



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

BSCB NEWS

April 2012

Welcoming the New BSCB Chairperson

Meet Helen Davies, who joins the Board as its new Chairperson from 1st April. Helen is already getting to know us in Bromley. She attended the Partnership Forum in February where she met briefly with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People and Director of Children Services. She has also met briefly with Executive members. Helen says: "I am very pleased to be appointed as the independent chair of Bromley Safeguarding Children Board. I have over 30 years' experience in children's social services. I started my career as a social worker in Lewisham and have worked in a number of local authorities. Between 1998 – 2011, I worked at assistant/deputy director level in Medway, Kent and East Sussex. In these posts I was an active member of area child protection committees and latterly safeguarding boards and I look forward to using this experience in my new role. I am excited by the prospect of leading the Board through many challenges during the next 3 years, notably implementation of the changes arising from the Munro review and from the Health and Social Care Act. I have been impressed by the commitment to high standards of safeguarding in Bromley and I look forward to working with all agencies, building on strong partnerships and striving to continue to improve outcomes for children. I am keen to enhance the Board's focus on outcomes and on hearing the voices of children and their families about their experience of services."



Helen Davies, Chairperson BSCB

Helen was appointed by a multi agency senior manager panel including representation from health, the police and children and young people's services. Her appointment is for three year and is reviewed annually.

Farewell

Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People's Services has retired. She chaired the BSCB for 5 years and also served as its vice-chair for 2 years following the decision to select an Independent person to the role. She has plans for exciting new projects which draws on her formidable experience, including representation on a key government working group.



New Department - Education and Care Services

In a further change to the Council, a new department has been created bringing together functions of adult, children services within a single department Education & Care Services.

Assessing Risk of Abuse

Social work practice is changing. The emphasis has returned to observing children and families. Whilst Professor Eileen Munro's report on the child's journey placed a spotlight on practice and professional judgement, others such as Professor David Shemmings, have worked over many years to enhance practice on the frontline. Professor David Shemmings PhD is professor of Social Work at the University of Kent and director of the ADAM programme. ADAM stands for the Assessment of Disorganised Attachment and Maltreatment, which Bromley Safeguarding and Children's Social Care is seeking to embed within its service, following in the footsteps of several other London Boroughs.



Professor David Shemmings

In February, Professor Shemmings briefed 170 multi-agency practitioners on the approach, raising awareness on what the model has to offer and how social workers will be working.

The model offers social workers a more observational-based toolkit for assessment and is based upon the theory of disorganised attachment where it is commonly known that 80-90% of maltreated children have a disorganised attachment to their abusers (where the abuser is one of their carers). Disorganised attachment, therefore, is regarded as a reliable predictor for abuse. Knowing about it supports earlier intervention by **all** practitioners.

The half-day multi-agency briefings focused on the meaning and significance of disorganised attachment, highlighting why some high risk parents go on to abuse children while others do not; and the mediating factors to lessen the risk of child abuse. With examples and video snapshots of practice with real families the briefings demonstrated how when identified interventions to address attachment can change children's lives.

If you missed our recent seminar on ADAM, you can find out about the model through the **ADAM website, www.tiddlyspot.com**.

Strengthening Families: A New Approach to Child Protection Conference

If you attend child protection conferences from the August you may be involved in piloting a new model of child protection conferences to be introduced by Children's Safeguarding and Social Care. The Board have given approval for the pilot to take place, expressing interest in the model's potential for improving the engagement of families in the process and to enhance the focus on improved outcomes for children. Called Strengthening Families, the approach is based upon the 'Signs of Safety' partnership model of child protection developed by Andrew Turnell an Australian social worker. Underpinning the model is the belief that each situation can be viewed from a number of different perspectives. Professionals are encouraged to explore and be open to these multiple perspectives rather than simply accepting their own as the correct one. 'The 'Signs of Safety' approach seeks to find a firm footing between the two polarities of the 'professional is always right' or succumbing to the temptation to simply believe the service recipient. The approach says that greater success is achieved in child protection when all parties, professionals and parents/carers, agree to mutually understood goals. Subtle but significant changes will be evident, such as the room set up will be less adversarial and aim to set parents and ease so that they can fully engage in the process. The whole meeting is about understanding what can make a difference and developing a plan, rather than planning being at the end of the meeting.

Targeted training and a series of briefings for all agencies are being planned – so look out for further notices in the summer.

Safeguarding Young People from Gang Activity - single points of contact

Steven is 18, he got into trouble a lot at school and then spent time hanging around, increasingly getting involved with a group that seemed to always be in trouble. He loved sport and this was a way out for him. With the support of XLP, a charity that works directly with young people across London, he chose a different path to his friends. Now he is a sports leader and role model to other young men.



Patrick Regan, the charity's CEO gave a compelling presentation on what is happening in terms of gang activity in London today. He shared key messages on how to engage with young people to prevent and minimise gang involvement. Each year a small number of young people present to Bromley in search of safe accommodation, stating that they are escaping gang involvement or violence.

