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Young Lives - Strategic Update

July 2019

Youth Participation Project Survey

Bradford CCGs are developing a new youth participation project. The aim is to scope out availability of volunteering opportunities for young people in the health and social care sector and to increase young people's voice and engagement in services. Valeeya Khizar, graduate intern leading on the project would like to hear from professionals about how they could be involved and about volunteering opportunities for young people in their organisation. Please complete this short [survey](#).

Prevention and Early help Estates

The papers for the Council's Exec on July 9th Outline proposals for the Prevention and early Help estate (i.e Children's centres. This results from a consultation exercise and outlines what is proposed to happen with those sites and where delivery sites will be. See [papers](#) (from p259 – It is paper "N")

Prevention and Early Help – all age

Work is being undertaken by Dan Greenwood, seconded from the police to undertake work to rationalise and co-ordinate early help activity across the district on an all age basis. Young Lives will be involved as part of the Bradford District Assembly.

Intergenerational activities

Age UK are interested in undertaking intergenerational work with other partners. This may be one off activities or longer term activities. Contact younglivesbradford@cabad.org.uk if you are interested.

Parental conflict

DWP is offering resource to provide training including train the trainer training on parental conflict. This will be offered in the autumn. District self-assessment, undertaken as part of the process of receiving the funding, have been recognising that Bradford is still at the early stages of recognising and responding to parental conflict.

BiBFest 2019: Born in Bradford Science Festival

Friday 27 September 2019

You are invited to BiBFest 2019: Born in Bradford (BiB) Science Festival. The festival will take place at Salts Mill, Saltaire on Friday 27 September, 10am - 4.30pm.

The festival will share how BiB, one of the largest research studies in the UK, has helped to change policy and develop innovative ways to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The event is open to all practice staff, GPs and patients, please share the details widely. For more information and to book your place use the [Eventbrite link here](#).

Bradford Healthy Happy Children Questionnaire

Born in Bradford Healthy Happy Children's questionnaire to jointly decide future research priorities on children's health and happiness with partners. [Have your say!](#) Closing end September. Any questions contact Aamnah.Rahman@bthft.nhs.uk

Improvement Journey

There was a visit in June and Ofsted have just published their report on this [visit](#). Mark Douglas, Director of Children's Services has sent out an email which summarises the letter and the Council's response:

"Inspectors have said that, while there are some examples of good work, the pace of improvement is slow and not enough work is timely and effective. The letter from Ofsted raises concerns about the number of caseloads allocated to social workers, staff turnover, and management.

Ofsted recognise that some of the changes that have been implemented have not yet had the time to deliver improvements. They also recognise that senior managers and staff are aware of areas or weakness and what needs to change.

Ofsted noted that from 1 July a new permanent Strategic Director of Children's Services, Mark Douglas, will be in post. Mark has considerable experience of delivering improvement in social care and takes over from Gladys Rhodes White who had stepped in on an interim basis whilst the authority recruited a new permanent Director. They also acknowledge that politicians have committed significant resources to finance the improvements that Ofsted require and that senior leaders have focused tenaciously on recruiting staff.

The letter raises concerns about the number of caseloads stating that they 'vary from small numbers to over 50 children'. However, a review of caseloads has established that every social worker has a caseload of under 40 children. The Council accepts that this is still too high and is working to further reduce it by improving the referral process in to children's social care and the recruitment of additional social workers and managers.

The Council is also implementing training programmes for staff and managers in Children's Services to rapidly improve the quality of social work practice.

Monitoring visits are taking place every three months to assess how the Council is implementing improvements following the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services in September 2018.

The improvement arrangements are expected to take up to three years to fully implement. The Council is now working on a series of 12 week plans to deliver the necessary changes between each monitoring visit.

The action the Council will be focusing on before the next monitoring visit in September will be:

- Developing training and mentoring for staff to improve management skills and the consistency of social care work practice.
- Working with partners to provide clearer guidance on which cases are referred to social care.
- Continuing to focus on the recruitment of permanent staff.

It is really important to point out though that Ofsted conclude their letter by acknowledging that our social work staff are very positive about working in Bradford, are aware of the services' weaknesses, and are committed to the goal of improving practice for the children of Bradford. This gives us an important foundation on which to build.

It is important to stress too that Ofsted found that urgent child protection concerns are recognised with the right action being taken and no child was found to be unsafe.

We know that this report is not good enough. Our social care services are not at the level they need to be and we need to improve at a much faster pace. While there has been some improvement in a few areas, there is a huge amount we still need to do. We know the areas we need to change and the actions we need to take to improve. We will be working hard within Children's Services, but also

together with our partners so that we can make the changes we need to make.

I am very excited about working with all the agencies who work with and support children across our district. I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming months to achieve the best outcomes we can together for Bradford's children."

Number of referrals requiring no further action

The highest referrals were the police, followed by education.

	contacts	resulted in referral	%resulted in referral	%NFA
Children's social care	692	221	31.9	38.7
Early Help	48	17	35.4	54.2
Education	1967	912	46.4	34.2
Health	2186	697	31.9	53.8
Other	475	160	33.7	53.9
Other parts of council	218	104	47.7	48.2
Other public sector	1849	346	18.7	77.3
Police	6105	1863	30.5	62.9
Post adoption	3	2	66.7	
Self / family / community	1364	272	19.9	67.1
Voluntary / Faith	252	48	19.0	69.4
Total	15160	4642	30.6	58.5

The majority of VCS are from the NSPCC, which has a particular role to report in calls from the community.

Young People's Voice in the Improvement Plan

As part of Bradford's Social Care Improvement Journey to ensure services provided for young people in Bradford are as good as they can be, the voice of the child and their experience is essential. Fiona Broadfoot has been commissioned to establish a voice reference group with the aim of ensuring young people affected by this work are able to contribute. Do you know any young people who have been subject to a Child Protection plan or supported as a 'child in need' who would be willing to share their feedback?

