the Board made an early decision to prioritise its work ensuring the following essential functions were maintained:

- Case review sub-group activities (including virtual sub-group meetings)
- Rapid Review Meetings
- Monitoring of actions resulting from Board meetings (including drafting a new training framework, production of the draft annual report and new strategic priorities)
- Oversight of work 'put on hold' and identification of matters to be progressed where previously scheduled meetings have been cancelled
- Regular planning meetings with Independent chair and scrutineer
- Scrutiny of the easements/modification made to statutory guidance
- Work relating to Prevent and Channel processes
- Support for the revised local governance of Child Death Overview Processes
- Necessary revisions to pan Berkshire safeguarding children and adult policy and procedures
- Mechanisms to ensure partners maintain an awareness of risks resulting from changes to services
- Facilitation of activities to enable the identification of future safeguarding priorities

8. The work of the Board's Sub-groups

Case Review Sub-group (CRSG)

The CRSG was established as part of the new safeguarding arrangements in July 2019 and replaced similar functions previously overseen by the SAB and LSCB. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic meetings in the early part of 2020 were held virtually and despite some initial challenges in respect of the compatibility of partners IT systems this has enabled work to be progressed.

The primary function of the CRSG is to oversee Local Learning Reviews (LLRs) Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) in accordance with the contemporary statutory guidance. In addition, the CRSG ensures that the learning from such activities leads to improvements in local systems and/or practice.

The CRSG is also responsible for monitoring the progress of reviews, collating evidence of actions taken and their impact on practice and ensuring that in conjunction with the east Berkshire Learning and Development subgroup, learning is disseminated promptly by partners to all relevant staff.

Early in its formation the subgroup facilitated the implementation of an all age Rapid Review process to ensure an efficient response could support the gathering of information following notifications made by local partners.

To promote further the Board's philosophy of 'continuous improvement' a Task & Finish group was established during March 2020 and began to develop a framework to identify opportunities for local managers to collaborate with leaders within other organisations in order to strengthen local safeguarding practice. Details of this work and its impact on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the borough will be monitored by the board and feature within its annual reporting for 2020/21.

Copies of all reports published by the CRSG, together with learning briefs related to its work can be found on the Board's [website](#).

Quality Assurance Sub-group

The purpose of the Sub-group is to develop and implement systems that will provide the Safeguarding Board with assurance that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place throughout the partnership and to enable partners to identify and evidence actions that will lead to sustained improvement.

The Quality Assurance Sub-group has met on two occasion with the planned third meeting cancelled due to Covid 19. Its work has included:

- Appointment of chair
- Development of the sub-group in line with the new all age multi agency safeguarding arrangements with agreed Terms of Reference
- Approval of QA framework, reflecting the needs of both children's and adults
- Analysis of data and development of a draft new library of indicators
- Receipt of reports on annual partner self-assessments, section 11 self-assessments, audits and evaluation of the multi-agency risk framework, a draft annual audit and scrutiny programme
- carrying out a desk top review of the Board's work - looking at how well the Board fulfils its statutory duties to understand if partners are working effectively together to keep people safe
- Developing a questionnaire to support the review of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

The progress of the sub-groups work has been delayed by Covid 19 but monitoring of data and scrutiny work by the independent chair and scrutineer has continued outside of the main Quality Assurance meeting.

The Sub-group chair has identified the need to ensure each partner representative contributes their organisation's safeguarding quality assurance safeguarding work and performance information to the overall work of the QA sub group which will facilitate discussion and challenge. Meetings will be focussed on:

- Supporting the Board to gain assurance that safeguarding arrangements are in place in all partner organisations
- Identifying trends and risks
- Supporting the Board to ensure its strategic priorities are addressed

Communications Engagement and Prevention Sub-group

The Communications, Engagement and Prevention Sub-group has met on 4 occasions. Its work has included:

- Appointment of chair
- Development of the sub-group to bring together 2 Boards with agreed Terms of Reference
- Workshops to develop and implement CEP strategy
- Identification of priority actions
 - MECC/reporting safeguarding concerns
 - What Good Looks Like
 - Safeguarding Forum AWARE event
- Oversaw the development of a new board logo and website

The progress of the sub-group's work has been delayed by Covid-19 but new and novel ways of carrying out communications, engagement and prevention work have been developed and are now being assessed as a result of learning from actions taken during the period.

East Berkshire Learning and Development Sub-group (L&DSG)

The East Berkshire Learning & Development Forum was conceived and implemented in Autumn 2019 following a recognised need to share learning from case reviews across Bracknell, Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Since its inaugural meeting held in January 2020 the (L&D SG) met regularly to ensure systems could be developed to consistently share learning from local case reviews. In addition, the L&D SG is responsible for promoting standards in respect of safeguarding training and will provide oversight of systems to quality assure single and multi-agency training.



Pan Berkshire Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures Sub-group

The Sub-group has met on three occasions during the year. The Sub-group has –

- Carried out a full review and update of the pan Berkshire Policy and Procedures
- Agreed an updated information sharing protocol
- Updated Self-Neglect and Domestic Abuse Policies

The Sub Group's Terms of Reference have been updated and the business managers of each safeguarding board in Berkshire take it in turns to facilitate sub group meetings and work together to co-ordinate the implementation of sub group actions. The Sub Group elected a new chair during 2019/20.

The pan Berkshire Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures can be found at <https://www.berkshiresafeguardingadults.co.uk/bracknell/>

Pan Berkshire Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Sub-group

The online hosting of the procedures is commissioned from an independent company Tri.x. with this contract allowing for the policy and procedures to be updated twice a year. However, during 2019/20 Tri.x have proactively suggested a range of changes prior to the scheduled update and have been flexible if requested by colleagues locally for additional changes to be made by the group (as was the case during the outbreak of the pandemic). The group has a rolling programme / schedule of chapters for review which was maintained during the year and plans were put in place for the group to progress business via virtual meeting throughout the period of the lockdown.

Members undertake to review and where necessary make draft revisions which in turn are circulated prior to sub-group meetings for the collective approval. Where significant changes are required these are circulated to Boards/Partnerships for their feedback/agreement prior to updates being made.

The terms of reference were agreed in April 2019 to align with the introduction of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The policies and procedures can accessed at: <https://berks.proceduresonline.com/>

Pan Berkshire Section Child Exploitation Sub-group

The Pan Berkshire Child Exploitation Sub-group met on 4 occasions during 2019/20 and facilitated an exchange of experiences from those working across the six local authority areas.

During the year the subgroup membership was broadened to ensure the group also considered the contribution of those working in health and education settings and oversaw:

- The revision of the group's terms of reference to ensure it took into account the range of exploitation experiences by children in Berkshire and to promote the concept of 'contextual safeguarding' within local multi-agency processes
- The appointment of a new chair
- Dissemination of the Home Office's Criminal Exploitation Tool Kit
- Learning established by partners working across the region and that emerging from inspections and case reviews conducted nationally
- The promotion of training opportunities

Representative from Involve, Bracknell Forest Council and the Safeguarding Board have ensured good links between the strategic and operational efforts undertaken in the Borough and helped local oversight of how Covid-19 and the period of 'lockdown impacted on service to safeguard children.



Pan Berkshire Section 11 Sub-group

Section 11 (s11) of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on all organisations that provide services to children, or provide staff or volunteers to work with or care for children to make arrangements to ensure that they are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership continue to host and provide administrative support for the panel. Liz McAuley, Wokingham Quality Assurance and Safeguarding team has been the Chair of the panel since November 2016.

The Panel has been well supported by a strong and consistent core membership of experienced colleagues who are committed to the process. The agency representation consists of; Thames Valley Police; National Probation Service; Safeguarding Partnership Managers; a private residential provider, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Berkshire East CCG, Berkshire West CCG; 4 Local Authority representatives, and 1 lay member.

We have continued to use the same audit tool but we have improved it by adding further guidance to help organisations and we continue to operate a robust review process at midway point which asks organisations to consider additional themes such as child's voice, commissioning arrangements and feedback from external inspections.

Our aim has been to operate a process which is able to provide a high level of challenge to organisations with a view to promoting good practice in safeguarding and to act as a critical friend. The feedback from presenters from the organisations has been generally positive and the panel members feel that the format and tool is robust.

In 2019-20 we have held 5 s 11 panel meetings and the s11 Panel have considered 20 full submissions.



9. Case Reviews

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

Under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 the Safeguarding Board is required to arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review when someone with care and support needs dies as a result of neglect or abuse and there is a concern that the local authority or its partners could have worked more effectively to protect them. SARs can also be commissioned when an adult has not died, but the Safeguarding Board knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. It is intended that such processes enable the Board to ensure lessons are learnt, that they publish reports detailing the work of the review and the outcomes of SARs are contained within annual report such as this.



During 2019/20 Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board completed one Safeguarding Adult Review. There is one completed, but unpublished, SAR for which an action plan has been written and implemented. It has not been published as yet due to a pending criminal prosecution.

The Board, therefore, has benefitted from the learning from a recent Safeguarding Adult Review, which is influencing Board priorities and how it conducts business. The following key themes have been identified:

- Section 135(1) warrants: Partners awareness of the procedures with regard to the execution of Section 135(1) warrant has been highlighted and clarified. Clear guidance about the process to follow (a full risk assessment must be carried out) if it has not been executed has also been given.
- Risk Management: The Board has a well-established Risk Management framework, training for which has been running for almost 2 years. A significant number of practitioners from partner agencies have attended this training, which is on-going. In addition, the need for organisations to have robust policies and procedures in place for safeguarding, and particularly the management of risk and the reassessment of risk as changes develop in a safeguarding plan has been highlighted. The Pan Berks Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures in the management and reassessment of risk have recently been updated. Attention has also been drawn to the need for updated risk assessments which displaying professional curiosity.
- Attention has been drawn to the need to apply the six adult safeguarding principles, when dealing with a vulnerable person
- Advice has been given to partner agencies, confirming that the Police should not be requested to conduct a safe and wellbeing check as an interim measure instead of executing a Section 135(1) warrant.
- Attention has been drawn to all Board partners reminding them of the need to audit records to ensure the rationale of decision making, handover of cases, changes of safeguarding action to be taken and outcomes of risk assessments are diligently recorded.

GH SAR

GH, a 62-year-old male, was receiving dedicated adult care within the community. He had been admitted into hospital in 2015 and had a below-knee amputation, becoming a wheelchair user. Following his hospital discharge GH was initially reluctant to accept offers of support, although a package of support was eventually put in place for him. He later died following an overdose of prescription drugs.

The Board received the final report in September 2019 following which a multi-agency action plan was developed and implemented addressing the 4 key findings as indicated below. These themes have been fed into the work of the Board as evidenced above.

Finding 1 - Sec 135(1) MHA 1983 warrant applications and compliance to agreed guidance.

Finding 2 - Governance and Supervision to ensure practitioners compliance.

Finding 3 - Risk Assessments, to be regularly reviewed and more comprehensive.

Finding 4 - Recordkeeping and communication.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)

Working Together 2018 requires that Boards set out what they have done as a result of the new arrangements and include details of any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) undertaken, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

A decision was made by the statutory partners that the same decision-making process would be followed for adults and children. To this end, the Board has undertaken four Rapid Reviews – three for children and one for an adult. One resulted in no further action, one resulted in actions being identified and acted upon during the Rapid Review and therefore no further action was deemed necessary. The third has resulted in a CSPR, which is currently in progress.

In addition to the statutory reviews referred to above, three Local Learning Reviews (LLRs) were initiated prior to the formation of the new Board. Two of these reviews identified important learning; action plans have been written that are in the process of being implemented by the partner agencies and are being monitored by the CRSG.

