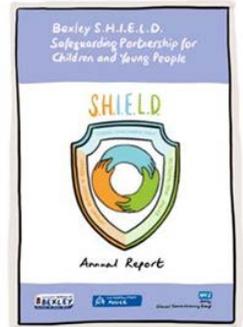


SHIELD



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

February 2021



Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. Executive updates and future activities

Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. Executive has met fortnightly to oversee the partnership's work programme and current business continuity arrangements. The Partnership Board has signed off the partnership's second annual report which will be published in early March 2021 – you can find the report here: <https://bexleysafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/news-publications/annual-report/>

'Good news' stories during Covid-19



We heard from one of our safeguarding champions about the positive impact of pet therapy in a young person's life! The young person had not been leaving his home during lockdown but the introduction of a therapeutic dog by a voluntary agency working with him into his weekly routine had encouraged him to get out and walk the dog. The champions discussed the value and impact of animals on the well-being of children and young people (and adults!) and two of the champions brought their own dogs into the online session to say a hello!



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.



The work of the Learning Hub

- Priority 6 – *Getting basic child protection right* - As reported in last month's bulletin, the Learning Hub proposed a series of recommendations which the Partnership Board agreed. An action plan to take these recommendations forward has now been produced and will be taken forward over the coming months
- Priority 7 - *Identifying and better understanding the young people we are most worried about in Bexley as a multi-agency safeguarding* – work on this priority is still being planned in terms of the final Learning Hub membership and launch activities – the Hub is due to come together in late March 2021 to begin its work
- Priority 8 - *Respond effectively to the mental ill health of parents so that they are supported to give their children the best start and take up school placements* – work on this priority will begin in the Learning Hub in late April 2021 with scoping to take place by partnership leads from Education and Health next month.

Domestic Abuse Training - "Honour" based abuse and Forced Marriage

Our training focuses on "honour" based abuse and forced marriage, within this, we will cover the definition of the harmful practices, why they happen, case studies, we will show some films, legislation to support our cases, best practice, support services and organisations available.

To register for this training please choose one of the following links:

Thursday 4th March, 9.30am – 12.00pm

- o <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/136286044227>

Thursday 1st April, 9.30am – 12.00pm

- o <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/136286076323>



Tri-borough 'Coping with Crying' campaign

Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. is working with the safeguarding partnerships in Greenwich and Lewisham on a joint campaign to promote resources and support services to parents who might be struggling to respond to their babies when they cry. A group made up of professionals and parents is working on the initial phase of the campaign to identify some key resources (websites, organisations and apps) and signpost parents to these – this work is due to be completed by the end of March 2021 and will be publicised via this bulletin. If you have any resources to recommend or would like to get involved in the campaign, please email tim.woodings@bexley.gov.uk.



'Exploring issues around exploitation' – event for families and carers on 11 March 2021

Calling all practitioners! Do you know of any families and carers who would be interested in joining an informal workshop 'Exploring Issues around Exploitation'?

Bexley Moorings jointly with S.H.I.E.L.D. are running a series of online sessions to provide information and support to parents and carers, linking in with guest trainers and speakers. Details of the first session:

- 11 March 2021 @ 6.30pm
- Exploring issues around exploitation
- Facilitated by Dr Craig Barlow, Criminologist, who will hear the concerns raised and then, in April, will deliver tailored training.

This is a chance for families to identify what help and support they would like, to link in with other parents and carers, and to get involved in future projects if interested.

Please see registration details in flyer.

This is part of a partnership led by the local voluntary sector (Bexley Moorings Project, Porchlight and Bexley Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) with the Bexley children's safeguarding partnership S.H.I.E.L.D. who have come together to create, promote and support a new parent/carer champion network for parents of young people aged 11 – 24 who are at risk of going missing, exploitation, gang affiliation and running county lines in Bexley. The aim is to provide a safe space for parents and carers who may be isolated; frustrated and lonely; seeking the right support and understanding with the issues they and their family face. This will be done through establishing a clear pathway to support, giving a voice and promoting the issues being faced to the wider community in order to improve everyone's future.

ANI Home Office Domestic Abuse scheme for pharmacists

We have been asked to share the following materials for the Ask for ANI Home Office Domestic Abuse scheme for pharmacists. Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a codeword scheme developed by the Home Office to provide a discreet way for victims of domestic abuse to signal that they need emergency help from the safety of their local pharmacy. NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (SELCCG) are promoting this to community pharmacies in South East London, including in Bexley. Below are links to all of the related resources:

- ['Ask for ANI': Briefing on Domestic Abuse Codeword Scheme for local partners](#), Home office
- [Ask for ANI step-by-step process](#) (training leaflet)
- [Ask for ANI domestic abuse codeword scheme guidance for pharmacies using the UK says no more safe spaces scheme](#)
- [Understanding domestic abuse for the Ask for ANI codeword scheme](#)



Focus group on the multi-agency response to substance misuse – 23 March 2021

As part of the follow-up work on the recommendations from Priority 6, Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. is holding a drop-in focus group to consider the requirements for a multi-agency protocol on substance misuse and training offer. The focus group will take place on 23 March between 10am and 12 midday – we are encouraging colleagues to come along between those times to offer any feedback and ideas. If you are interested in taking part, please contact tim.woodings@bexley.gov.uk for details and an MS Teams invite.



National guidance and useful resources

Government guidance:

- [Child sexual exploitation](#), House of Commons Library, 29th January 2021
- [Remote education](#), Department for Education, 15 February 2021
- [Separated families and contact with children in care](#), House of Commons Library, 15 February 2021
- [Serious and organised crime](#), Home Office, 05 February 2021

National reports:

- [Misleading online content](#), Safer Internet Centre, 09 February 2021

Articles:

- [Coronavirus: schools reopening](#), Department of Education & BBC, 22 February 2021
- [Online child abuse images](#), The Guardian, 09 February 2021

Resources/toolkits:

- [BVSC Bulletin](#), BVSC, Weekly update
- World Social Work Day is on Tuesday 16th March 2021

Useful links

Previous S.H.I.E.L.D. e-bulletins are available [here](#).

The latest S.H.I.E.L.D. Training e-bulletin is available [here](#).

