

## Strategic Plan 2020-2023 – action plan progress – April 2023

### 1. Prevention – we will ensure partners work together to prevent all forms of harm recognising the long-term consequences

<p>i. By publishing up-to-date multi-agency guidance/ procedures that help partners maintain a high level of safeguarding awareness.</p>	<p>1a. Policy and Procedures (P&amp;P) multi-agency safeguarding guidance continue to be routinely reviewed through pan-Berks meetings (for adults and children separately).</p> <p>1b. Adult P&amp;P website reviewed for effectiveness following the work of a task and finish group taking feedback from practitioners. Each local authority to contribute £450 per year to maintain website. The provider is ceasing to trade; a working group is meeting regularly to identify a new provider for sept 2023.</p> <p>1c. Children’s P&amp;P have continued to be updated on a quarterly basis. Local panel have ensured updates reflect our regional learning and Tri.x draw on national developments.</p> <p>1d. Consideration is being given to the need for local policies given the existence of the online PB P&amp;Ps. Work has commenced on developing a local neglect strategy, a rapid review policy and a Local Multi Agency Hoarding Protocol agreed &amp; circulated.</p>
<p>ii. By evaluating: partners work to prevent harm and offer of early help</p>	<p>Regular partnership meeting ensures feedback on effectiveness of local preventative work and informs the Board’s Risk Register. This will continue in the 2023/6 plan. Review of safeguarding referrals completed which has helped to evaluate effectiveness of partners work and highlighted need for further emphasis on prevention – Prevention is on forward plan for QA Sub Group and is included in TOR for Transitional Safeguarding review QA sub group considers safeguarding performance. Rapid Reviews and Case reviews evidence compliance with procedures and inform actions to be taken to mitigate gaps. CEP subgroup continues to develop work on organisations promoting risks and referral routes. Early help strategy development being reported to the board.</p>
<p>iii. By evaluating: the strength of collaborative working within the borough to identify those who are most vulnerable.</p>	<p>Members of the Safeguarding Partnership continue to provide updates on their work and emerging risks. This has supported and enabled collaborative working. The Risk Register is constantly updated reflecting this. Risks that apply to other partnerships are shared with them. The Risk Framework continues to be used and further promotion of the framework is taking place. Work to implement the Framework for 16/17 year olds is developing. The CEP subgroup is collating responses on feedback from children and adult on the services they receive and are promoting work to tackle inequalities and ensure the voice of seldom heard groups is captured. Subgroups are evaluating strengths through case reviews and multi-agency reviews. The well-attended Safeguarding Forums highlighted local risks to community organisation and provided resources to support collaborative working.</p>

<p>iv. By promoting and evaluating a 'contextual safeguarding' approach by partner organisations.</p>	<p>Recently established local multi-agency group exploring exploitation and serious violence has started to report to the Board. Recent partnership workshop discussed serious violence and exploitation and outputs to be discussed by the Board to inform its strategy and the coordinated approach to working with other strategic partnerships. The Transitional Safeguarding review includes contextual safeguarding in its ToR. The work of the Board will be further informed by the recently established subgroups of the Community Safety Partnership. A workshop on contextual safeguarding is taking place at the January 2023 safeguarding partnership</p>
<p>v. By supporting partners to continue to embed an 'all age approach' to safeguarding including expansion of the risk framework to develop its application for older children.</p>	<p>Work continues to promote an all-age approach to safeguarding and is reflected in the reconfiguration of the local subgroups and continues to be promoted through the Board's safeguarding partnership. The Business Unit continues to promote this approach within its joint working with neighbouring safeguarding partnerships. Challenges identified within this work is shared within meetings of the BFSB and its Partnership. It is intended that the proposed e-learning will help promote understanding of an all-age approach. The Risk Framework is continually promoted further through presentations to partners and meetings are underway to explore application to children. The Board has explored conceptual frameworks (such as the 'Family Approach') to support future strategic planning. The review of Transitional Safeguarding will incorporate the all-age approach and the frameworks referred to above. A peer review will provide feedback on effectiveness of all-age approach. Transitional safeguarding task and finish group work is being reviewed along with case review findings and further actions are being developed for the 2023 – 26 plan</p>
<p>vi. Through continual collation of risks identified by partner organisations and the mitigating actions being taken (to include a focus on the impact Covid and Covid recovery).</p>	<p>A risk register is informed by evidence provided by local partners, and in line with the Board's strategic direction, is continually updated following analysis undertaken within meetings of the Partnership and Safeguarding Board. A 'memorandum of understanding' is in place between BF partnerships and further ensures that risks and relevant information is shared between strategic partnerships. The risk register was reviewed in September '22 to ensure relevance and effectiveness. Risks associated with the cost-of-living crisis are being collated as well as the long term Covid impact risks</p>

## 2. Protection – we will ensure a robust outcome focussed approach to protect people at risk of experiencing abuse and neglect

i. By working with partners, we will seek assurance that safeguarding thresholds are understood and where there is concern about decision making staff promptly challenge and if necessary, escalate issues using the SB procedures.