Learning identified in the review of one child included the importance of:

- multi-agency planning that is informed by robust assessments of parenting capacity that ensures an analysis of parents/carers functioning and comprehension
- Inter-agency safeguarding planning taking place at the earliest opportunity within pregnancy
- ensuring South Central Ambulance Service are made aware of safeguarding plans
- planning that includes contingencies, avoids assumptions and details the responsibilities of those involved
- professionals understanding how to escalate concerns

Learning identified in the review of another child included the importance of:

- Out of hours multi-agency planning that is guided by timely strategy meetings/discussions that:
 - are informed by forensic processes which maximise the possibility of evidence being secured
 - take into account the needs of any siblings
 - are accurately reflected in subsequent recording/communications
- partners ensure staff operate child centred practice that comply with their organisation's safeguarding procedures
- interventions made in clinical settings are performed by suitably qualified staff in accordance with safeguarding procedures

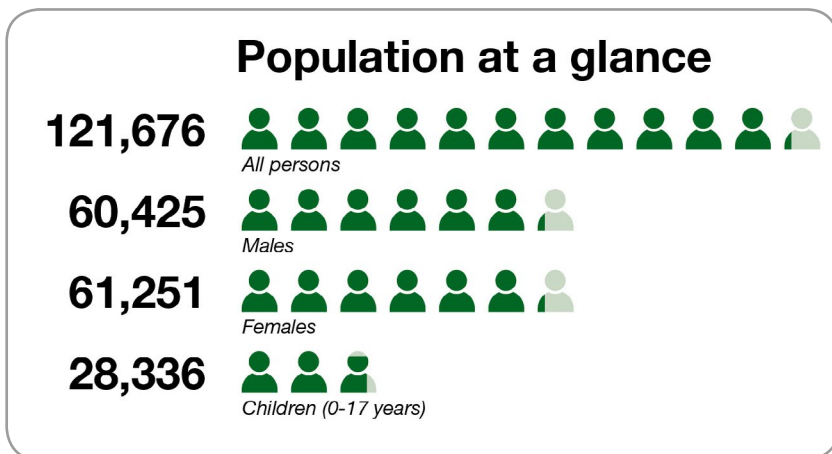
Analysis in respect of the third LLR is ongoing and is subject to the oversight of the Board's Independent Chair and Scrutineer.

10. Performance information

There are approximately 121,000 people living within Bracknell Forest with a relatively even split between males and females.

Children (aged between 0-17 years) make up 23% of this population.

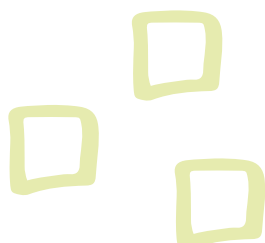
ONS Mid-2018 Population Estimates



Safeguarding Children

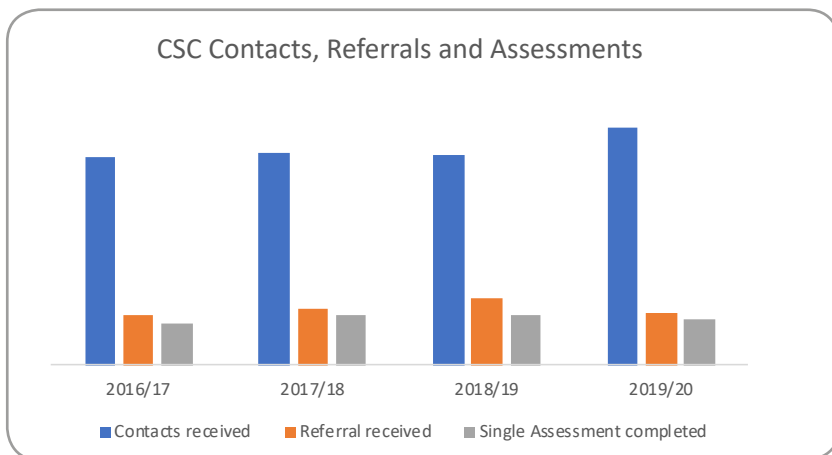
Early Help

- there were 1,502 referrals into Early Help services during 2019/20 which is an increase of 49% from the previous year.
- 73% of families accept Early Help support following a contact within MASH; against 59% the previous year.
- 81% of families accept Early Help support following single assessment (against 65% previous year)
- 65.4% decrease in children becoming looked after within the assessment team; evidence which supports improved relationships with Early Help and other services and the appointment of a permanent Manager with focus on Edge of Care

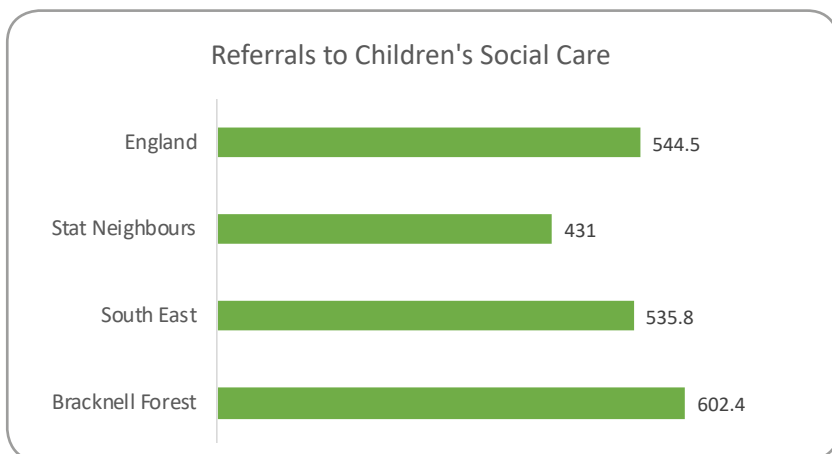


Children's Social Care

There were 7,852 initial contacts received by Children's Social Care (CSC) between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 which is an increase of 13% from the previous year. A fifth (20%) of these contacts led to a referral which is lower than the previous year (32%). From the 1,707 referrals 77% led to an assessment.

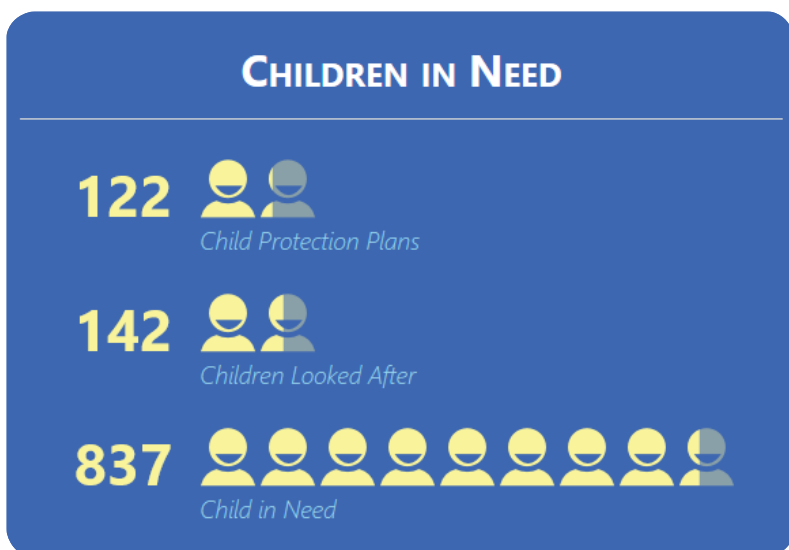


The volume of referrals to CSC (per 10,000 u18s) was higher than the national average, South East and statistical neighbours.



Children in Need

Snapshot at the end of March 2020



There were 241 children who had an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) and from these 29% did not become subject to a child protection plan.

From the 122 children subject to child protection plans at the end of March, 24% were on a plan at any time previously (this includes 10% in the previous 12 months; 17% within the previous 2 years).

Children subject to CPP by Age Band & Gender	Male	Female
Unborn	3	
Under 1 year	3	5
1 to 4 years	19	11
5 to 9 years	16	16
10 to 15 years	18	23
16 years and over	2	6
TOTAL	122	

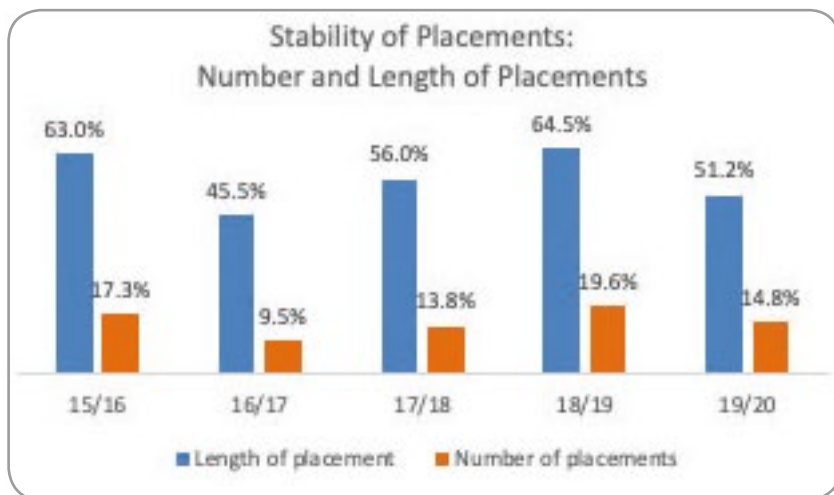
Neglect and emotional abuse made up the vast majority of children subject to child protection plans at the end of March 2020.



There were 142 children looked after (CLA) at the end of March which is lower than the same point in the previous year (158). The rate per 10,000 under 18s was 50.4 compared to 51.0 in the South East, 45.9 for statistical neighbours and 64.0 across England.

The number of children looked after with three or more placements was 14.8% (21 children) at the end of March. This is lower from the previous year (2018/19) when the percentage was 19.6% (31 children) in Bracknell Forest and in the South East it was 12%, England 10% and statistical neighbours 10.2 %. Emergency and temporary foster care would count as new placements.

The length of placements is lower at the end of this year compared to last and South East (68.0%), statistical neighbours (68.1%) and England (70.0%).



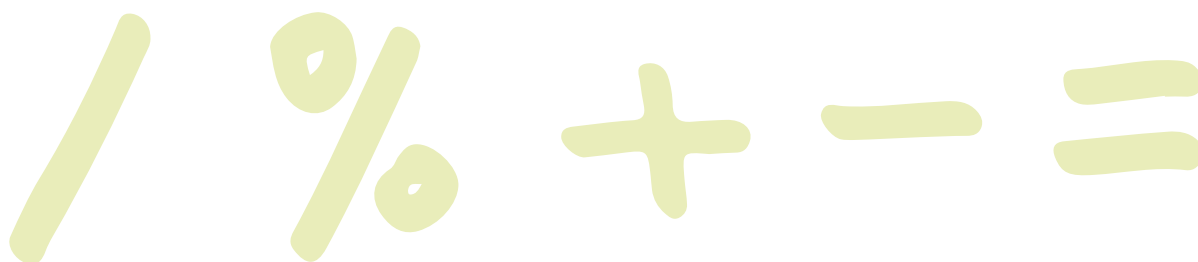
100% of Year 6 CLA (who were in care for at least 12 months) achieved at least the expected level for both English and Maths and 43% of CLA Year 11 (12 months+) achieved the equivalent of 9 - 4 grades

45 (32%) of all CLA have an EHCP at end of March 2020.

10% of children looked after were adopted/Special Guardianship Order (SGO) expressed (as a % of CLA for at least six months). This is a similar percentage to the previous year.

The number of privately fostered children remains low with three being the highest number recorded at any point in the year.

98% of care leavers aged 19, 20 & 21 were in suitable accommodation but nearly half (49%) were NOT in education, employment or training (compared to 34% the previous year). 97% of all care leavers were in suitable accommodated with 32% NOT in education, employment or training.

