



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

June 2021

SHIELD
EXECUTIVE meeting

Updates from Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. Executive

Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D. Executive has continued to meet twice a month with one of its meetings focused on strategic partnership business and the other dedicated to the Department for Education-funded 'multi-agency safeguarding reforms' project. The latter meetings have included input from David Burnby on Outcomes Based Accountability (more about this in a future edition!) and Chris McCree on approaches to Think Family. The Partnership Board meets next month to look at the Learning Hub's recommendations from Priority 7 – *Identifying and better understanding the young people we are most worried about in Bexley as a multi-agency safeguarding partnership.*



Learning Hub priorities

Priority 6 – Getting basic child protection right

The action plan to take forward the recommendations from the Learning Hub has been further progressed during June with particular focus on the actions relating to neglect and substance use. An interim update report will be presented at the 12 July 2021 Partnership Board.

Priority 7 – Identifying and better understanding the young people we are most worried about in Bexley as a multi-agency safeguarding partnership.

The Hub Members will meet on 28 June 2021 to review the risk data and well-being checks for their young people and discuss the next steps and recommendations for Priority 7. Recommendations will be shared at our 12 July 2021 Partnership Board.

Priority 8 – Identifying and better understanding the mental health of children, young people and families in Bexley in light of Covid-19 and the services available to support them.

The Learning Hub Members met on 18 June 2021 to commence its initial scoping of this priority which is being led by the CCG. Follow-up activity with all the individual agencies will continue throughout July, which will include research and intelligence gathering to understand specific mental health-related issues for children, young people and their families.

Keep babies safe



Previously reported as our Coping with Crying campaign, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley Safeguarding Children Partnerships are pleased to share some key resources for parents relating to 'Keeping Babies Safe'. These resources have been identified by a multi-agency professionals group and reviewed by some of our parents – and set out on our respective partnership websites:

Bexley S.H.I.E.L.D: <https://bexleysafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/keeping-babies-safe/>

LSCP: <https://www.safeguardinglewisham.org.uk/lscp/lscp/parents-carers/keeping-babies-safe>

GSCP: <https://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/information-for-families-schools/parents-and-carers/keeping-babies-safe/>

The web page is the product of the first phase of our campaign and provides parents and carers with information, advice and access to further support in relation to coping with a crying baby and ensuring babies are safe whilst sleeping. The page signposts parents and carers to resources from both ICON, the Lullaby Trust, Cry-sis, The NSPCC and NHS. Please share the links to the web pages with colleagues and families you are working with.

The second phase of the campaign will see the development of a wider social media campaign across Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley to highlight these resources.

DadPad

DadPad®

The DadPad app is an easy-to-use, freely downloadable resource for new dads and dads-to-be in the Bexley/Bromley/Greenwich area, packed with relevant information, as well as details on local support groups and service providers. Its aim is to provide new fathers with guidance on how to develop the mindset, confidence and practical skills needed to meet their babies' physical and emotional needs.

Building a strong attachment will not only enable dads to better enjoy their new role but also contribute towards positive long-term social, health and educational outcomes for their babies. Crucially, the app also provides dads with guidance on how to support and seek help (when needed) for their partners and themselves as they adjust to their new roles, and cope with the physical and emotional strains that this can place on individuals and relationships.

The app covers topics such as:

- Feeding, holding, changing and cleaning your baby
- Surviving without sleep and coping with crying
- Getting to know your baby
- Home safety and first aid
- Looking after yourself and supporting your partner.

The app was relaunched in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich on 21 June 2021 to align with International Dad's Mental Health Day.

Update on CREST

The new CREST panel co-chaired by Children Social Care and Police has been up and running for nearly nine months.... There has been a lot of learning along the way and a lot of commitment shown by practitioners and partner agencies to tackle exploitation and to respond effectively to the young people we are most worried about in Bexley.