A Task and Finish Group has been established to review and revise the guidance. This will be reviewed every two years. The review of safeguarding referrals gave assurance that thresholds are understood but further awareness raising will take place and further assurance gained that the thresholds are well understood. Multi-agency audits/LSCPRs/SARs continue to scrutinise how thresholds are applied on an ongoing basis. A working group is now reviewing the safeguarding children thresholds

ii. We will require partners to evidence the effectiveness of actions taken to safeguard the most vulnerable.

CEP subgroup is collecting the voice of child /adults. Individuals are routinely invited to take part in learning reviews. The CEP group's membership has been expanded to include representatives of the community to gain evidence and assurance of work to safeguard the most vulnerable. The safeguarding forum in November 22 focussed on work to protect the most vulnerable due to the cost of living increases.

QA subgroup review safeguarding performance data at each meeting and adult self-assessment data. BF and S11 panel returns are scheduled to be analysed in forthcoming meetings. Partner safeguarding QA processes are presented at each meeting. The recent review of referrals has helped evidence effectiveness of actions and areas for improvement.

Case Review subgroup monitors progress against SAR/CSPRs multi and single agency action plans. Detailed discussion and corresponding challenge takes place at regular safeguarding partnership meetings. Key partners provided evidence and case studies of actions at community forum in November 2021. QA and Case Review subgroup working together to evaluate impact of learning from case reviews. Boards QA Framework will focus on impact of work.

iii. We will require assurance that local practice recognises the impact of inequalities and ensures safeguarding plans reflect the unique needs of the individual.

Discussions continue to take place with community leaders to identify issues of inequality and challenges. The Safeguarding Forum highlighted the importance of reaching all communities. The Safeguarding Board is also sharing information with other BF Boards through joint MOU meeting to ensure issues are addressed appropriately. CEP subgroup has been collecting the voice of adult/ children and raising awareness of safeguarding matters. The CEP group's membership has been expanded to include representatives of the community to gain further insight into the impact of inequalities. The audits of safeguarding referrals / concerns provided assurance that cases were being dealt with appropriately. However recent feedback has highlighted potential to improve cultural awareness. Case Review subgroup work identified the need for equality of approach and action plans will aim to address this. The Business unit is currently supporting work to produce national guidance to ensure discriminatory abuse is robustly addressed within case reviews. Potential Inequalities are discussed at Partnership and subgroup chairs meeting and has included the impact of Covid and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

iv. We will require partners to demonstrate compliance with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS).

Periodic reports re LPS from Head of Safeguarding and Practice Development are being received by the Board and its Safeguarding Partnership.

Annual adults self-assessment returns provide assurance of compliance with MCA.

Case reviews also analyse compliance with MCA and has provided recommendations as required. The partnership has been advised to ensure awareness of MCA is maintained. The Business unit is to ensure its work with the Local Learning and Development Forum promotes the focus

on LPS /MCA within partners training. Proposed e-learning could assist also. Themed discussion to take place at Board together with monitoring of implementation of LPS. Partners continue to be reminded to maintain training and awareness of MCA. Assurance has been provided by some partners that MCA training is a priority.

v. We will implement local, regional and national learning to ensure local procedures are the subject of continuous improvement.

The work of the East Berkshire L&D group continues to be developed. The BF L&D Forum promotes key messages for inclusion in their development/training activities. The Case Review subgroup ensures reviews include learning events/briefs and webinars. Learning is shared between Boards within the region. Safeguarding Forums share case studies and promote safeguarding matters to community representatives for dissemination. Proposed Task and Finish will share approaches to rapid reviews undertaken across Berkshire. The learning and development forum is now becoming established and facilitating the dissemination of learning

### 3. Partnership – we will seek assurance about the effectiveness of local partnerships and collaborations to safeguard people

i. We will review and revise the Strategic Partnerships Memorandum of Understanding.