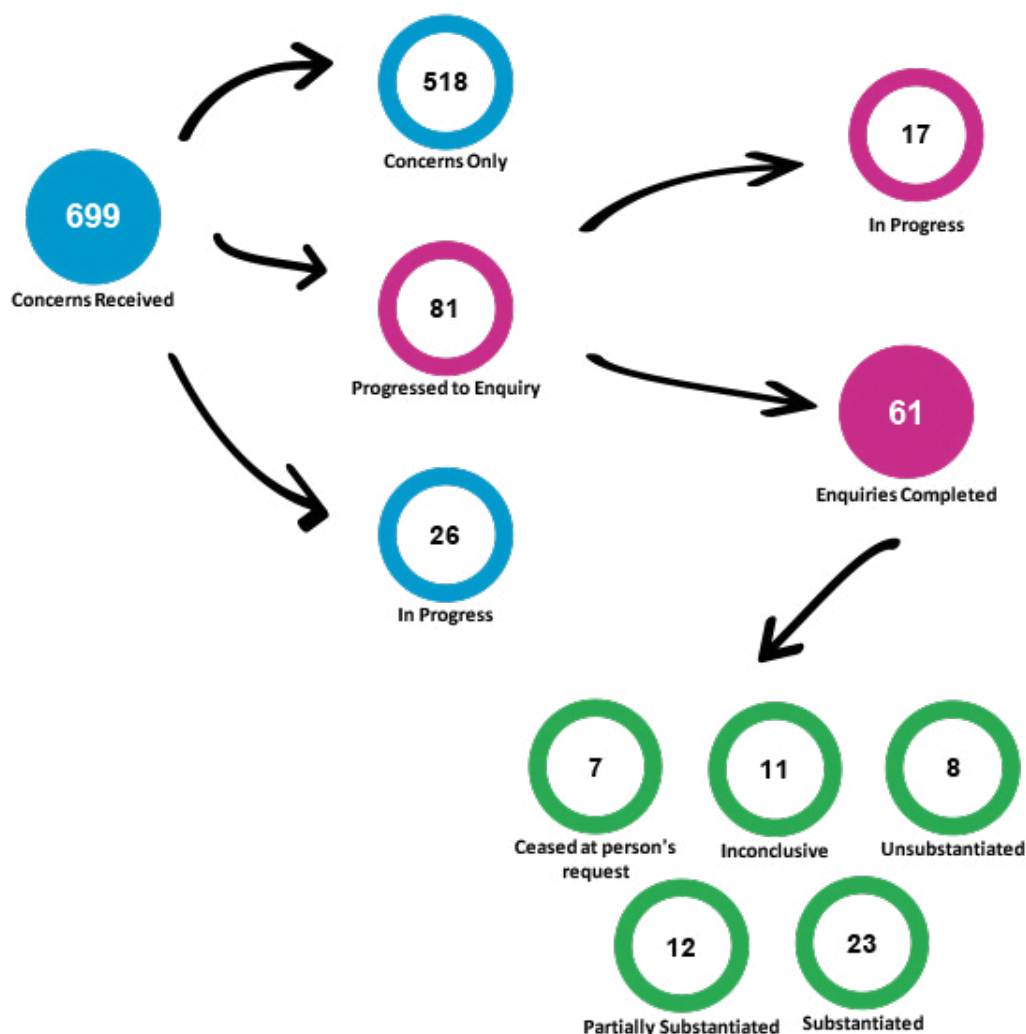


Safeguarding Adult Performance Information

The performance data reflects the key data monitored by the Board and its Quality Assurance Sub Group and to which all partners contribute. The safeguarding process including the definition of Concerns and Enquiries is found in the [pan Berkshire safeguarding adult policy and procedures](#). A safeguarding concern is a sign of suspected abuse or neglect that is reported to the local authority or identified by the local authority. A safeguarding enquiry is an action instigated or taken by the local authority in response to a concern that abuse or neglect may be taking place.

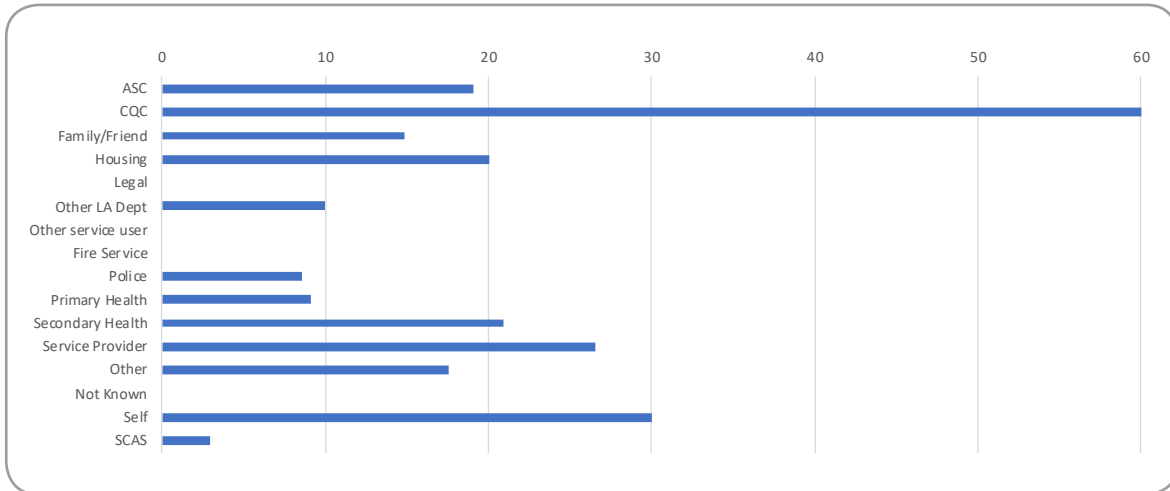
Concerns	699
Concerns per 100,000 population	748.9
Concerns progressing to enquiry	109
% of concerns progressing to enquiry	15.6%
Number of enquiries ended	115
Number of enquiries ended per 100,000 population	123.2

The table shows that 699 concerns were reported by partners to the local authority during 2019/20. The conversion rate of concerns received to enquiries taking place was 15.6 %. A total of 115 enquiries were completed during 2019/20. These included enquiries that were started before March 2019. 71% of these enquiries abuse or neglect were either fully or partially substantiated. Further details of the concerns received and enquiries completed during 2019/20 are included below.



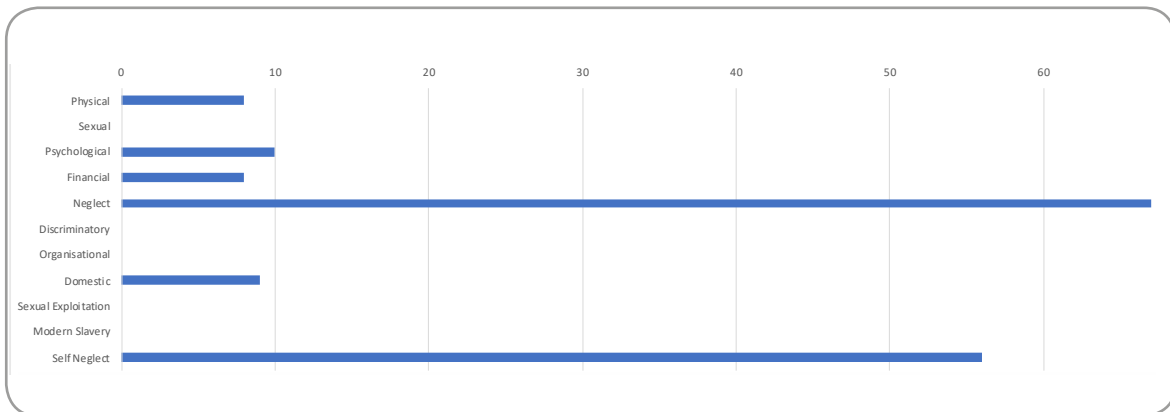
The flow chart shows that of 699 concerns were reported by partners to the local authority during 2019/20 81 of these concerns progressed to a safeguarding enquiry. As a result of the 61 safeguarding enquiries completed during 2019/20 35 were either fully or partially substantiated. Further details of the concerns received and enquiries completed are included below.

Safeguarding Concerns – Sources of Concerns



The graph shows the range of partners that have reported safeguarding concerns during 2019/20.

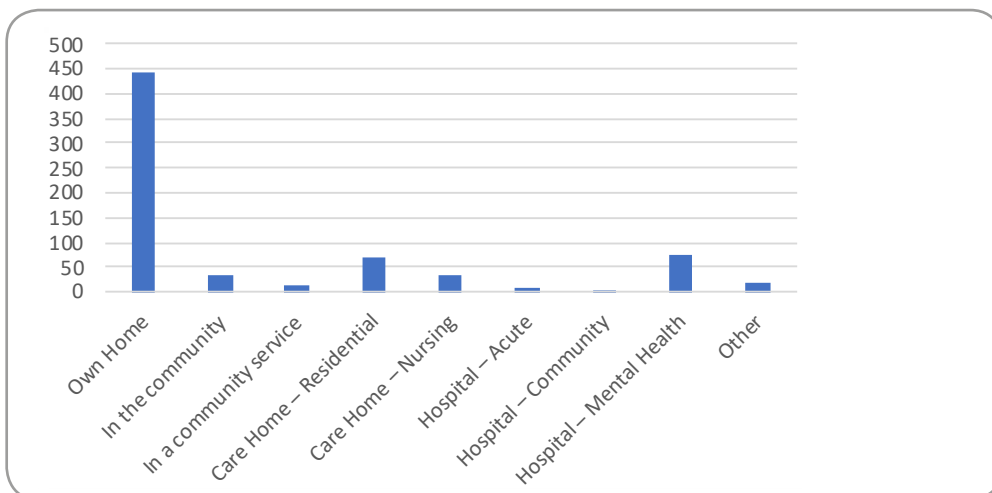
Completed Safeguarding Enquiries – Types of abuse



For all safeguarding enquiries completed, the greatest number of enquiries were due to neglect, followed by psychological, physical and financial abuse. This is similar to previous years when the majority of enquiries are due to these four types of abuse.

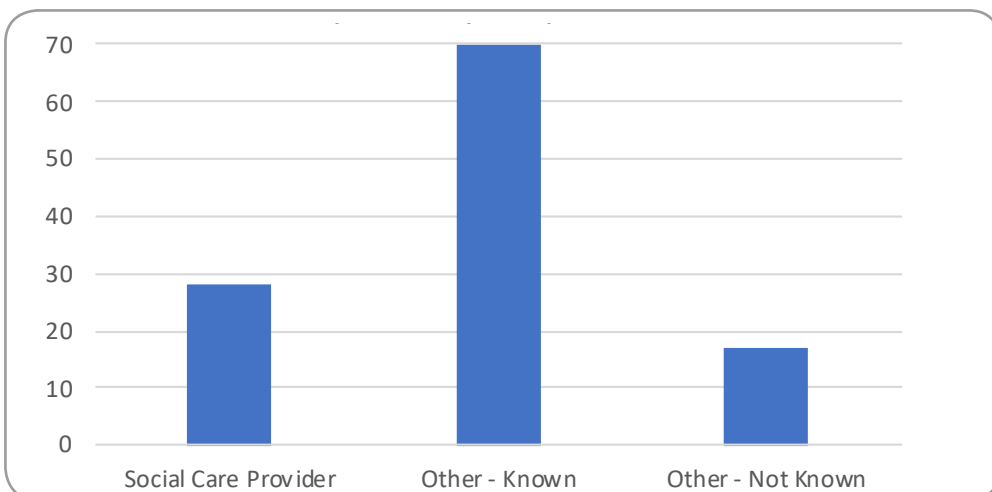


Completed Safeguarding Enquiries - Location of abuse

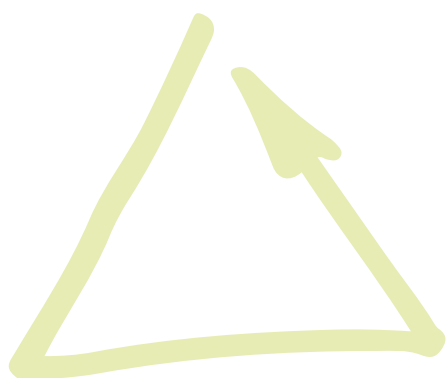


As in previous years the majority of abuse or neglect investigated during a safeguarding enquiry was due to abuse and neglect being reported to have occurred within a person’s own home.

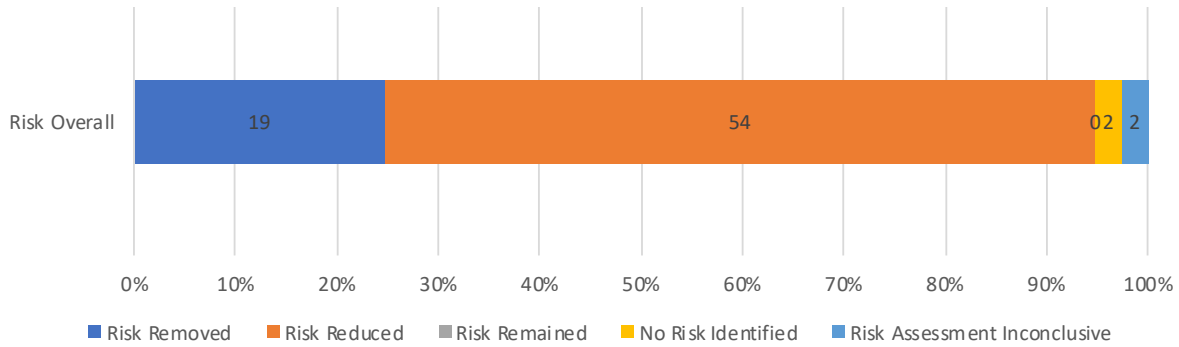
Completed Safeguarding Enquiries - Perpetrators of Abuse and Neglect



For the majority of safeguarding enquiries completed, the perpetrator was known to the person.