A larger and more difficult to track number of young people come to the borough's housing needs department seeking accommodation and their gang involvement is not known until something happens. There leaves little opportunity to keep them safe by ensuring that they are not placed in areas where there are rival gang members or into accommodation bordering the areas they are trying to get away from.

To minimise the risk of this happening Bromley Safeguarding Children Board has been in dialogue with south east London boroughs through their housing partnership group to ensure that when young people are placed in Bromley if gang activity is known or suspected this is made clear to housing at the outset. Bromley has made it clear that it will share information with specific agencies in order to safeguard the young person involved to ensure that they are not placed inappropriately.

The BSCB has developed a protocol to support professionals to share information with key identified single points of contact within Bromley. It can be downloaded from the BSCB website:

More information and guidance to professionals on gangs is available through a leaflet *Gangs: know the facts*, also available to download from the BSCB website www.bromleysafeguarding.org.



Parental Substance Misuse

A multi-agency Group has reviewed and revised the Protocol on safeguarding Children and Young People Living with Parental Substance Misuse. The revision provides clearer information on referral pathways. You can find the revised protocol on the bscb website <http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org/documents/ProtocolSubstanceMisusingParents>

New Framework for Inspection

Ofsted have published the revised framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements to protect children, including the effectiveness of early identification and help for children, young people, their families and carers. These inspections will focus on the effectiveness of the local authority's child protection services, and the local authority's leadership of strategic partners in their shared work to help and protect children and young people. [Ofsted | Framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children](#)

Forthcoming Events & Training!

BSCB Training 2011-2012

Summer Courses 2012 – Spaces!

- New! Impact of Parental Substance Misuse on Children – social workers, health workers and those working in addiction services and voluntary sector may find this course particularly helpful. 8 May 2012
- Safeguarding Disabled Children 15 May 2012
- Training Group 2 Safeguarding: A Shared Responsibility For those who work directly with children and young people 17 May 2012
- New! Group 3 Refresher Multi-agency Safeguarding – for those who need to update their training. 18 May 2012
21 June 2012

More detail on each course is available to download from the BSCB website: www.bromleysafeguarding.org. Email your form to: Course.booking@bromley.gov.uk

Annual Conference – Breaking the Cycle of Neglect

This year's Safeguarding Children Board Annual Conference 2012 will focus on issues of neglect and early intervention to prevent it. Professor David Shemmings will be our guest speaker and the key note address for the conference. There will be speakers from health, education and care services. Part of the day will include workshops where you can learn more about some of the key issues for professional practice. Booking forms will be issued in the summer, until then please put the date in your diary **Tuesday 23rd October 2012**.



The poster features a photograph of a young child painting a wall with blue and orange paint. The text on the poster reads: 'Bromley Safeguarding Children Board', 'Annual Conference 23rd October 2012', 'Breaking the Cycle of Neglect', 'Guest Speaker: Professor David Shemmings, University of Kent', 'Venue: The Warren, Croydon Road, Hayes, BR2 7AL', and 'www.bromleysafeguarding.org'. A small logo for the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board is visible in the bottom left corner of the poster.

Welcome to new Board members – Safeguarding Partners

Tracy Pidgeon - Ambulance Operations Manager London Ambulance Service
Andrea Kilvington, who is the relatively recently appointed new Chairperson of the Children and Families Community & Voluntary Sector Forum, joins the BSCB Executive Committee.

Key Contacts

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY

Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum	Judy Kimmins cforum@btinternet.com	020 8315 1909
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EDUCATION

Education Safeguarding	Denise Partridge denise.partridge@bromley.gov.uk	020 8461 7669
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HEALTH

Designated Doctor for Safeguarding	Dr Nike Adeoye Onikepo.Adeoye@bromleypct.nhs.uk	
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Designated Nurse for Safeguarding	Sarah Turner Sarah.Turner@bromleypct.nhs.uk	0208 313 4819
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Designated Doctor Unexpected Deaths	Dr Sujata Sharma Sujata.sharma@bromleypct.nhs.uk	
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Child Death Administrator	Child.protection@bromley.gov.uk	Fax: 020 8313 4324
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Designated GP for Safeguarding	Dr Kate Dyer Kate.Dyer@nhs.net	
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Named Nurse (South London Hospital Trust)	Lynn Torpey lynn.torpey1@nhs.net	
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Named Nurse Safeguarding (Oxleas Mental Health NHS)	Carolyn Pilkington Carolyn.Pilkington@oxleas.nhs.uk	01322 625 029
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POLICE

Bromley Police Public Protection Desk	DI Dave Smith	020 8284 8766
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SOCIAL CARE

Head of Service, Quality Assurance & Safeguarding	Julie Daly julie.daly@bromley.gov.uk	020 8313 4610
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