Business Improvement Plan 2019-21
Foreword

We are pleased to share with you our first Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Business Improvement Plan for 2019-21, setting out the safeguarding priorities to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham.

As the Safeguarding Partners, we will share equal responsibility for ensuring effective oversight and implementation of the Business Improvement Plan, which will commence on 1st April 2019. We have reflected on progress in partnership working and the strong foundation left by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which the new safeguarding arrangements replace. We have worked collaboratively to streamline and strengthen the existing safeguarding to further improve how we work together to safeguard and protect children and young people across the city. We have consulted a wide range of partners, who have assisted in identifying key themes that have shaped and helped define the four safeguarding priorities for the next two years.

The four key priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership;

**Priority 2:** Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice across the system and in all agencies;

**Priority 3:** Developing an effective multi-agency response to Contextual Safeguarding, recognising exploitation of young people in all its forms;

**Priority 4:** Evidencing the impact of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership.

All our work will be underpinned by a consideration of the views and experiences of Birmingham’s children and young people. We acknowledge that successful implementation of the Business Improvement Plan will be judged on the difference it makes to the safety and wellbeing of Birmingham’s children and young people. We intend that progress will be reported to the Birmingham Children’s Partnership as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on an annual basis.

Dawn Baxendale
Chief Executive
Birmingham City Council

Paul Jennings
Accountable Officer
Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group

David Thompson
Chief Constable
West Midlands Police
Introduction

The Business Improvement Plan 2019-21 sets out the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) strategic vision, ambition, purpose, principles and safeguarding priorities for the next two years. The document should be read in conjunction with the new partnership governance arrangements published on 27th March 2019.

Our Ambition

Birmingham is a family friendly city where children will flourish, feel safe, listened to, learn and grow up, able to actively contribute to society.

Our Purpose

BSCP convenes the statutory ‘Safeguarding Partners’, the Police, Clinical Commission Group and Local Authority to work in close collaboration with ‘Relevant Agencies’ to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Birmingham. The new partnership will provide system leadership, challenge and hold organisations to account. The partnership will create a learning culture, sharing good practice and driving improvement in partnership working to deliver better outcomes for children and young people. To achieve this it:

- Sets standards and procedures for multi-agency practice.
- Promotes working together in practice supported by behaviours of respect and trust.
- Assures sound quality of practice with a positive impact on outcomes for children and young people.
- Ensures a programme of learning and development which supports leadership and practice learning from the best and from Local Child Practice Safeguarding Reviews.
- Models a culture of evaluation, learning and development.
- Communicates effectively with the wider safeguarding system of organisations and individuals, including voluntary organisations and those who experience services.
- Drives progress through Sub-Groups and work streams which regularly account to the partnership Executive Board.

The Business Improvement Plan sets out the strategic intent of the BSCP in making this vision a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the BSCP to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.
Our Principles

The work of the new BSCP will be based on four key principles:

- **Effective Partnership Working:** Committed to effective collaborative partnership working which delivers the best possible protection of children in this young, diverse, creative city.
- **Focus on the Family:** Supporting families to enable their children to flourish and learn in preparation for a long, productive, happy, life.
- **Committed to Early Help:** Recognising that those with economic, health and other disadvantages will need additional support to achieve the same outcomes as their peers.
- **Promotion of a Learning Culture:** Operating as a learning system; open and ambitious to improve.

Our Priorities

The BSCP have identified four priorities for the new partnership. This plan is intentionally brief, focusing on the four strategic priorities that form the basis of the work of the Executive Board. These priorities support the statutory functions of the BSCP and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare.

These build on the work of the former Safeguarding Children Board and will also take into account emerging issues for the city and for the organisations working to safeguard its children. The four key priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership;

**Priority 2:** Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice across the system and in all agencies;

**Priority 3:** Developing an effective multi-agency response to Contextual Safeguarding, recognising exploitation of young people in all its forms;

**Priority 4:** Evidencing the impact of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The golden thread that links these priorities is ensuring that the voice and lived experience of children and young people informs and influences the continuous improvement in partnership working across the city.