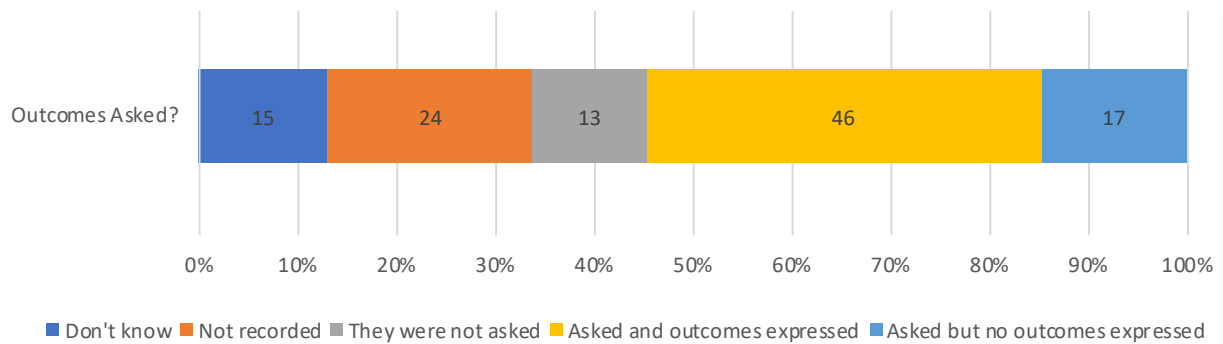


Management of risk

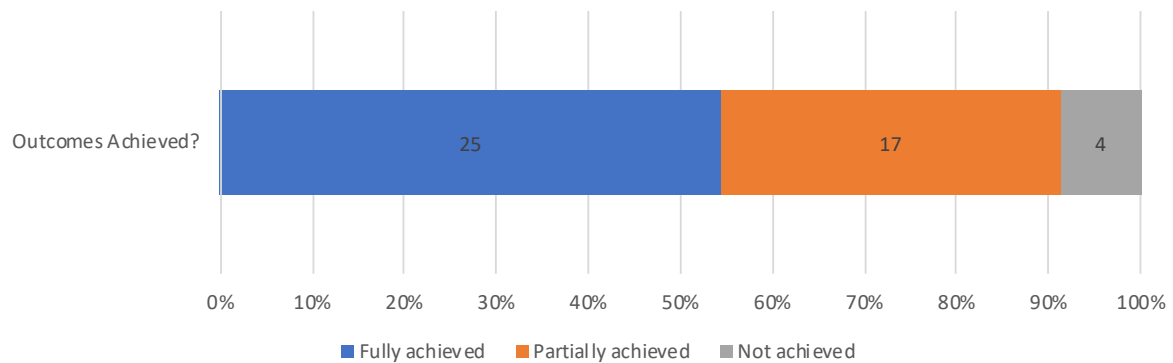


For safeguarding enquiries concluded, in the majority of cases, risk was removed or reduced.

Making Safeguarding Personal - Outcomes

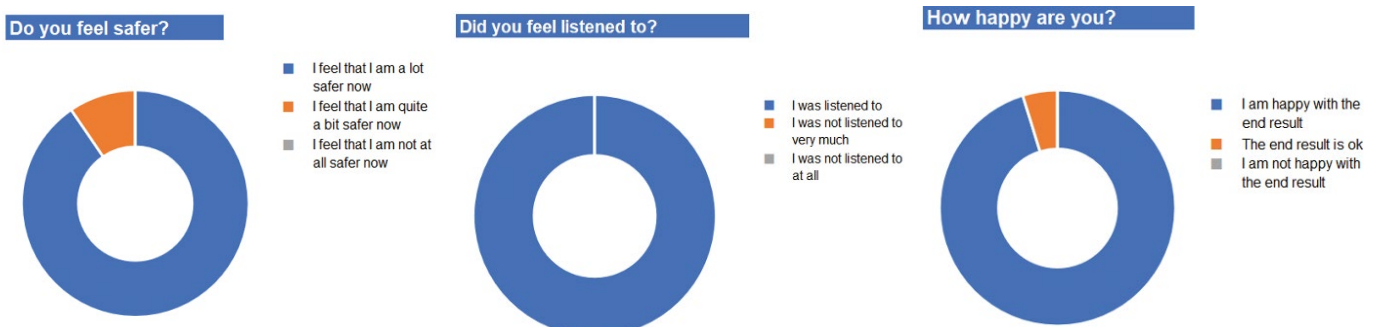


People were asked the outcomes they desired in 63% of safeguarding enquiries that were concluded.



When outcomes were expressed, they were fully achieved in 92% of the cases.

Making Safeguarding Personal - Feedback



In the majority of cases where feedback was provided people stated that they felt safer, felt listened to and were happy with the process.

11. Future Challenges and Priorities

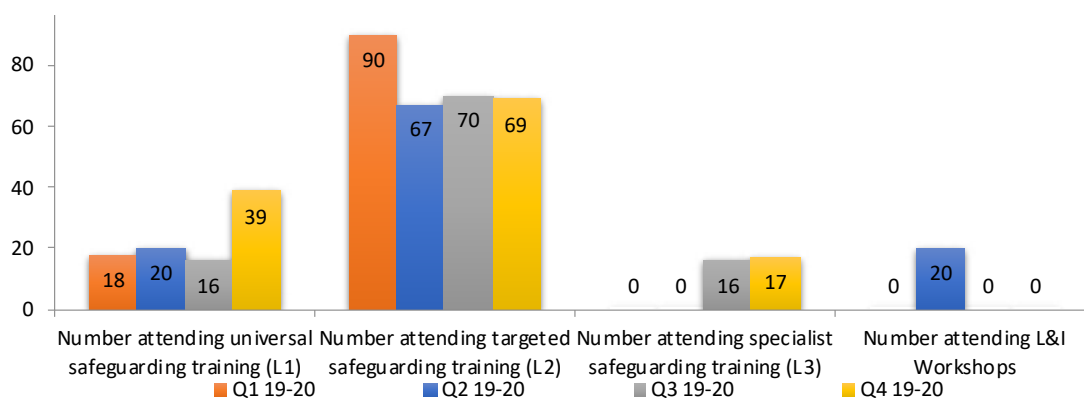
In line with government guidance the safeguarding board has confirmed its priorities for 2020 / 21 taking account of the need to understand the impacts and challenges of Covid-19. These are attached as Annex 1. Covid-19 has provided significant challenges which will be discussed by the Board and partners throughout 2020 / 21, including partners' priorities formulated to address short and long-term issues. Consideration will be given to providing an additional annex to this annual report later in the year which will include the partners 2020/21 agreed priorities.

12. Training

Safeguarding Children Training 2019/20

Training Course	Attendees
Multi-Agency Risk Framework	126
Learning from SARS – Fire Risk	240
Safeguarding Adults Level 1 - Introduction to Safeguarding	69
Safeguarding Adults Level 2 & 3	65
Mental Capacity Act Level 2 - Assessing Capacity and Best Interest as a Practitioner in Social Care	64

Safeguarding Children Training 2019/20



There were 27 multi-agency safeguarding courses run throughout 2019-20 with 442 delegates. Two-thirds of these attended the targeted safeguarded courses which included full day Level 2 course, the half day Level 2 refresher course and one Level 3/4 Targeted course. A Safeguarding Disabled Children course ran in both October 2019 and January 2020. There were two courses arranged by the Business Unit for partners in September in relation to Planning to Protect Children and Managing Allegations against Adults who Work with Children.

13. Financial Information

As there is no national formula for funding, levels of contribution are agreed locally. Bracknell Forest Council currently contribute the majority of the Board's direct funding. In addition, Bracknell Forest Council hosts the Safeguarding Board's business unit. The CCG and Thames Valley Police are the only other partners who currently contribute to the Board. Income and expenditure for 2019/20 are shown below.

Safeguarding Board 2019/20-

Note: Income/Budget/Costs re Adults is for the period July - March 20, Childrens for April 19 - March 20	
Income / Budget	2019/20
BF Council Budget	-122,543
CCG Funding	-28,000
TV Police Funding	-10,500
Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Funding	-1,025
National Probation Service Funding	-288
Broadmoor Hospital Funding	-550
CAFCASS Funding	-500
Underspend Carry Forward from old Adults Safeguarding Board	-13,248
Underspend Carry Forward from 18/19 re old Childrens Safeguarding Board	-12,243
Income LSCB Training 18/19	-8,699
Additional income re previous ASC Joint Partnership Board	-127
	-197,723
Costs	
Staff costs	137,041
Business Managers x 2 (32 hours / 22.5 hours)	
Partnership and Perf Manager (22.2 hours)	
Business Support Officer (22.5 hours)	
Trainers - adhoc staff costs included in projection	
Other Costs	
Independent Chair costs Nov/Dec - March 20	5,270
Independent Chair Learning Review	4,350
Additional Costs re SAR	600
New Website	3,670
Services Hidden Carers Campaign	300
Adhoc costs	1,276
	152,508

Annex 1

Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board

Strategic Priorities

Mission

The BFSB will work with local organisations and member of the community to safeguard the most vulnerable people through effective Prevention policies, Protection procedures and Partnership working. To ensure our arrangements to tackle abuse & neglect are effective we will listen to people and we will promote a culture of continuous improvement and collective learning that helps us tackle emerging safeguarding threats both locally & nationally.

Principles

Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board (BFSB) has introduced new multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding which enable an all-age approach to operate across the wider policy and partnership landscape. The model develops new ways of working that reflect a commitment to trauma-informed practice, are person centred and support a contextual safeguarding approach. Such an approach seeks to avoid duplication, to strengthen practice further and that leads to improved outcomes for children, young people and adults. The Board's new arrangements aim to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

- There is early identification of emerging safeguarding issues
- Information is shared in a timely and effective manner
- Partners work collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Learning is effectively identified, disseminated and embedded
- Safeguarding practice is continually improving
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- Our local communities feel confident that children & adults are protected from harm
- The individual is placed at the heart of our approach

As the statutory Safeguarding Partners, Thames Valley Police, Bracknell Forest Council and the East Berkshire CCG will provide leadership to ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are effective.

Independence is provided by an Independent Chair and Scrutineer.

Priorities

Our multi agency partnership approach requires a systems approach that underpins the implementation of local statutory safeguarding responsibilities, and are underpinned by the following commitment to safeguarding vulnerable people:

Strategic Direction 2020/21

Working together, and as individual partners, we will be vigilant to be able to quickly identify, understand, prioritise and respond to risks and issues arising throughout the local community, particularly those caused or intensified by the impact of Covid 19.

Annex 2: Contributions from Partners

Partner were asked to provide a brief summary, outlining their adult and children safeguarding priorities, actions that their organisation had implemented, and how the implementation of these benefitted the people who used their services to stay safe and well. What had been the impact?

1. Bracknell Forest Council

Bracknell Forest Council continues to place the safeguarding of our residents as our top priority. During 2019/20 we continued to build upon our strong safeguarding practice across all areas of the People Directorate. The following is a summary of some of our key safeguarding priorities & actions:

Adult Social Care: Communication and Community & User Involvement: BFC adhered to the underpinning principles of 'Making Safeguarding Personal' (MSP) and promoted people's wellbeing alongside their safety whilst fully engaging individuals in the safeguarding process. People were asked for the outcomes they wanted from the BFC safeguarding support provided. MSP data has been collected for BFC as a method of assessing how satisfied people were with their outcomes.

Risk Management and Prevention: The BFC Safeguarding Board multi-agency risk framework is being incorporated into practice across BFC Adult Social Care. The framework is intended to be used for early intervention and prevention as well as a range of other circumstances where an adult is at risk. Examples where an adult has required a response under the risk framework include:

- Adults who have been at risk of exploitation
- Adults victimised because of their vulnerability, lifestyle or specific needs
- Adult survivors of child sexual exploitation who have been at risk of further exploitation
- Adults who have capacity to refuse support around issues which may put them at risk such as self-neglect, hoarding and exploitation

Learning and Development: A range of BFC adult safeguarding training and development opportunities were made available during 2019/2020. These includes a range of Safeguarding courses, Deprivation of Liberty and Mental Capacity Act training.

Quality Assurance: Quality monitoring of adult social care safeguarding activity is supported through the model of adult safeguarding in place at BFC which involves an independent chairing role function; this enables a valuable overview of safeguarding activity and practice across all adult social care teams. Quantitative intelligence is analysed alongside monthly qualitative data to obtain an accurate picture of how all adults teams are delivering BFC safeguarding arrangements. A Head of Quality Assurance (People) role was created during 2019/20. Early work has included initiation of work on a quality assurance framework for adult social care including the introduction of a more formal audit system for testing the effectiveness of adult safeguarding arrangements.