See [Letter to young people](#) and [Letter to professionals](#)

Contact: Fiona on 07837 514589 or email buildagirlproject@gmail.com

What to Do if you have Concerns a Child is at Risk of Harm

New guidance from Bradford Safeguarding Children Board

There have been some important changes as to how agencies should report their concerns about children and young people at risk of harm into Bradford Children's services. The new guidance aims to help agencies identify a child's level of need and to know how to respond appropriately, giving the right help at the right time. It is important that VCS organisations working with children and young people have an understanding of this new guidance.

The procedures and guidance were launched by the [Bradford Safeguarding Children Board \(BSCB\)](#) in July. Full details can be found on their website in the '[Documents and Resources](#)' section. All local guidance for Safeguarding Children and Young People is summarised in the [West Yorkshire Consortium Inter Agency Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures](#) also found on the BSCB website, the latest referral guidance will be available shortly. If you are a Safeguarding Lead or you have a safeguarding responsibility within your setting, please ensure staff are made aware of these important changes. Here is a brief [summary](#) of the new procedures and the Continuum of Need and Risk Identification Tool'.

There will also be the opportunity to attend a briefing explaining how to use the new guidance and resources when making referrals on the following dates:

- **Thursday 8th August**, 9.30am - 11.am or 11.30am to 1pm
- **Friday 13th September**, 10.30am to 12 noon or 1pm - 2.30pm

All events take place at Margaret McMillan Tower, Bradford BD1 1NN. [Book your place early.](#)

Private Fostering - 10 Point Briefing

Bradford Safeguarding Board is promoting awareness and notifications of Private Fostering Arrangements. Privately Fostered Children are potentially a vulnerable group of children as they are being cared for by someone other than by their parents or a close family member. Children's Social Care has a legal obligation to assess and monitor these placements. Please share this [10 point briefing](#) from the Board with staff and colleagues who are working with families and in training and supervision. Share this briefing along with this 2 minute film on ['What is Private Fostering?'](#) with your staff and help promote awareness of these concerns.

VCS recognised in new safeguarding arrangements

Young Lives Bradford has been recognised as a relevant agency in the new safeguarding children arrangements and will be representing the local voluntary and community sector on the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board through the support of our VCS representatives appointed via our VCS Safeguarding Steering group for the Voluntary and Community sector. To get involved email us at younglivesbradford@cabad.org.uk

Child Sexual Exploitation in Bradford

The new chair of Bradford Safeguarding Children Board has announced she will be launching a serious case review into CSE in Bradford. See [letter to Professor Alexis Jay, Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) which explains the background and rationale. It also provides links to information on current arrangements and partnership working.

NEW: Communication Matters: talking, listening, telling

This new course from the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board is designed to develop skills in communicating with children and young people. [More information.](#)

Designated Safeguarding Officer

It is recommended that at least one person in your organisation is a 'designated safeguarding officer' (DSO). Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Nominating someone to undertake the role may be the first task your group should consider. We also recommend a deputy is appointed to cover sickness or leave. Here are details of our next DSO course coming up on Thursday, 19th September. [Book a place.](#)

Bradford Safeguarding Children Board

The [Bradford Safeguarding Children Board](#) and [Bradford Council Workforce Development Unit](#), offer a range of free Safeguarding training. Visit their website for their latest training courses. Here are some courses we would particularly recommend if you are a Safeguarding Lead for your organisation:

- [Allegations Management](#) - Tuesday, 1st October
- [Safer Recruitment](#) - Tuesday 22nd October
- [Neglect](#) – Tuesday, 22nd October

And don't forget to take a look at their great range of free [BSCB e-learning resources](#) (topics include Basic Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect; Domestic Violence, Early Child Development; Hidden Harm – the effects of parental problem substance use on

children and more. Use these resources with volunteers and staff to run your own in-house training. Participants will just need to get a log on by registering on a course and access to a computer to work through the training together, stopping for breaks for discussion.

Real Safeguarding Stories

[Real Safeguarding Stories](#) is a learning tool dedicated to raising awareness of safeguarding issues. By telling compelling stories based upon real life events, it can help professionals from many walks of life understand these complex issues. Understanding and relating to these stories is the first step towards individuals and organisations being better able to support those at risk. The videos come with guidance to support wider training or awareness activity. These are a great resource to use with staff or volunteers to help their understanding of Safeguarding issues for children and young people.

Staying Put and partners create One Front Door for all domestic and sexual abuse survivors

The Yorkshire-based charity Staying Put and sister organisation DVS are joining forces with Family Action and WomenCentre to create a one-stop-shop for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. The new consortium will transform services in Bradford and the surrounding area, providing early intervention and prevention, specialist work with children and young people, recovery and confidence building and packages of practical and emotional support, and access to high quality crisis support, accommodation and housing.

Staying Put Freephone helpline is open Monday to Friday, 0808 2800 999.

The National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline is open 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Affordable Legal Services

Staying Put has also recently launched a new service, Affordable Legal Services @ Staying Put, offering legal advice to all victims and survivors of domestic abuse who are not eligible for legal aid. The scheme has been funded by West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Local DBS Support

[Keighley Volunteer Centre](#) can help with [DBS checks](#) done. Contact: admin@keighleyvc.co.uk See also Government guidance, [DBS checks: guidance for employers](#) and details about the [DBS Update Service](#). To receive the DBS quarterly newsletter. Sign up [here](#).

Safeguarding Advice

Young Lives Bradford provide Safeguarding advice to VCS groups working with children and young people in the District. Email us at younglivesbradford@cabad.org.uk