



Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. e-Bulletin

October 2020

NEXT STEPS:

Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. business continuity plans in response to COVID-19

Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. Executive – made up of partnership leads from the Police, Local Authority and CCG – has met fortnightly in October 2020. Meetings have continued to focus on the core business of business continuity and recovery plans as well as inter-agency working throughout the Covid-19 period. Executive members contributed to the partnership's annual conference and are also presenting at the Partnership Board on 26 October 2020 which will include the following items on the agenda: the Learning Hub priorities, the Child O learning review, the launch of CREST, and Section 11. The Executive will continue to meet fortnightly throughout the rest of 2020 to oversee all partnership business planning.

Changes in CCG arrangements

On 1 April 2020, NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was established. Made up of the previous six south east London CCGs in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark, the new CCG is the statutory body for the commissioning of NHS services in South East London and every general practice in the six boroughs is a member.

South East London CCG has six borough or 'Place' based boards, each with clinical and executive leadership to deliver the CCG's plans at a local level.

The CCG is one of the three lead partners for our local child safeguarding arrangements. As a result of the changes, their lead representative is Kate Moriarty-Baker, Chief Nurse and Caldicott Guardian and she has delegated responsibility for the local child safeguarding partnership arrangements in Bexley to Stuart Rowbotham, Place Based Director (Bexley), NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group and Director of Adult Social Care, London Borough of Bexley. Stuart together with Stephen Kitchman, Director of Children's Services, London Borough of Bexley and Jim Foley, Detective Superintendent, South East Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police provide senior leadership and strategic direction to our partnership.

Further information about the South East London CCG's new structure can be found on their [website](#).



COVID-19 resources for children, professionals and families

The [latest COVID-19 resources](#) are now available on the S.H.I.E.L.D. website. Thank you to everyone who has passed on resources we can share. **If there are any resources which you think would be helpful to share across the partnership, please email shield@bexley.gov.uk.**



Update on S.H.I.E.L.D. annual conference

Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. held its first online annual conference on 8th October with over 100 multi-agency professionals attending to hear about our partnership’s first two years of priorities and plans for Year 3. The day was well received, in particular our guest speakers, Dr Craig Barlow, Criminologist and Independent Consultant in Forensic Social Work, and Dez Holmes, Director of Research in Practice, whose insightful talks on contextual safeguarding helped to cement some of the learning identified in Priority 4: Adolescent Vulnerability. The programme also included the formal launch of CREST (see below), the launch of the [new Bexley SHIELD website](#) and an update from Sharon Ackbersingh, the [Bexley LADO and Safer Organisations Advisor](#). Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed their thoughts, questions and ideas. If you were not able to attend, we have a brilliant [visual representation](#) of the conference that was captured by the talented Sandra Howgate.

Getting Basic Child Protection Right

Launch of priority 6 - Getting basic child protection right

Priority 6 – *Getting basic child protection right* – is being led by the Local Authority and the Learning Hub group includes colleagues from the following agencies:

Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	SE BCU Police	London Borough of Bexley	Solace Women’s Aid
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	Act for Change	Bexley Moorings	Healthwatch Bexley	Bexley Designated Safeguarding Leads Network (Schools)
Bromley Healthcare	Bexley Voluntary Services Council (BVSC)	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)		

The focus of this priority will be on the following practice issues:

- Domestic abuse
- Neglect
- Child protection and pre-mobile babies
- Case closure
- Effective Support document
- Substance misuse.

Work begins in the Learning Hub on 27 October 2020 with further Hub sessions planned for November and December 2020. The Hub meets at the end of its 4-month cycle in January 2021 to make recommendations to our Partnership Board around practice improvement.

A Priority 6 resource pack has been produced to give all professionals working in Bexley an overview of the Learning Hub’s work as well as some related resources, training videos, and S.H.I.E.L.D. training information (see attached pdf document). This includes a link to a [short survey](#) we would like all professionals in Bexley to complete to help us create a baseline around current practice.

Update on Bexley CREST

Introducing **CREST**

Children at Risk of
Exploitation Specialist
Safeguarding Task Group

At the S.H.I.E.L.D. Annual Conference on 8th October, Amanda Gillard, Practice Review and Learning Manager introduced 'CREST' to colleagues and partners within the London Borough of Bexley. 'CREST' stands for Children at Risk of Exploitation Specialist Safeguarding Task Group. It replaces the Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) operational panel and has wider remit to include all aspects of contextual safeguarding. Operational CREST is held weekly to consider professional concerns about young people who may be subject to exploitation or risk of exploitation. Strategic CREST will be held bi-monthly to consider patterns, themes and localities of concern. The Operational CREST panel and Strategic CREST group will both be co-chaired between Police and Bexley Children's Social Care. A new inter-agency referral form is being developed to ensure any agency can refer a young person via MASH if concerned about exploitation. All referrals will be screened and signposted to relevant team/resource for further assessment/intervention as required. **Amanda Gillard has been giving some team presentations on the new CREST arrangements. If you would like her to come and present to your team, please email amanda.gillard@bexley.gov.uk . Please watch this space for further announcements and updates.**

To coincide with the launch of CREST, S.H.I.E.L.D. has recently commissioned Missing People charity to deliver some online training on 'Safeguarding Missing Children & Young People on Return'. [Click here to register your space!](#)



Bexley FLARE - virtual coffee morning on 13th November 2020

"Nothing about us without us". Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. has been developing Bexley F.L.A.R.E. (Family Learning, Advocacy & Restorative Engagement), to support in the planning and developing of services, with a focus on how we can better engage and work more restoratively with families. We have recruited an initial group of parents and are looking to find some more parents of children who have been through the child protection system or who have accessed support through other services such as Early Help, CAMHS, Youth Offending, Children with Disabilities Team or services from the Voluntary Sector.