Quality Assurance in Provider Services: Monthly BFC Care Governance meetings have taken place putting Bracknell residents first and working with partners and providers to provide quality, sustainable adult social care services which deliver good value for money. The BFC care governance framework joins up intelligence from various sources to enable quality concerns in provider services to be identified early on; support is then offered to address these concerns before they become significant safeguarding issues. During 2019/20 one unavoidable closure of a home has occurred. BFC staff worked closely with the existing home staff to support all residents to receive good continuity of care, and to remain at reduced risk whilst residents were supported to move elsewhere. Another home in Bracknell Forest has been receiving support from BFC staff to improve various areas of its practice for some months. There has been a focus on working with East Berkshire authorities to develop a unified care governance framework as the result of a Safeguarding Adult Review recommendation in 2018/2019. This work continues to be in development.

Early Help:

Implementing a family hub model: The reconfiguration of our four Children's Centres into a 0-19 multi-disciplinary family hub model that includes youth professionals has provided a good platform to develop further our early help offer across the partnership. There is a strong emphasis on whole family working and seamless transition across the levels of need. Health visiting, school nursing and community midwifery are well embedded in the family hubs, demonstrating strong collaboration and effective partnership. The impact of this arrangement supports the partnership's growing commitment to whole family working.

Developing a Town Centre youth hub: Young people have told us that they would like to see the creation of a town centre youth facility and this has been a long-standing ambition for the council. A location for the new youth hub has been identified; designs have been developed with young people's input and we aspire to involve them actively in the future management of the hub. The new facility is expected to open this autumn. The hub will be used as a base for outreach work with young people in the town centre and to deliver 'targeted' work with our most vulnerable young people, offering a range of activities in partnership with other agencies with a focus on young people's mental wellbeing, health, training and employment. The building will also be a base for the Youth Council and for wider engagement of young people. Some open access or 'universal' sessions for young people will also be offered by our commissioned providers.

Developing mental health support in Early Help: The Local Transformation Plan partnership group is delivering changes to children and young people's mental health support and services across East Berkshire. This includes:

- Children's Wellbeing Practitioner posts that provide a new 'Getting Help' Team for Bracknell. The team is newly recruited and the service is launching in the near future. Staff are employed by Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust and form part of the Council's Early Help teams. The team will directly support young people with emerging, low level mental health needs and will also provide advice, guidance and training to Early Help practitioners.
- The partnership has been successful in bidding for a new Mental Health Support Team (MHST) as part of the national programme to provide early intervention and support to children, their parents and schools. Recruitment will commence this year with practitioners in training from January 2021 and the service fully operational from January 2022.

Children's Social Care:

Launch a new front door with integration of Early Help (EH): The development of a new integrated front door between children's social care and early help has embedded a strong emphasis on robust screening and timely triage, with increased use of multi-agency checks where relevant. This has promoted a "service without walls" approach such that children and families can access the most appropriate form of help and support, at the right time. This has included better utilising a family resilience approach such as Family Group Conferencing or mediation for single issue referrals. There has been a significant increase in the number of multi-agency strategy meetings, with good participation, and practice and performance improvements. External and internal audits found no priority areas for action. The implementation of a single Early Help referral form, a streamlined allocation process and clear timescales for making contact and completing early help assessments. The new approach has also led to improvements in single assessment visit timeliness for children not subject of S47 enquiry, and a reduction in average length of time cases remain open for assessment and reduction of average caseloads. The effectiveness of the integrated front door has been further improved by housing and welfare case workers being co-located on a rota basis. Homeless young people have their rights fully explained to them to allow them to make an informed choice with housing and children's services carrying out joint work.

End of year headline data for the front door includes:

- 95% of all contacts have a decision about next steps made within 24hrs,
- 25.7% re- referral rate reduced from last year. This trajectory continues with an average re-referral rate of 18% over the last 6 months
- 73% of families accept Early Help support following a contact within MASH; against 59% the previous year.
- 81% of families accept Early Help following single assessment (against 65% previous year)
- 94% of Single Assessments completed across all departments within 45 days; against a national average of 83%. 74% within 30 days against 48% national average
- 83% children have an ICPC within 15 days across the department with a national average of 79%. The vast majority of ICPCs are triggered through the assessment team
- 65.4% decrease in children becoming looked after within the assessment team; evidence which supports improved relationships with Early Help and other services and the appointment of a permanent Manager with focus on Edge of Care

Ensure consistency across all staff and effectiveness of leaders and managers: Services have been restructured to reflect better the child's journey, ensuring the right support at the right time, for the right child. This includes the blended all-age Family Safeguarding Teams. Each area of the department is led by permanent Heads of Service. Across the service there has been a reduction in social worker vacancies and average caseloads across the department. Supervision has been evaluated and relaunched across the service; areas showing significant improvements in March 2020 (over 10% positive change from Nov 2018) regarding accessibility of supervision; feelings towards supervision; supervision as a conduit for emotional wellbeing and case management; supporting learning and change in practice. Lumina Spark and Myers-Briggs development with Heads of Service and Team Managers to enable individuals to work more effectively as a team and improve outcomes for children. Performance and quality assurance activity is leading to service improvement with a culture around this being embedded with all tiers of managers. Feedback loops are well established including 'stand-up' meetings in the FSM teams and weekly managers meetings at the front door.



Embed the Family Safeguarding Model (FSM): We are further embedding the model by bringing together a range of specialists to work collaboratively with the family as a whole and enable children to remain at home with their families where it is safe to do so. FSM Teams are working to bring about a fully integrated approach which not only supports intervention but promotes collective accountability and strengthens decision making. All staff in FSM teams have completed Motivational Interviewing, a technique designed to empower parents to make positive changes to achieve improved outcomes, and this is being disseminated to other teams. FSM teams are spending more time with families, using a range of tools to develop an in-depth understanding of family functioning and are benefitting from high quality supervision which has improved staff morale. The impact of the model has been substantial and has seen reductions in (data from Nov 2019-Jan 2020) care proceedings (56%), Public Law Outline (18%), Children becoming looked after (44%), Child Protection plans (26%), Missing (66%), Domestic abuse callouts (87%), Caseloads (33%).

Implement new Edge of Care model: Our improved edge of care provision has helped to reduce the number of adolescents entering care by embedding a team of specialists focusing on intensive intervention. This includes the provision of bespoke and high intensity quality practice to the child supporting reintegration back into the family home and thereby diverting children from coming into care.

Listening to the experience of children looked after: Through quarterly meetings with SiLSiP (the children's care council) we continue to enhance and improve quality. As a result of work in the past year:

- CLA have a pod of permanent staff to reduce the risk of social work changes because feedback highlighted the impact and loss children looked after experience from social work changes
- Additional staff have been trained to develop Life Journey work
- Awareness of independent advocates is promoted by social workers and IROs
- Social workers have provided with adequate time to read files and become familiar with children before starting visits

In addition to working with SILSIP, wider work includes development of specific feedback forms for children within the front door and long-term social work teams and the sharing of learning from complaints, feedback and compliments is during regular service wide learning events led by the Quality Assurance service. The Executive Director for People personally reviews all complaints from children

Children's Placements: A review of Family Placement team and restructure of Life Chances Service has aimed to increase the number of CLA placed with in-house foster carers and to promote joint working across teams to support key transitional points to secure placement stability. Work continued during 2019/20 to develop more resilient foster carers locally so that children do not have to move schools or away from their networks and local support services. We have focused on considering permanency at the earliest opportunity; detailed investigation of therapeutic needs of CLA to support permanence planning and trauma recovery so that children receive the appropriate type of therapy at the right time for them. We have worked collaboratively with our safeguarding partners to increase the safety of children placed in our area and a specialist family worker has been recruited to ensure increased understanding of the risks/needs for this cohort so that we can better understand their safeguarding needs and provide challenge where placements are unregulated.

Operational Commissioning: A new joint children and adults commissioning team now supports the People Directorate to achieve better outcomes and drive value for the people of Bracknell Forest. In order to enable the family placement team to focus on recruiting, supporting and training our own carers, the responsibility of IFA and residential placements has moved to this commissioning team.

Public Health:

Safeguarding in contract and performance management: We have implemented safeguarding as a standing agenda item in the contract and performance management meetings. This ensures that a focus on safeguarding remains a core golden thread through all of our work and that of the providers that we commission.

Contract: In the past year we have reviewed the 0-19 Public Health Contract and identified areas to strengthen provision, quality and monitoring. This has provided the public health service with an understanding of the service's compliance with safeguarding training, use of safeguarding thresholds, attendance both at strategy meetings and child protection conferences and an insight into how the service identifies and supports vulnerable children and families and the steps required to strengthen this.

Schools:

Safeguarding Our School Service: The school safeguarding team has been re-branded in the past year. It continues to provide support across the board with 100% of schools (including independent schools) buying into the SLA. The impact of the work of the service continues to be captured through feedback from schools, children and young people, parents and other services. In addition to this feedback there is also an annual evaluation of the service received. Schools report feeling both supported and challenged and children's safety is ensured through the robust safeguarding arrangements in place. Where practice is seen as a concern, there is swift intervention with action plans and regular review.

Large percentages of Bracknell Forest children report feeling safe in school and are able to identify staff who can support them. A Key priority for the year has been to strengthen this service further with an offer to out of Borough Schools which Bracknell Forest Children may attend. Four Wokingham Primary Schools have bought into the service along with a Reading Secondary School. A specialist safeguarding hub for independent schools has also been introduced. This gives each of the schools the space to reflect and share practice on some of the aspects of safeguarding that are unique to Independent settings. This meeting is facilitated by the Safeguarding our Schools Team Manager.



Support to Schools: In strengthening the Service and responding to the needs of the schools, one of the actions has been to increase the supervision support for Designated Safeguarding Leads. A model has been developed that encourages pod-style supervision and reflection at Designated Safeguarding Leads meetings, but also an offer to staff within schools. This is both individual supervision support for members of school staff and group supervision for the safeguarding team. There has been an investment in Supervision Training through the NSPCC in order to support this work. Ensuring schools are up to date on safeguarding developments and practice is always a service priority. This is arranged through the half-termly Designated Safeguarding Lead Network Meetings, training, email updates and through the annual update of the Model Safeguarding Policy for Schools. This was updated in September 2019 with the latest guidance changes and disseminated to all Bracknell Forest Schools to personalise. Safeguarding audits have also been carried out in a number of Bracknell Forest Schools.

“The safeguarding audit visit was a fantastic learning experience and well worthwhile. The team really knew what they were doing and also delivered difficult messages in a very supportive way. The report provided was invaluable and detailed action plans were able to be drawn from the information received. Thanks to the support from the Safeguarding in Education Team, we are now in a far better and safer place” - Bracknell Forest Head Teacher

Staff report feeling confident in their practice through regular networking opportunities, updates and training. This training is often bespoke to meet their contextual safeguarding requirements.

Safeguarding Our Schools Annual Conference: The highlight of this year has been the facilitation of the first Safeguarding Our Schools Annual Conference. This was held in November 2019 and was very well attended with 170 delegates from Schools, Education, Social Care, Thames Valley Police & Health. The conference covered the topics of Domestic Abuse, Fabricated Induced Illness, Online Safety and Trauma Informed Responses. Highly renowned Colleagues attended to facilitate and lead sessions including CEOP, NSPCC, BBC, David Challen and Dr Danya Glaser. In feedback, 96% of delegates at the conference said their safeguarding knowledge had significantly improved, with 100% stating they would attend in the future.

Responding to incidents: Critical Incident support and supervision has also been offered and has sadly been required on two occasions following child deaths. Where there have been significant incidents or child deaths, schools have felt supported and skilled in managing the fall out of these within the school community.

