



National Children's
Bureau

Safeguarding Early Adopter Programme March Newsletter

Update from NCB

It has been another busy few weeks for the 17 Early Adopter areas. Nine have now published their arrangements, all of which are available online. The sites that have now published are: [Bexley](#), [Calderdale](#), [Devon](#), [Hertfordshire](#), [North Lincolnshire](#), [Salford](#), [Tameside](#), [Wiltshire](#) and [York](#). All Early Adopter areas expect to publish their arrangements over the next month. All are clear that there will be an ongoing review of the arrangements once they have been published – arrangements are unlikely to remain static and the lessons learned post-publication will be integrated over time.

Sharing good practice nationally

Since the January newsletter NCB has attended, alongside representatives from key agencies in several Early Adopter areas, five regional events hosted by the Department for Education in Derby, Manchester, London, Norwich and Bristol, to support all areas in preparing for the new arrangements. There will be a further event in Newcastle.

The events were well attended by representatives from all three statutory partners as well as other relevant agencies. Feedback from the events suggests there are some common challenges in implementing the new arrangements, particularly in terms of agreeing budgets and resolving questions around contributions from partners; and in terms of governance arrangements, including around questions of information sharing. Some published arrangements include details of the budget and Hertfordshire's publication sets out the contribution from each agency. Areas are using memoranda of understanding to resolve questions around governance; as an example, North Lincolnshire has produced [such a document](#) which clearly sets out policies on information sharing.

It is clear from these events that there is a real focus on the new arrangements leading to improved outcomes for children and young people. Areas are working to embed the voices of children, young people and families into their partnerships in a variety of ways, including as one form of scrutiny; and there are interesting developments in the various approaches taken to independent scrutiny across all areas. Early Adopters have also placed emphasis on effective methods of engaging schools and education organisations in the new arrangements, and examples of two approaches are included in this newsletter.

Future developments

All presentations from the Early Adopters, honing in on several different themes, are available on the NCB website. The next Early Adopter learning and development workshop will be held in April and this will include a workshop from the Office of the Children's Commissioner on their vulnerability framework. Several areas are using the new arrangements as an opportunity to develop new approaches to contextual safeguarding and exploitation and it is likely that there will be useful lessons to be shared across the country.

Learning examples from the Early Adopters

As noted in the January newsletter, these examples of learning in Early Adopter areas are results of work between key stakeholders across all relevant agencies. These blogs and examples of learning are designed to support those responsible for designing and implementing local multiagency safeguarding arrangements. They provide insights into the ways Early Adopter areas have explored new ways of working within the new arrangements.



Two approaches to engaging schools in the new safeguarding structures:

Berkshire West

This learning example examines the work undertaken in Berkshire West to build on existing strengths in engaging schools in safeguarding arrangements. It explains the approach taken to create sub-groups for education organisations, including their involvement in scrutinising the partnership, and various proposals on how the S175/S11 self-assessment process can be adapted within this context.

Hertfordshire

This example details the ways key partners in Hertfordshire have engaged schools in its new arrangements, using a range of incentives including 'Twilight sessions', training, S11 audit, and a theatre production. Hertfordshire has been able to engage with a large number of schools through this process.

Trafford's approach to addressing the challenge of repeat child protection plans where domestic abuse is an identified risk.

Trafford has developed an innovative project led by partners across agencies to commission a specialist domestic abuse intervention, with the aim of reducing the number of repeat child protection plans as a result of concerns about domestic abuse.

Salford's work to evaluate the effectiveness of new safeguarding arrangements, to ascertain how arrangements are impacting on the lived experiences of children and young people.

Includes their Safeguarding Effectiveness Framework.

How the voices of children and young people can be embedded in the new arrangements, and strengthening joint working between partner agencies on the ground.

Tameside has appointed a Children's Independent Advocate, through a recruitment process involving children and young people, to ensure issues identified by children are included in discussions at the executive level. Its Youth Council devised a Voice of the Child Strategy and is delivering training as part of the partnership's multiagency programme. It is also developing a Youth Challenge Panel as part of scrutiny arrangements. The Integrated Neighbourhood Model has been created to support best practice in the way practitioners work together around families, and includes a Team Around the School model.

Developing a holistic approach to safeguarding challenges across children, adult and community services.

With a focus on contextual safeguarding, **Wiltshire's** Vulnerable People Partnership addresses work sitting across children's and adult's services as well as community safety. It has developed a multiagency Vulnerable Adolescents Safeguarding Panel to gather and share intelligence around children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation. This will inform strategy and the operational response. There are various streams of work being undertaken to improve the response to contextual safeguarding.

Other news:

Blog - reflections from Liz Stead, Head of Safeguarding Children for Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group, on merging boards across three areas as part of the new multiagency safeguarding arrangements.

Tools and resources:

Guidance notes for multiagency safeguarding arrangement plans which are consistent across local areas:

North & South Tyne is developing arrangements which cover a large area, incorporating six local authorities, five clinical commissioning groups and one police force. As part of this work, each local authority has committed to developing plans in a consistent format. The partners have created guidance notes to support this work.

Model transition plan to the new arrangements:

A model framework of one approach to planning and transition to the new arrangements, with actions required of each agency.

The Voice of Health in Safeguarding Partnerships:

A briefing from the National Network of Designated Healthcare Professionals on the opportunities in the new arrangements to improve children's health and welfare.

Designated Professionals: Capacity, Deployment and Priorities:

A letter from the NNDHP to clinical commissioning groups on feedback from designated professionals on the new safeguarding arrangements and the ways designated professionals expect to be involved in partnerships.

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