MoU has been adopted by the Chairs of the Boards. Meetings of partnership officers regularly take place. A common theme of Transitional Safeguarding has already been agreed. A Partnership meeting identified that serious violence is an area of joint concern. Common themes like these demonstrates the need for joint governance such as the MOU is now providing. Officers are meeting to co-ordinate information sharing regarding work of Boards. The MOU officers group is now becoming established. The independent chair is holding a strategic meeting in January to review progress

ii. We will ensure partners work effectively together to develop mutual understanding of each other's roles and functions.

Members of the Safeguarding Partnership group provide updates on their work and roles at each meeting. A themed discussion on each partners roles and priorities at this meeting highlighted the need for partners to explain their roles particularly when there are organisational changes. This is core to the work of the CEP subgroup e.g., comms plan, community leaders meetings and forum. The BF L&D Forum facilitates mutual understanding. A local BF self-assessment for organisations has been developed and is being implemented to strengthen this work. Additional scrutiny provided by the ICS. The Case Review subgroup continues to identify good practice and areas for development. The Safeguarding Forums ensure partners clarify their local work amongst a wide range of community organisation representatives. ICS is further developing the subgroup chairs meeting to include pan Berkshire subgroups Pan Berkshire policy and procedures groups regularly update procedures which promote clarity relating to the roles and functions of partners. Further work has been identified to promote the policy and procedures. Partners

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are providing information on their services at each partnership meeting

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iii. We will continue to support partners to identify emerging risks and to work collaboratively to implement effective solutions.

Risk register is central to identifying emerging risks and backed up by work of the subgroups. Work with all key partners has helped establish potential risks. This collaborative approach has strengthened problem solving and has supported the prioritisation of emerging risks. The risk register is shared as a standing item within each meeting of the Board. The register continues to be updated as a result of information received from all sources but particularly Partnership and Board meeting discussions. Risk and referral route awareness being developed by CEP and MOU group. A review of the risk register process took place in September 2022. The risk register continues to be updated

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#### 4. People – we will seek assurance that people who use services are involved in safeguarding processes and the work of the board.

i. We will work with local partners to establish an understanding of the Bracknell Forest community as it relates to safeguarding.

CEP work has previously identified community leaders who are supporting the work to understand issues facing Bracknell Forest communities. This group is now being expanded as a result of collaboration with the local authority community engagement manager. This work includes making safeguarding videos and promoting the voice of individuals.

The Board's Safeguarding Forum has been developed to enhance this. The implementation of the memorandum of understanding is facilitating better information sharing amongst Bracknell Forest partnerships which will include support to enable better understanding of local communities and how to engage them.

The Safeguarding Forums promote the need to understand safeguarding needs of all communities. Further work to reach communities through existing local forums is taking place. Work is developing with public health and the CCEP partnership to gain a further understanding of the community

ii. We will require partners to work together to identify factors associated with inequalities and any barriers to people's engagement with local safeguarding processes and the work of the Board.

The Business Unit continues to work with community leaders and all partners through subgroups and the safeguarding partnership to identify safeguarding inequalities and to determine the needs of local community.

The CEP subgroup is working with local communities to produce safeguarding materials and its membership is

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	<p>being expanded with the aim of reaching more communities.</p> <p>This action was promoted at the Safeguarding Forum.</p> <p>Community feedback is leading to a need to discuss board communication systems</p> <p>The CEP group's membership has been expanded to include representatives of the community to gain further insight into the impact of inequalities.</p>
<p>iii. We will require partners to secure feedback from adults and children on the services they use.</p>	<p>The CEP subgroup and the Board's Safeguarding Partnership are receiving information collected by partners regarding the voice of children and adults.</p> <p>The CRSG has sought to strengthen the involvement of individual and begun to reflect this within dissemination of learning. Findings from the recent review of safeguarding referrals has additionally helped to identify any necessary improvement.</p> <p>The Transitional Safeguarding review is gaining feedback from children and adults regarding their experiences and the CEP subgroup is working to understand and promote the voice of carers.</p> <p>Partners have been reminded that they need to provide feedback they receive within their organisations processes. Greater links are being developed with existing forums to gain feedback</p>
<p>iv. We will require partners to work together in an all-age approach to improve communication of the safeguarding messages to the local community.</p>	<p>Work with community leaders to identify safeguarding inequalities to determine the needs of local community. One safeguarding awareness video has been produced.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Forum has been developed to enable on-going conversations around the different forms of inequality.</p> <p>Safeguarding messages are promoted via the board and partner's websites, social media and via campaigns and a partnership campaign calendar is in development. Partners have been asked to promote safeguarding messages by supporting and sharing Safeguarding Board communications. A communication plan is being updated. Partners reminded of the importance to share communications and the CEP group is carrying out work to ensure communication links are robust.</p>