“We really valued your support through our recent critical safeguarding incident. Your presence, the calm and reassuring support we received and the guidance for what to do next along with the gently ‘nudging’ us to what we should be thinking about were really appreciated. We could have felt so isolated, but actually it was very clear throughout that the support network was in place and the team were there to support the whole school through a difficult time” - Bracknell Forest Head Teacher

An intensive piece of work has been undertaken in an out of borough SEMH school, following concerns raised regarding their safeguarding practices. The Safeguarding our Schools team carried out a comprehensive audit of safeguarding arrangements and identified significant flaws in practice. This information was shared with the Local Authority, the Academy Trust, Ofsted and the DfE. There has also been a subsequent LADO investigation. There is now a change in leadership and the Academy Trust has stepped down. There is a robust action plan in place and Bracknell Forest children have all been offered alternate placements. During the



COVID lockdown 96% of Bracknell Forest Schools provided on site provision for critical worker and vulnerable children. The two schools who did not provide onsite provision used alternative provision, one to one tuition or digital technology lessons for children. The highest percentage of pupils attending onsite provision was that of critical workers. The percentage of vulnerable children accessing the provision was lower. 154 vulnerable pupils were in school the week beginning the 18th May compared to 404 critical workers. The percentage of children with a social worker fluctuated from 17% to 14%. The take up of children with EHCPs taking up onsite provision was low, with many families not wanting their child in school due to health conditions. The vast majority of schools remained open over the Easter and half term holidays which included the bank holidays. The Service worked with schools to develop a Covid-19 Annex to the Policy to cover this current period when schools are operating differently. This has been a busy period for schools, and they have been heavily supported with their safeguarding through the Safeguarding our Schools Service. This has included specific safeguarding information and training around children working remotely, the support of our most vulnerable children, online harm and domestic abuse. Schools have also been supported with their PPE requirements and preparing the schools sites ready to adhere to Social Distancing requirements

2. East Berkshire CCG

- a. Director of Nursing and Associate Director Safeguarding part of planning and delivery of new Safeguarding Board structures for BF and within statute timelines. Fully represented at Board level and at relevant subcommittees.
- b. Associate Director Safeguarding and Named Professional Safeguarding successfully reviewed and implemented new Child Death Overview governance to ensure leadership by the CCG and onward monitoring. Structures successfully implemented within Statute timelines and an audit January 2020 has demonstrated full compliance with new procedures.
- c. Associate Director of Safeguarding has chaired an adult safeguarding review and a child practice debrief; findings reported to the board in a timely manner. The CCG has monitored CCG and primary care recommendations arising from reviews.
- d. CCG Safeguarding Team establishment review against national recommendations; leading to a successful business case and increase in establishment to include increase to full time named professional safeguarding, full time safeguarding and SEND coordinator, new full time post as a Safeguarding lead and Designated Clinical Officer for SEND and new named GP post which means one Named GP (0.5 day per week) per place.
- e. Merging of safeguarding processes within the ICS to include North East Hants and Farnham and Surrey Heath safeguarding leads in the Health Strategic Safeguarding Group; excellent collaboration in sharing issues and good practice. This has stood the CCG in good stead during Covid 19.

- f. CCG Section 11 Submission to Berkshire S11 panel: Feedback: The s11 Panel were in agreement that the information provided in the audit tool and the presentation was to a very high standard and provided a wealth of evidence to support the submission. The return demonstrated that your organisation is compliant with s11 regulations and understand their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. The Panel recognised that your organisation is continually working to improve safeguarding and this could have been reflected in the submission. The CCG Named Professional safeguarding was very knowledgeable and confident in presenting the organisations current offer; and transparent where the improvements to safeguard children is needed.

The following good practice was identified:

- Organisation investment in expanding the safeguarding team.
 - A thorough demonstration of passion, leadership and commitment to safeguard children.
 - Evidence of listening to the voice of service users/children
 - Positive engagement in a blended, flexible model of training programmes.
 - Improved safeguarding supervision for staff and providers to meet individual need.
 - Attendance and commitment to support Safeguarding Children Boards/Partnership meetings.
- g. East Berkshire Primary care safeguarding self-assessments. Responses were received from 47 practices, an incredible 100% return which is an excellent response rate. The previous audit in 2016 had a 69% return. This is due to high levels of engagement in safeguarding work across the CCG and Primary Care. Actions will form part of 2020-2021 plan and include full implementation of HV/GP/MW tripartite meetings, designing and cascading a was not brought policy and sexual risk questionnaire to practices and influencing LA feedback to practices on referrals.
- h. Practice Developments as a result of learning from reviews led by the CCG safeguarding team include:
- **Annual water and window safety video clip** – distributed each spring/summer: Children safety video clip – https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5_LTEfun_oNV0c1ZEptdndrUVU
 - **Berkshire Hidden Carers Campaign** Learning from safeguarding adult reviews over the last 2 years demonstrated a consistent theme; some of the adults who died were being looked after by a single family member, with the carer often being male, aged around 40 – 50 years and a child of the deceased. These carers had often lived with their parent or sibling from childhood and are socially isolated, so it's easy to see how they became the main carer and how the nature of the caring becomes more complex. These families were not well known to agencies and did not ask for help; they had a history of coping on their own. During the course of reviews, these family members do not define themselves as being a 'carer,' but 'a son or daughter.' Investigations revealed that unregistered carers often have their own unrecognised needs and little or no knowledge of how to ask for and access help; this left their parent with increasing needs and deteriorating health. The investigations raised questions about how we can target and help unregistered carers who do not know they can ask for help. The Associate Director of Safeguarding approached NHS England for funding and joined up with the Head of Safeguarding Adults, Berkshire West CCG to design a hidden carer's promotion. Campaign East Berkshire and Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Groups, together with Signal4Carers piloted a six month campaign around hidden carers. The campaign launched on 3 June 2019 and coincided with Carers Week, 10-16 June.

The aim of the campaign was to ensure that people who are carrying out caring responsibilities recognise themselves as carers and get the help available to them. They

may not see themselves as being in need of services and many may feel that they are simply carrying out ordinary responsibilities as part of a family.

Using bus advertising messages appeared on the back of local buses and on their interior screens, with the strapline, 'I'm her son/daughter, not her carer'. The advert included a freephone number: 0800 1337851. These calls were manned by Signal4Carers and people signposted to the relevant organisation or service who can help.

The promotion prompted many people to phone about their situation and they were signposted to local carer support agencies. Such was the support for this campaign, the Associate Director Safeguarding was able to secure funding for a further six months from each Adult Safeguarding Board across Berkshire.

- **Lift the baby Safe Sleeping campaign** – a collaboration with London Irish Rugby Club and aimed at new fathers: The film was an immediate success with fathers, mothers and wider families. It was disseminated far and wide including BBC radio and television. NHS England also advertised it nationally. The London Irish Rugby Club also played the film at each home match during half time on the pitch screens. The facebook campaign ran during the Rugby World Cup season, throughout September 2019. The final statistics for the campaign were:
 - Total number of people reached: **95,459**
 - Total number of impressions: **446,315** (meaning each person saw it 4.68 times on average)
 - Total number of link clicks: **3,211**
 - Total number of reactions: **654** (569 likes, 75 loves and 10 haha's)
 - Total number of comments: **181**
 - Total number of shares: **1,200**

It is pleasing to report this campaign also won a **silver award** in the National Public Service Communications Excellence Awards November 2019!

- i. **Primary Care Training:** Level 3 safeguarding training was delivered to over 300 GPs and Practice nurses across East Berkshire Autumn/Winter 2019 – 2020. The Feedback remained consistently of a high quality and it is pleasing to report how engaged and committed primary care teams continue to be with all matters to do with safeguarding. The CCG safeguarding team coordinated the training which included expert speakers and local authority colleagues to assist the delivery:

Maternal suicide case review	Bipolar Disorder and the Perinatal period	Perinatal Mental Health Services
Perinatal Mental Health & Safeguarding Services in Midwifery	Coercive Control	Safeguarding Adult and Children update

- j. Covid CCG safeguarding team response included:
 - rapid reorganisation of activity of the safeguarding team and increased support for the frontlines.
 - rapid introduction of an NHS 24/7 safeguarding helpline for all NHS staff
 - weekly named and designated safeguarding meetings, Children in Care, SEND and Care home safeguarding sharing meetings.
 - Rapid introduction of resource for parents, children and carers during Covid, including #coping guides, new baby guides, coping with crying, safe sleeping guides.
 - Rapid cascade of information for domestic abuse, exploitation, FGM during Covid.

- Increased communication and meetings with primary care during Covid on safeguarding matters and local and national intelligence.
- Collaboration with all safeguarding boards across East Berkshire including East Berkshire Boards information share.

3. Thames Valley Police

The police have worked to deliver a more focused plan around domestic abuse investigations in order to bring more offenders to justice. Early indications show that we are charging more people and increasing those who are being remanded straight to court, offering greater protect to the victim and the wider family.

We have used the Home Office surge funding for tackling knife crime and serious violence by commissioning additional services to support the multiagency approach to reduce exploitation among children.

Child safeguarding practice reviews – We have chaired rapid review meetings leading to the undertaking of a review. We are committed to these groups, keen to identify learning.

Child death overview panel – Our CAIU Detective Inspectors are members of the panel, keen to be involved in all the cases in Berkshire, keen to share the learning. We have trained all Berkshire Detective Inspectors in managing the initial stages of a child death investigation.

Providing commitment to relevant subgroups for both adult and child safeguarding:

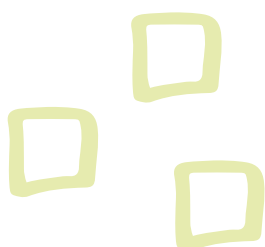
TVP are commitment to chairing the MARAC meeting to offer greater support to victims and children affected by high risk DA. We have also started the MATAC meeting in Bracknell Forest, similar to MARAC but focussing on repeat DA offenders to see if we can reduce the risk they pose and reduce harm. We have reviewed our approach to crimes in Broadmoor Hospital to better support the workers who are often victims of assaults and see how they can be protected from the assaults in the first place.

Working in partnership has enabled our staff to have a full understanding of the area we police, identifying and safeguarding the vulnerable. Open and honest relationships ensure that we learn from cases in the hope to protect those most vulnerable.

A drive and focus around domestic abuse has led to more positive disposals through the courts and protected victims from further domestic abuse. We have recently agreed an adult safeguarding review, following a serious assault. We hope to learn from this review.

In relation to child death, the training we have provided has given confidence to those attending child deaths, ensuring they safeguard other family members and secure and preserve evidence in the lost sensitive of situations.

They understand their responsibilities in working with partner agencies.



4. National Probation Service

I have been the Senior Probation Officer for Bracknell NPS since September 2019, and therefore the below are observations from this time. Safeguarding of Adults and children is at the core of every interaction the National Probation Service has with their service users and families.

Starting from the first meeting at court for sentence, the NPS court teams work with Bracknell Forest MASH to request information relating to any domestic violence history and children service involvement. This information assures that any proposal that is put to the court in respect of sentencing does not jeopardise the safeguarding of another and allows information sharing at the earliest opportunity. This practice is also applied at key points in their sentence, such as prior to release from custody, when starting a new relationship and when moving address. Completing checks and information sharing at significant points in an offender's journey is central to effective risk management and is frequently recognised in DHR, SCR and SFO reviews.

I am advised that the above information-sharing process continues to be effective during this 2019/20 period. To support a continuous improvement approach the Mash manager and myself have set a date in June 2020 to review this process.

The Bracknell NPS team pride themselves on their swift response to requests for information from BFC regarding vulnerable and at risk adults and children, often providing the information with 24 hours. Equally priority is given to attendance at all CPC and strategy meetings. I am not aware of any failures to comply with this aspiration during the 2019/20 period.

During 2019/20 Bracknell NPS team engaged in a myth busting exercise with MASH managers to better understand the role and remit of Children's Services to enhance the joint working approaches between the agencies. This was well received and has enhanced both practice and understanding within the team.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Agreement (MAPPA) panels are central to the effective management of risk to and safeguarding of others within Bracknell, and are chaired on a monthly basis by the Bracknell Senior Probation Officer and Local Inspector. Multi-agency attendance is required, and core members include representatives from BFC Housing, Adult services, Children services and CMHT. Core member attendance is generally high.

There have been areas for development identified for the local authority children services in respect of attendance and preparation for the MAPPA meetings by specific officers (not core members) during 2019/20, in response to this I presented a briefing at a team meeting to enhance understanding in respect of this critical area of practice. This was well received.

Within the JTAI 2019, there was an identified need to increase understanding regarding interfamilial sexual abuse. As a direct result of this an NPS Bracknell Probation Officer created a briefing document regarding this area of work and this was implemented and distributed nationally across the NPS.

Nationally, in respect of training, all staff members – regardless of grade- attend two safeguarding training events every three years (incorporating safeguarding children, DV and Safeguarding Adults) and are also expected to remain up to date with changes in legislation and practice. Locally, I engage the team in monthly practice development sessions which has recently included; working with women, impact of trauma, Interfamilial sexual Abuse, recognising the impact of change and importance of evidence-based practice.

