



# Practitioners' Forum



## Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership

### Safeguarding Update: Penny Thompson CBE, BSCP Independent Chair

Click on the links below for more information.

- The [Birmingham & Solihull Family Drug & Alcohol Court \(FDAC\) three-year report 2021-2024](#) has shown that FDAC is having a positive impact.
- [Publication of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review & webinar - BSCP2019-20/01 - 23.07.2024](#)
- [Publication of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review & webinar - BSCP2021-22/01 - 04.09.2024](#)
- The Children's Commissioner recently put together a report on strip searching children as a result of the report into Child Q. View the report: [Childrens Commissioner: Strip Searching of Children in England & Wales](#).
- The Safeguarding Leaders Assembly is taking place on Thursday 7th November 2024, this will focus on serious youth violence and child exploitation.
- Penny also highlighted the launch of the updated 'Right Help, Right Time' guidance, which will reflect the latest on information sharing, which is now a practice requirement and an absolute necessity when there are concerns of harm. It is anticipated that the updated guidance will be ready by the end of the year.

Penny comes to the end of her time as our Independent Chair. Changes to the statutory guidance in Working Together now state that Safeguarding Children's Partnerships are to be led by statutory safeguarding partners. Going forward, there will be a co-chairing arrangement with James Thomas, CEO Birmingham Children's Trust, as the standing co-chair, partnered by a rotation on a six-month basis between WMP Police (Richard North), NHS Birmingham and Solihull (Helen Kelly), and Birmingham City Council (Sue Harrison). Simon Cross thanked Penny on behalf of the safeguarding partnership for her hard work, dedication and her chairing duties at the Practitioners' Forum.

### Safeguarding in Faith Communities Project

Micho Moyo, Schools Safeguarding (Birmingham City Council) and Junaid Akhtar, Faith Project Co-ordinator (BSCP) shared a presentation outlining the progress of the Faith project, which aims to build capacity, connectivity, and engagement with places of worship. So far, over 700+ places of worship are part of the project. The project focuses on safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of vulnerable children and families', covering four main workstreams: the Faith Directory, Safeguarding Training for Places of Worship and the Children and Adult Safeguarding On-line Guidance and Toolkit. This is the first time work of this nature has been undertaken and the information shared was very well received by practitioners. [View the presentation.](#)

### Learning and Development Update

Dave Passley, L&D Programme Manager (BSCP) and Kerrie Dawkins, L&D Officer (BSCP) provided an update on multi-agency training courses available on the BSCP booking system. [Register/log onto the training portal](#) to book your place.

You can access and share materials and recordings held on the BSCP website following publication of LCSPRs on our [Learning From Reviews](#) webpage. Previous [BSCP conference resources](#) are also available!



**Thank you to those who attended this Forum and for your continued hard work!**

Please complete the [evaluation](#) which aims to ensure that we are meeting the needs of practitioners and to ascertain topics for future forums.