We will be holding a virtual coffee morning on 13th November 2020 between 10.30am and 12.00pm, which will be an opportunity to meet with parents interested in this work and for them to meet with the team and with other parents already working with us. **Do you have any parents that you think may want to participate in this work and who you think are suitable? Further details, including on making contact with parents to get their consent for us to contact them, can be found [here](#).**



Resolving professional differences – escalation of issues - REMINDER

We would like to take opportunity to re-publicise the [SHIELD partnership escalation policy](#). If there are serious differences of views on how best to manage risk and safeguarding, and protect vulnerable children and young people, the policy can provide a useful framework for exploring and resolving professional disagreements. Differences and debates are all part of multi-agency working. Agencies will have their own escalation policies and should use these first. However, if it has not been possible to resolve professional differences between agencies, relating to safeguarding children, then this can be brought to the attention of the SHIELD executive via [Amanda Gillard, Practice Review and Learning Manager](#). See the [partnership escalation policy](#) for full details of how this policy operates. All practitioners should have the confidence to challenge respectfully when you don't agree with a colleague. This will help to better understand each other's point of view and ensure we provide the best possible service to children and families in Bexley.

Mayor's Christmas Card Competition 2020

Every year, the Mayor of Bexley sends approximately 1000 cards out to other Mayors, Councils, staff and residents. This year, he wants something a bit different and he wants them to be designed by Bexley children. He plans to pick 3 Christmas designs. The 3 winners will win a £20 amazon voucher. Please feel free to share the details below.

Bexley children - how to enter: Please send your design, on an A4 piece of paper (one side) to: The Mayor's Office, Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7AT. Or send a scanned copy to mayors.office@bexley.gov.uk. Please include your name, age and what school you go to along with a contact email, address and phone number. The designs will be chosen on 6 November 2020.

National guidance and useful resources

National guidance:

- [Suicide prevention: developing a local action plan](#), Public Health England, 28 September 2020
- [Inspecting teaching of the protected characteristics in schools](#), Ofsted, 17 September 2020

Resources:

- For professionals:
 - [Online Sexual Harm Reduction](#), Guide for professionals, The Marie Collins Foundation, NWG Network
 - [Sexting: advice for professionals](#), NSPCC Learning, updated 1 October 2020
 - [Protecting children from peer-on-peer sexual abuse](#), NSPCC Learning, updated 20 October 2020
 - [Free Online Safety Self-Review Tool for Schools](#), SWGfL
 - [National Youth Work Curriculum](#), National Youth Agency, September 2020
 - [Let's talk about it website](#), working together to prevent extremism
- For parents:
 - [Sexual Abuse Online: How Can I Help My Child?](#), The Marie Collins Foundation, NWG Network, 28 September 2020
- For children and young people:
 - [Child trafficking and exploitation](#), Childline

News articles:

- [New tactics against 'county lines' drug dealing are working, say police](#), The Guardian, 25 September 2020
- [NHS announces independent review into gender identity services for children and young people](#), NHS England, 22 September 2020
- [More than 500 child victims of 'revenge porn' in England and Wales last year](#), The Guardian, 9 October 2020
- ['We were really struggling': why kinship carers feel unsupported and undervalued](#), The Guardian, 7 October 2020

Blogs:

- [Why should we be talking about domestic abuse with our young people?](#), The Sex Education Forum, 1 October 2020
- [Playing IT safe: developing young children's understanding of digital networks](#), London School of Economics, 7 October 2020



National guidance and useful resources (continued)

Podcasts:

- [Fabricated and induced Illness](#), Podcast, Association of Child Protection Professionals, 13 October 2020
- [Child refugee mental health needs](#), The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, 17 September 2020

Briefings:

- [Gang associated girls](#), House of Commons Library, 2 October 2020
- [Relationships and Sex Education in Schools \(England\)](#), Research Briefing, House of Commons Library, 25 September, 2020

Reports:

- [Rescue and Response County Lines Project: Year 2 Strategic Assessment](#), Mayor of London, St Giles Trust, September 2020
- [The state of youth justice 2020: An overview of trends and developments](#), National Association for Youth Justice, 23 September 2020
- [Therapeutic intervention for peace \(TIP\) report: culturally competent responses to serious youth violence in London](#), Power the Fight (commissioned by the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit), 22 September 2020
- [Adoption Barometer: A stocktake of adoption in the UK](#), Adoption UK, September 2020
- [School and trust governance investigative report](#), Department for Education, 7 October 2020

Reading lists:

- [World Mental Health Day 2020](#), NSPCC Library

Useful links

Previous S.H.I.E.L.D. e-bulletins are available [here](#).
The Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board latest newsletter is available [here](#).
The latest S.H.I.E.L.D. Training e-bulletin is available [here](#).

