



# Practitioners Forum

Wednesday 30th March 2022

Via: Microsoft Teams



## Welcome and Update

Penny Thompson CBE welcomed everyone to the Practitioners Forum and introduced Sue Harrison the new Director of Children's Services, Birmingham City Council. She has been in post for a few months now and is already having a positive impact.

The Partnership is very aware of the pressures on the health system at the moment, not just from COVID pandemic, but the significant restructuring that is taking place nationally as we move towards creating an Integrated Care System to replace the existing commissioning arrangements for Birmingham and Solihull and the formation of a new Integrated Care Board.

We should all be aware of rising cost of living and the disproportionate impact this will have on families already struggling financially. We need to be cognizant of the need for support from early help with those families.

**Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews:** The Joint targeted inspection in Solihull, due to the very sad death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes has been completed. We will take all of the learning from Solihull and apply it in Birmingham. The National Review is scheduled for completion in May 2022.

We are also checking ourselves against the learning from the report on Child Q and ensuring we communicate the lessons from that review, especially within schools and the police.

**Birmingham 2022 - Commonwealth Games:** A regional 'Strategic Safeguarding Advisory Group' is helping in the preparation for the Commonwealth games this summer. The group are focusing on the potential safeguarding issues that may arise from the games and are going through a process of scenario testing involving the event organisers and partners across the region to refine how we respond to these issues. We will give a further update at our next forum.

## Early Help and Support Locality Model – 12 months on

Alison Holmes, Assistant Director Early Help & Prevention and Katie Homer, Team Manager Ladywood Locality, gave a comprehensive [presentation](#) of the Early Help and Support Locality model in place across the city. An extensive programme of workshops, webinars and training sessions have been targeted at practitioners who work with children throughout Birmingham. If you would like to know more and arrange a local session please contact [alison.holmes@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk](mailto:alison.holmes@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk), and she can arrange this.

### Early Help

- 10 locality teams across Birmingham BCT & Vol sectors
- Delivering briefings, training sessions, webinars to 1000s of professionals
- Updated RHRT drive into EH away from CASS front door
- **17,698** FCF April – Feb 22
- PLUS **19,932** HSF application, gives a total of **37,630** people accessed EH in 11months
- Very high demand over 2000 FCF a month
- Commissioned services- BCT funded Safer Families grant Autism, Housing, Mentoring x 2, Domestic Abuse
- Needs a cultural shift in the partnership – No more hand offs

## Learning & Development Update

The BSCP training offer for 2022-23 was approved at the March Executive Board. Training will be delivered in face to face and virtual formats having taken account of the observations carried out over the last year. In the coming year BSCP will be working to use a variety of formats to deliver information to practitioners including webinars and podcasts etc, which will be accessed via the BSCP Learning Management system and website.

To view and book training courses you can register or log onto the [BSCP booking system](#) or by copying and pasting the link into your browser <https://booking.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/>

## Practitioners Conference

The Practitioners Conference will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the Repertory Theatre and will focus on combatting childhood neglect. Make sure you keep your diary free.

**Penny concluded the forum by thanking everyone for their attendance and for "keeping going during tough times!"**

Practitioner Forum dates:

Wednesday 29th June 2022

Monday 26th September 2022

Wednesday 7th December 2022