Line management is delivered to each staff member every 6 weeks. I apply an evidence based and reflective practice approach specifically considering safeguarding of the service user, known others, children and the general public. The approach of 'what if' ... 'then what' is applied throughout to enhance the professional curiosity of officers in building hypothesis of where risk may present and how this would be reduced – minimising reactionary practice through contingency planning (eg. What if he forms a relationship – then we will make a disclosure to the partner within 24hours). Practitioners are encouraged to use this approach

when working with partner agencies to create a joint response to potential threats in an efficient and coordinated manner.

The above actions enable the NPS Bracknell team to ensure that those at risk from our services users are supported and protected effectively, that decisions are less likely to be made in isolation, that the wider impact of decision making can be considered and that our services users themselves are also offered the appropriate support and guidance.

The complexities and risks of working with high risk offenders are magnified when a safeguarding and multi-agency approach is not applied and I am satisfied that in Bracknell NPS, safeguarding is at the heart of decisions that are made and enhanced by the above identified priorities and approaches.

5. Broadmoor Hospital (West London Mental Health trust)

West London NHS Trust took on new responsibilities from June 2019, with Ealing Community Partners providing a range of services for adults, children and young people across Ealing, including learning disability, district nursing and care services to support people to receive treatment at home. This was associated with the expansion of the central Trust Safeguarding Team based at Trust Headquarters. This Team now consists of a Director of Safeguarding, a Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, a Named Professional for Safeguarding Adults, three Safeguarding Children Advisors and two Safeguarding Adults Advisors. The Trust recently appointed to a newly developed post of Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Lead. The MCA lead will sit under and report directly to the head of Mental Health Law.

There is a Trust wide Safeguarding group meeting chaired by the Medical Director. The Trust has responded to changing national requirements in relation to training and has published a Safeguarding Training Strategy covering 2020-23. Level 1 and level 2 training is delivered online. Level 3 training involves 4 hours eLearning and 4 hours face to face delivery. There is also a Level 3 Specialist training in relation to Safeguarding Children. Policy development has continued and the Trust's Safeguarding Children Policy C18 was refreshed in late 2019.

A key development has been a reduction in manual collection of data relating to Safeguarding incidents; increasingly data collection is done automatically via the RiO clinical records system. The Trust's Safeguarding Team now provides robust monthly information and commentaries to services, so that local clinical governance meetings can look at trends in relation to safeguarding patterns.

At Broadmoor Hospital the focus in 2019/20 was on the Redevelopment programme, planning the move of patients from some buildings which were over 150 years old to facilities which have been purpose built to provide a safe and therapeutic environment for the delivery of care. There were delays to the building programme but patients moved safely to the new accommodation in early December 2020.

The Child Visits suite is now in the Central Building, so that children visiting their relatives have only a short distance to walk from the hospital reception to get to the visits area and no longer have to walk through the hospital. An enclosed outdoor area is now being fitted out, so that children will have access to fresh air during their visit, weather permitting Partnership arrangements with Bracknell Forest Council have continued during 2019/20, with Children's Social Care colleagues assisting on the Child Visits Panel and in governance meeting relating to Safeguarding Children. The Hospital submitted a Section 11 Audit in August 2019 and received positive feedback.



Likewise Safeguarding Adults colleagues from the Council continue to support Safeguarding Adults activity, attending our Safeguarding Adults Panel and specific safeguarding and Best Interest meetings.

In January the Trust implemented a new referral process where concerns are raised and plans recorded through a Safeguarding Adults tab on the RiO clinical recording system. This has helped to streamline processes. Broadmoor Hospital's Safeguarding Adults Guidance was revised to reflect these Trust changes.

There has been an increased emphasis on Making Safeguarding Personal, ensuring that patients are actively contributing to safeguarding interventions and that closure forms and exit interviews are completed when safeguarding plans end.

Monthly training has been offered concerning the Mental Capacity Act, and there has been a significant increase in the completion of mental capacity assessments and in Best Interests meetings. Specialist legal support has been provided in some cases and clinical team awareness of the Court of Protection's role has increased. Local Safeguarding training packages have been updated in line with changing Trust requirements.

The COVID19 pandemic has of course impacted safeguarding adults and children practice. The Trust and Broadmoor Hospital has had to respond rapidly to changing national guidance. The Trust has established a Clinical Ethics group to consider complex clinical dilemmas, the Director of Safeguarding is a member of this group. The central safeguarding Team has been issuing weekly summary newsletters setting out relevant developments. There is also a specific COVID19 page on the Safeguarding pages on the Trust Intranet. The Business Continuity Plan has been reviewed to ensure Critical Safeguarding functions remain. A letter to all safeguarding partners has been circulated to ensure awareness and the Trust's continued commitment to safeguarding.

It is fortunate that Broadmoor Hospital patients were in new ward accommodation, with en-suite facilities, where good hygiene practice is much easier than it would have been in the old estate. In order to reduce risks of infection visits by external professionals were largely curtailed. Likewise, family and friends have not been able to visit patients. When government guidance changed, hospital staff on wards were required to use Personal Protective Equipment. There was a reduction in the attendance on wards by Social Workers and Advocacy staff. In general patients responded in a helpful way to the Hospital's effort to keep everyone safe.

There have been rapid developments in the use of technology, with many professional meetings taking place via Microsoft Teams. We have been able to continue virtual Child Visits and safeguarding meetings with Bracknell Forest colleagues, with limited attendees and remote attendance. Virtual Visits with main carers are now possible for approved visitors. We are starting to approve virtual visits by children which are deemed as Child Visits and subject to oversight by the Hospital's Child Visits Panel.

The pandemic has of course impacted training, with face to face training suspended. However, Safeguarding training is being delivered via Microsoft Teams and some face to face courses will be provided in the Learning and Development Centre at Broadmoor Hospital where rooms are sufficiently large to enable safe social distancing, albeit for smaller training groups than normal

As noted, the focus at the end of 2019/20 was on the response to COVID19, and the Hospital has kept patients and staff safe. The new purpose built accommodation has improved patients' quality of life, and probably limited the spread of infection in the Hospital. Many of the developments in new technology will continue, e.g. the use of Microsoft Teams for professional meetings, and these may facilitate more external engagement in safeguarding discussions within the hospital. The easy availability of routine data from the Trust's central team is making it possible check areas where there may be safeguarding deficits, and generally to monitor trends. The new Safeguarding training requirements should improve practice. The new Child Visits suite should make visits less stressful for children, and the introduction of some virtual visits by children will also support family contact. Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act has increased, and the newly appointed Trust wide MCA Lead role will support further development.



6. Community Safety

CSP Plan 2020-2023

Priority 1: Tackle exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Priority 2: Reduce incidents of serious violence, sexual offences, and knife crime

Priority 4: Reduce harm caused by DA

Priority 1: Tackle exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Drive improved identification of victims and provide enhanced levels of immediate and sustained support

1. The CST leads on behalf of BFC on Modern Slavery and Exploitation and co-ordinates work taking place across the borough's partners through the CSP's Modern Slavery and Exploitation Strategic Sub-Group which in 2019/20 continued to bring partners together to understand our local profile, upskill practitioners, raise awareness, offer suspected victims support and ensure that organisations adhere to statutory obligations in terms of the Modern Slavery Act 2015
2. The CST arranged for 200 BFC colleagues and partners to be trained in basic awareness of modern slavery and exploitation in 2019/20 to understand:
 - What modern slavery and exploitation is and the different types
 - Impact on the victim
 - How to recognise the signs and where to report and refer
3. The CST lead on the partnership problem-solving model of work which seeks to resolve complex and challenging cases of crime and/or ASB where more than one agency is needed as part of that resolution e.g. cases of exploitation. Most cases involve a level of vulnerability where safeguarding is fundamental to the approach and may include: issuing of civil and/or criminal warnings/orders with partners. In 2019/20, 22 cases that were referred to the partnership problem-solving groups were resolved
4. The CST monitor the number of children referred to the MACE and Makesafe Exploitation Prevention Groups. In 2019/20, there were 32 referrals to Makesafe and 17 referrals to MACE

Priority 2: Reduce incidents of serious violence, sexual offences, and knife crime

- The CST co-ordinated the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC's) Early Intervention Youth Fund project locally which was a four-tiered programme of work that ran in 2019/20 aimed at preventing young people being exploited into violence and offending through gangs and County Lines drug dealing. The intervention ranged from broad reach awareness-raising in schools to targeted intervention with young people already involved in gangs and knife crime. The number of children and young people engaged in outreach locations as part of this project totalled 376 in 2019/20. An additional 5 young people were engaged as part of the high intensity level of intervention of the project
- The CSP monitors levels of violence, sexual offences and knife crime levels in the borough at its quarterly meetings and the CST co-ordinates partnership work to address issues.

Priority 4: Reduce harm caused by DA

1. The CST leads on the strategic co-ordination of all work undertaken in the borough to ensure safety of victims and children and management of victims and supports the Community Safety Partnership's Domestic Abuse Executive Group and Forum. All work undertaken is detailed in a quarterly Action Plan
2. The CST undertakes work to commission, support, scrutinise and monitor outreach support for victims of DA
3. The CST provides early intervention and prevention work with DA perpetrators whose families are on the edge of meeting CSC thresholds for child safeguarding (Plain Talking)
4. The CST leads on behalf of BFC on the work of MATAAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination) Group which works with partners to reduce harm caused by DA where the focus is on perpetrators. In 2019/20, 9 cases where the recency/frequency/gravity of DA was the highest were closed
5. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings manage risk and implement safety planning for high-risk victims of DA. The work of this group, while policed, is overseen by the DA Executive Group which is a sub-group of the CSP

Other Areas:

ASB:

- The CST undertakes casework where there is ASB that is being experienced by members of the community, a number of which are vulnerable and where there may be safeguarding issues
- The CST conducts research into areas of crime and ASB which are emerging in the borough or where a deeper understanding is needed in order to manage offenders and/or safeguarding victims
- In 2019/20, there were 10 ASB cases which were managed where there were vulnerabilities including drugs/alcohol/mental health/older adults

PREVENT:

- The CST leads on the Prevent programme of work which includes the Prevent Steering Group as well as the Channel Panel. There were 5 referrals to the Channel Panel in 2019/20

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Bracknell Forest has continued throughout the year to collect feedback on all Health and Social Care services. Where appropriate we feedback these into other areas to assist in a better experience for patients and public alike. Healthwatch priorities are governed by national and local trends and there is always an element of safeguarding in everything we do. Through the various boards and meetings we attend this feedback will enable partner organisations to make necessary changes if required and investigate safeguarding within services

As above we monitor to ensure partner organisations carry out safeguarding where identified need is from feedback from patients and the public

7. Involve

Our key focus has been:

- Accessible quality children and adults safeguarding training for charities, groups and volunteers
- Sharing of key messages re: safeguarding people and communities – raising awareness of key safeguarding issues in the locality

A total of 22 courses were delivered in 19/20 – the course subjects included: children and adults safeguarding, anxiety and depression, suicide awareness, CSE and mental health.

Key messages are sent out through our newsletter which goes out every 2 weeks. These messages focus on awareness raising on local issues, key contacts and links to more information and support as well as information on helplines, national charities offering/ providing support re: specific issues such as domestic abuse or hate crime.

We have been doing additional work re: supporting the board with comms directly as well as just sharing message through our own channels

The training has upskilled people, raising their knowledge and education in a range of key subjects. This increased awareness helps people be more vigilant, enables them to support people better and ensures an understanding of local pathways and contacts.

The impact of the comms and messaging is hard to measure; however a steady flow of consistent messages will be filtering through into different charities, groups and communities. We do get occasional feedback re: our comms and newsletters – one such comment came from a local youth organisation stating how good and useful the newsletters from involve were.

The extra comms work with the board has raised the profile of the website and social media channels.



8. CAF/CASS

Cafcass' strategy 2019 – 2023

Our new Strategic Plan was launched in autumn 2019. It has been developed with significant input and engagement from our staff across all parts of the organisation, including the FJYPB, our family justice system partners and wider stakeholders. Ongoing engagement with each of these groups is a key feature of our new strategy which recognises the importance of working together to improve outcomes for all the children we work with as part of a wider family justice system. Our work over the next three years will be focused on:

1. **Our Practice:** our goal is to deliver the best quality social work and support services in each case, to improve outcomes for children and families wherever they live.
2. **Our Partners:** our goal is to share our knowledge, learn from others and use our collective influence to improve the family justice system and wider family policy.
3. **Our People:** our goal is for our staff to have the support, resources and working environment that enables them to sustain excellence in challenging times.