Annually, the BSCP will reflect on progress and take account of emerging themes to refocus partnership activity on delivering on the priorities set out in the Business Improvement Implementation Plan.
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<th>Strategic Priority</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Actions 2019-21</th>
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| **Priority 1: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership**                             | 1. That the BSCP supports and challenges partners to work effectively together in the interests of children, demonstrating authoritative leadership.  
2. The BSCP develops a learning culture whilst embedding good practice that is continually influenced by children, young people and their families. | 1. The BSCP Executive Board oversees effective implementation of the Business Improvement Plan and associated Work Programmes.  
2. That the BSCP Independent Scrutineer and strategic leaders from the ‘Safeguarding Partners’ are core members of the Birmingham Children’s Partnership tasked with making the city’s ambition a reality.  
3. The BSCP Executive Board maximise the opportunity to learn and improve partnership practice through its workforce development programme, quality assurance framework and the findings of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.  
| **Priority 2: Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice across the system and in all agencies.** | 1. The BSCP Executive Board will target partnership intervention on those children and young people at greater risk and in those localities with higher prevalence. We will prioritise tackling Adolescent Neglect and will promote Contextual Safeguarding arrangements.  
2. BSCB to use emerging learning from partner inspections, Joint Targeted Area Inspections and emerging good practice from national and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to inform the development of multi-agency practice for Birmingham. | 1. The BSCP to host an Annual Safeguarding Practitioners on ‘Adolescent Neglect’ on the 25th June 2019, to launch the new strategy and awareness campaign.  
2. BSCP invite the nominated Senior Responsible Officer for implementation of the Neglect Strategy to provide a six month report on progress.  
3. Learning & Development Sub-Group to provide a comprehensive programme of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training to deliver high quality of face to face training, e-learning and seminars. To include application of Neglect Assessment Tools (Graded Care Profile 2 and Outcome Star)  
4. Learning & Development and Quality Impact & Outcomes Sub-Groups to collaborate with the Birmingham Early Help Partnership to deliver bespoke training for and evaluate the impact of the ‘Lead Practitioners’ role in supporting ‘Our Family Plans’ |
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| **Priority 3:** Developing an effective multi-agency response to Contextual Safeguarding, recognising exploitation of young people in all its forms. | 1. Children and young people at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation, or from being missing from home, care and education are able to access effective early help and appropriate statutory interventions. | 1. BSCP Executive Board to support the Contextual Safeguarding Board in developing the city’s Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and Action Plan 2019-21.  
2. Learning & Development Sub-Group to work in collaboration with the Contextual Safeguarding Board to develop bespoke training to enhance partnership practice in responding to contextual safeguarding.  
3. The BSCP to host an Annual Safeguarding Practitioners Conference on ‘Contextual Safeguarding ’in June 2020. |
| **Priority 4:** Evidencing the impact of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership | 1. To ensure that the new Safeguarding children Partnership is working effectively and helping to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in Birmingham.  
2. Ours is a safeguarding system which starts with the felt experience of children and young people as its first concern. All children and young people are seen, heard and helped; with the public and professionals alike being alert to risk, being able to identify it and knowing how to respond to make sure children are safeguarded. | 1. BSCP Executive Board to undertake 12 month review of the effectiveness of the new governance and accountability arrangements to identify areas for improvement.  
2. The Learning and Development Sub-Group to provide the Executive Board with an annual evaluation of the quality and impact of multiagency safeguarding training delivered.  
3. The BSCB Executive Board to publish on its website an Annual Report providing evidence of impact on the priorities set out in the Business Improvement Plan. The findings to be presented to the Birmingham Children’s Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.  
4. The BSCP Executive Board will notify and send a copy of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to the National Panel, Ofsted and Secretary for State for Education no later than seven days prior to publication. The published report will be publicly available for at least three years on the partnership’s website. A copy will also be forward to the ‘What Works Centre for Children’s Social Care’  
5. BSCP to assist Birmingham and |
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<td>Solihull CCG and Birmingham City Council in the smooth transition to the new child death arrangement by 29th September 2019.</td>
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