The processes to support the work of practitioners continues to be reviewed and evaluated. Keep a look out on SHIELD website for some specialist training over the rest of the year! SHIELD audit work and learning from practice, the learning hub work of priority 4 and 7, National Research and the work of CREST and its panel members has identified the need to further develop tools, and for further opportunity for early intervention and oversight on young people at risk of contextual harm. Practice week included some presentations on CREST jointly delivered by SHIELD and the lead practitioner for exploitation, Hannah Porter and there was also lots of opportunity to explore some of the tools available to us to support practice in response to contextual risk. Do contact Hannah Porter if you need to clarify any of the CREST process.

The London Protocol for working with children at risk of exploitation (2021) includes recommendations for Local Authorities to develop a 'Pre-CREST' panel or mechanism and so we will update you on any new developments in Bexley in the near future. This document also helps to explain the various elements to exploitation. Do access it if you haven't already as it will help you understand the remit of CREST and the expectations on all agencies involved with young people.

Some of the feedback being collated as part of Practice Week will inform on a Practice Framework for Contextual Risk going forward and your feedback based on your own personal experiences is key to ensure we develop the support for practitioners also.



Update on Bexley FLARE

FLARE is now helping SHIELD with all our priority work. This is really exciting and we are hoping it will ensure the voice of all carers and parents and interested members of the community can have input into how practice develops across the partnership in relation to young people, children and families. Future development work for Bexley FLARE includes co facilitating learning events, and co delivering training to practitioners and colleagues.

We hope this will really encourage us to achieve one of Bexley's key success measures, 'to develop a kind and healing system'. Restorative practice and collaborative working is at the heart of SHIELD and we want to support practice in this area so please do let us know if you want to get involved, or have parents and carers in mind. We are particularly interested in recruiting parents who have either received a service in Bexley and or those interested in supporting others through their own lived experience.

We are in the process of organising some specialist workshops for practitioners who wish to get involved in the work of FLARE and these are due to take place in July and September so do express your interest via SHIELD mailbox.

A flyer detailing the current work of FLARE, forthcoming events, drop in sessions and workshops to support FLARE work will be circulated soon and so watch out for this.

If you are a practitioner, carer or parent interested in getting involved in the work of FLARE then please let us know. You can contact Amanda Gillard directly and or express an interest via email to the SHIELD mailbox. shield@bexley.gov.uk

Signs of Safety for partners

Signs of Safety – learning offer for all safeguarding partners in Bexley

LB Bexley Children's Social Care uses Signs of Safety as its practice framework. If you are asked to attend a multi-agency child protection meeting, you will need a basic understanding of the way Signs of Safety works. Stefanie Roberts, Signs of Safety Practice Lead, delivers a 2-day introductory course on Signs of Safety which is open to partners. There is also a half-day briefing session which can be offered to partners. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Stefanie.Roberts@bexley.gov.uk. We also have our e-learning module (Signs of Safety for Partner Agencies and Professionals) which is free to undertake via MeLearning: https://bexley.melearning.university/course_centre/course_details/40.

National guidance and useful resources



Government guidance and reports:

- [Relationships, sex and health education](#), Department for Education, 27 May 2021
- [Coronavirus: impact on schools and education](#), UK Parliament, 26 May 2021
- [Domestic abuse: Child arrangements orders](#), House of Commons Library, 26 May 2021
- [Coronavirus: children with special educational needs and disabilities](#), Ofsted, 16 June 2021
- [Mental health and wellbeing in schools](#), Department for Education, 15 June 2021
- [Sexual abuse in schools](#), Department for Education (Blog), 24, 25 May 2021

Articles/News items

- [Children's services](#), What Works for Children's Social Care, 26 May 2021
- [Early years](#), The Royal Foundation, 18 June 2021
- [Care leavers](#), Barnardo's, 25 May 2021

Resources/toolkits:

- [Homeless young people](#), Just for Kids Law, 20 May 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](#).

