

## NEW GUIDANCE LAUNCHED

### REFERRALS TO BRADFORD CHILDREN'S SERVICES

New guidance, the 'Continuum of Need and Risk Identification Tool' has been launched by the [Bradford Safeguarding Children Board \(BSCB\)](#) which is aimed at every agency, statutory, voluntary, private and independent which works directly or indirectly with children, young people and families. There is an expectation that all staff in all organisations that work with children are aware and begin to make referrals using the new Continuum of Need and Multi Agency Referral Form.

Please ensure all staff and volunteers in your organisation are made aware of this important new guidance and begin using it. You may find this [presentation](#) used at the launch event helpful, as part of cascading this within your organisation. Here is a summary of what should now be used as guidance and referral forms. The resources can be found on the BSCB website in the section for Professionals in '[Documents and Resources](#)'.

#### **1 CONTINUUM OF NEED AND RISK IDENTIFICATION TOOL (CON)**

The new [Continuum of Need and Risk Identification Tool](#) replaces the old Threshold of Need and is a tool to be used by agencies to help identify a child's level of need and respond appropriately getting "the right help, right time". It is recommended this should be used digitally, as embedded within the document are links to further resources.

#### **2 MULTI AGENCY REFERRAL FORM (MARF)**

The new [Multi-Agency Referral Form \(MARF\)](#) replaces the old Common Referral Form and is for practitioners seeking to refer a child or young person for support and should be used to request for Prevention and Early Help support (including group work and Family Key work) or to make a request for a social work assessment from Bradford's Children's Social Integrated Front Door/multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).

#### **3 BRADFORD MULTI-AGENCY REFERRAL FORM GUIDANCE**

The [Bradford Multi-Agency Referral \(MARF\) guidance](#) has been produced to accompany the new referral form to help practitioners. This should be read in conjunction with the Continuum of Need. The guidance and form encourage and support the use of the Signs of Safety (SOS) approach, eliciting the "Child's voice" and "Lived experience" and consent. Information about local Prevention and Early Help support services can be found [here](#).

Further briefings introducing the new guidance are taking place **Thursday 8th August** (9.30-11.am or 11.30-1pm) and **Friday 13th September** (10.30-12 noon or 1-2.30pm). All events are at Margaret McMillan Tower, Bradford BD1 1NN. [More information](#).

Young Lives want to know how you find the new guidance and processes when making referrals so we can feed this back to Bradford Children's Services. Email us on [younglivesbradford@cabad.org.uk](mailto:younglivesbradford@cabad.org.uk). It is important to focus on telling us about current experiences of referring in rather than historic ones.