Child Impact Assessment Framework

The Cafcass Child Impact Assessment Framework (CIAF), published in October 2018, sets out how children may experience parental separation and how this can be understood and acted on in Cafcass. The framework brings together existing guidance and tools, along with some new tools, into four guides which Cafcass private law practitioners can use to assess different case factors, including:

- **Domestic abuse** where children have been harmed directly or indirectly, for example from the impact of coercive control.
- **Conflict which is harmful to the child** such as a long-running court case or mutual hostility between parents which can become intolerable for the child.
- **Child refusal or resistance** to spending time with one of their parents or carers which is set out under four categories: appropriate justified rejection, affinity/alignment, attachment or alienation.
- **Other forms of harmful parenting** due to factors like substance misuse or parental mental health difficulties where these are assessed as harmful to the child.

The framework emphasises that safeguarding principles and child impact are at the heart of our assessment process, with assessments starting and ending with the question 'What is happening for this child?' All staff have been trained on the CIAF and we will undertake an annual review of it in the autumn to ensure it has the most relevant and up to date guidance and tools.

Apps for direct work with children

Building upon the success of apps, Backdrop and This Much!, Cafcass has developed a new app called Voice of the Child to enhance our suite of tools for direct work with children. Voice of the Child enables a child or young person to write, draw, type or use characters and emotion icons on customisable backdrops. In doing so, it prompts discussions about their life – feelings of safety, security, relationships or hopes, and follows the child or young person on their journey. The overriding benefit of The Voice of the Child app is that it is contemporary, dynamic and reflective while enabling the child or young person to share their story in their words and images. By engaging with application technology for smartphones and tablets, we can create products that can be used by any child in any setting or environment, through technology which is familiar to even pre-school children.



Practice Supervisors have been trained in using the Voice of the Child app and the learning is being cascaded to their teams. Early feedback includes “the concept, look and feel of the app is intuitive and will have a great impact on children”. These apps may be particularly useful in cases where there are additional challenges around communicating with the child.

Cafcass Model Office Pilots

The Model Office supports project management and evaluation of private and public law innovation and strategy. It aims to support the improvement of frontline social work performance and productivity by testing new ideas with frontline teams. Where appropriate, the Model Office also works in partnership with other parts of the Family Justice System.

Each Model Office pilot is supported by a ‘virtual team’ that is agile to ensure that the appropriate support is in place dependant on the pilot. The Model Office provides expertise to assist local project managers in scoping any pilot, building an evaluation framework and to define a structured process for project management:

- Minimum project standards and structure are applied by the Model Office, which coordinates the running of the pilot throughout its duration.
- Periodic reporting is made to the Innovations Project Development Board (IPDB) and Operational Management Team (OMT), to further scrutinise progress, benefits and risk.
- Analysts supporting the Model Office conduct the final evaluation of the pilot, producing a report to assess the feasibility and benefits of the new idea for national implementation.

The Model Office currently has a number of pilots, including: Co-Parent Hub; the Small Changes Programme; and the Returning Cases Pilot.

Child exploitation

In 2018/19, Cafcass has continued to implement work on child exploitation which incorporates sexual exploitation, trafficking and radicalisation. The strategy was set up in 2015/16 and included the creation of regional CSE Ambassadors and team CSE Champions to collate and disseminate information to staff, and to have a “finger on the pulse” of local practice issues. We have further developed the strategy in 2018/19 including through e-learning modules that have been developed for staff on ‘Child Sexual Exploitation’ which was updated with learning following a review of Serious Incident Notifications, and a module on gangs including information on children who are criminally exploited.

Over the next year we will conduct a national practice review in relation to adolescents in public law and it is anticipated that this will feed into new learning to cover best practice guidance and contextual safeguarding.



Wishes and Feelings

There has been a focus on improving how we ascertain children's wishes and feelings and incorporate this into our reports. The information children and young people complete on the apps can be cut and pasted into reports, giving judges direct information in the words of the child.

Tools for effective engagement with children are available on the Cafcass intranet for all members of staff. Completed tools relating to children's wishes and feelings are stored in our Electronic Case Management System and attached to court reports where appropriate. We have now established an extensive range of assessment tools and expect staff to make use of these to strengthen their assessments and advice to the court.

The experiences of children (and families) are captured through our feedback processes and internal audits as well as our contributions to serious case reviews, local and national reviews. Key issues are fed into the national learning log and a quarterly thematic analysis of feedback is shared with our Operational Management Team

Diversity and Inclusion

The Cafcass Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2017-20 is centred on our commitment to providing the best service possible for each child referred to us. The main strategy document is based around three key pillars:

- **Child impact:** Through our practice we will evidence our continuous learning about the diversity and inclusion and build on the journey of each child, considering their individual differences and diverse needs.
- **Inclusive employer:** Support a workforce and an employment relationship characterised by mutual dignity and respect, creating an inclusive working environment where individual employees can flourish and maximise their potential, regardless of their differences and diverse needs.
- **Staff diversity:** Continue to recognise and harness the value of a diverse workforce and celebrate the differences that exists amongst our people, maximising the potential of those differences to improve practice

Our new Cafcass Experts programme is enhancing the contribution made by individual staff to diversity practice and making their work widely available; e.g. a practitioner in South Yorkshire who is a specialist in working with Roma/Slovak children.



Effective Communication with Partner Agencies

Cafcass contributes proportionately to safeguarding arrangements. It is also: a member of 40 Local Family Justice Boards, chairing or co-chairing 16 of them; a member of the national Family Justice Board; represented on the Regional Adoption Boards; and a member of the national Adoption Leadership Board.

Cafcass works with a range of partners across family justice, children's services and the voluntary sector. Our strategic partnerships provide opportunities to learn from emerging and best practice and to test new and innovative models for delivering services.

The Closer Working Group, set up between Cafcass and HMCTS, continues to meet regularly to discuss improvements to processes and communication between both organisations. Recently the focus has been on improving data quality and data sharing to ensure both organisations minimise the risk of data breaches and share information securely at all times, whilst reducing duplication of activities such as data processing. The group have also focused on improving the transfer of data electronically, reducing delays between issue and receipt. The group continue to work closely on the trends in demand and the future requirements of the services delivered to children and families

9. Frimley Health Foundation Trust

The Annual Safeguarding report for the Trust submitted to the Hospital Trust board in Sept 19 and the Q4 update will be available via the [Board's website](#). The re-structure of the safeguarding team will increase capacity across the Trust. The team is working on aligning practice across both the Wexham Park and Frimley Park Hospital sites.

10. Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

Priorities for 2020/21 include:

- To continue to embed MCA in practice through small group work and tutorials on inpatient units
- Development of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) role in preparation for introduction of LPS
- All clinical staff to be trained at level two/three in safeguarding adults in line with intercollegiate document
- Safeguarding level three training to be facilitated to more staff groups including mental health teams in line with intercollegiate document
- Improve quality of section 42 investigations
- Raise practice learning through learning events and patient safety and quality groups.
- Review supervision and facilitate training for named professionals in reflective supervision
- Working group to review training for staff using multi-media approach

Work with staff on understanding the Mental Capacity Act has supported staff to consider the mental capacity of our clients in all interactions allowing the voice of the patient to be considered and supporting those who lack capacity to ensure care and treatment is in their best interest.

LPS has been delayed but the Trust has worked with Multi-agency partners to ensure we are well prepared for the introduction of LPS to ensure patients are detained within a legal framework.



Staff have received a higher level of training in safeguarding in line with the new intercollegiate documents in order to enhance their skills in safeguarding practice. An advice line has been introduced for safeguarding adults in line with the service already in place for safeguarding children and the number of enquiries has risen through the year as knowledge has increased.

Named professionals have increased their oversight of section 42 enquiries to improve the quality and support learning from incidents. Named professionals now attend learning events and patient safety and quality meetings to disseminate learning.

Supervision was reviewed and all named professionals received training in reflective supervision from an external facilitator to enhance safeguarding input in case discussions

A working group has been exploring different mediums for training including learning events, safeguarding newsletters, online training and seminars and screensavers. This work has enabled the team to swiftly change methods of training during the pandemic.

11. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

During the financial year 2019/2020, our priority has been to deliver our Adult Safeguarding Training package to all front-line staff and volunteers in RBFRS. Delivery to over half (380) members of staff and volunteers has taken place. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 this has now been postponed. However, we are now working with our L & D department to implement an online course in the interim which can also be worked on moving forward as an initial training provision prior to getting onto a face to face course.

Our Children's Safeguarding Training course has been delivered to all front-line staff and volunteers and was completed at the end of Q4 2019/2020. These courses were delivered by Berkshire Youth and via our procurement department were contracted in externally.

We also contracted in other trainers to carry out Safer Recruitment and Disclosure and Barring (DBS) System training to the majority of Human Resources, L&D and managers who are likely to carry out interviews and who oversee any recruitment processes.

Designated Safeguarding Training was also delivered to all members of staff that hold responsibility for signposting safeguarding referrals to external agencies, such as the Safeguarding Manager, Duty Officers and Prevention Managers. A review of the Threat of Arson procedure and guidance has also taken place. RBFRS led on this piece of work and resulted in Thames Valley Police and all three Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services signing a Threat of Arson Information Sharing Agreement.

We have signposted over 400 safeguarding and threat of arson referrals in the financial year 2019/2020. There has been a significant increase once again this year of safeguarding referrals. On top of this we have also seen an increase in Threat of Arson and Risk of Arson referrals from Thames Valley Police and other agencies such as DAIU (Domestic Abuse Investigation Units) and other Domestic Violence support agencies.

In particular we have seen an increase in Threat of Arson referrals during the Covid-19 pandemic and would suggest this is due to the increase in Domestic Violence referrals within Berkshire and nationally. All victims, (apart from those that have declined), have received a visit to their property by Safe and Well Technicians or Firefighters/Crews, who have carried out a robust Threat of Arson Safe and Well Visit. Our intention is to always deliver this provision within 48 hours. This is measured internally on a quarterly basis by our Strategic Performance Board (SPB).

A Threat of Arson Safe and Well Visit is a more extensive version of the Safe and Well provision, whereby we would tend to fit more smoke alarms, an arson proof letter box, utilise fire retardant sprays and where necessary provide fire retardant throws, bedding and nightwear. The impact of the increase in referrals internally however has been on capacity for the Safeguarding Manager, Prevention Managers and Duty Officers.



12. South Central Ambulance Service

SCAS has introduced a new web-based safeguarding referral system for our clinical call centres and patient transport call centre which has dramatically reduced the number of handwritten safeguarding and welfare referrals coming from us. This has also allowed us to improve the detail contained in our referrals with the introduction of mandatory fields.

SCAS were part of the pan Berkshire team that produced the lift the baby campaign which has received positive approval along with winning an award.

With the introduction of the new web-based referral process SCAS has ensured that we can ensure that relevant information is captured with the use of mandatory fields on the form. This has improved the quality of details needed for social care to follow up on our referrals. We have also been able to remove most of the handwritten referral forms making the reading and understanding of our referrals clearer for social services teams across the trust.

The production of the lift the baby short video was completed as a direct response to the increase in the number of child deaths where the father was co-sleeping with their children. Up to this point there had not been any direct engagement specifically with fathers and co-sleeping. The aims of the group was to produce something that spoke directly to fathers to highlight the dangers of co-sleeping with their very young children and in turn to reduce the deaths from co-sleeping. The impact of this will be identified by the CDOP process

13. Silva Homes

Silva Homes have continued to prioritise the identification and reporting of concerns, with a focus on training the direct services (repairs) operatives. These colleagues are the ones most likely to be in any given property. In addition to the classroom and e-learning safeguarding training we already provide front line colleagues, this year we added a safeguarding session in the induction process for new starters. All new colleagues are taught what to look for and how to report concerns, including specific details of local partnering arrangements.

We have made more safeguarding referrals in the past year than in any previous (28).

And we have received more flagged concerns from front line colleagues than in any previous year. While not all reported risks have resulted in safeguarding referrals – getting the message out to colleagues has been a success. One of our repairs' colleagues received praise from partnering agencies for recording themselves carrying out a boiler inspection, that allowed them to capture the sounds of potential abuse in the background.

14. Berkshire Care Association

Berkshire Care Association will continue to promote safeguarding to all care providers in the Bracknell area through:

- The Care Leaders Network meetings held bi-monthly; open to all registered services (currently weekly via zoom)
- Monthly e-newsletters sent to all registered providers (currently bi-weekly)
- Telephone helpline support with access to safeguarding specialist consultant
- Safeguarding Quality Assurance review service

Care providers have a clear understanding of all aspects of Safeguarding with support available to ensure people who use services are protected from harm.



Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board

Annual Report 2019/2020