



National Children's
Bureau

Safeguarding Early Adopter Programme June Newsletter

Update from NCB

We are now approaching the deadline for publication of all partnerships' new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements on the 29th June 2019 and are also in the final stages of the Early Adopter programme.

Since the March newsletter, a further six Early Adopter project areas have published their arrangements. They are [Greenwich](#), [Birmingham](#), [Berkshire West](#), [Solihull](#), [Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire](#), and [Trafford](#). The Early Adopter projects are clear that while publication is a significant moment, it does not signify the end of development of arrangements. Over time, and as there are opportunities for evaluation, it may be necessary to revise aspects of these arrangements.

In April, the Early Adopter areas came together for the final learning and development workshop. Discussion included an exploration of the integration of new models to safeguard adolescents (particularly those at risk of exploitation) into arrangements, an overview of a new domestic abuse intervention and links to the domestic abuse bill, and planning next steps for implementation.

Information sharing and governance

One common query about the work of the Early Adopter areas has been around resolving issues of information sharing and governance. While the myth-busting guide to information sharing in Working Together (p. 19) clarifies some of the frequent questions about sharing information, including that the 2018 Data Protection Act does not prohibit the collection and sharing of information, that consent is not always necessary to share information, and that different agencies can share information with each other where appropriate, safeguarding partners may have questions about structures for information governance. Early Adopter areas have taken a number of approaches. Salford and Tameside refer to [pan-Greater Manchester procedures](#), and Salford also has an operational sub-group in its arrangements which leads on information sharing.

Future developments

In the next few weeks, NCB will publish its final evaluation report. This will capture the activity that has taken place in the Early Adopter areas, and will draw on a range of data including a survey, site visits, and interviews. It will provide messages to support other areas in implementing their arrangements, as well as highlighting opportunities and challenges in implementation.

On 27th June, NCB will host a national event to support all areas prepare for the new arrangements. Representatives from Early Adopter areas will present on key aspects of their work as well as facilitate interactive sessions to consider the challenges of implementation. The sessions will be based around a series of principles for effective implementation and will focus on creating robust systems that are not just compliant with the law and guidance, but should also improve outcomes for children and young people. Register for the event online [here](#).



Learning examples from the Early Adopters

As noted in our previous newsletters, 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 multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. They provide insights into the ways Early Adopter partnerships have explored new ways of working within the new arrangements.

Appreciative Inquiry approach

The **Devon** Children and Families Partnership (DCFP) and Research in Practice (RiP) have been working in partnership on a range of resources to support the use of Appreciative Inquiry and Appreciative Conversations as practice approaches to Multi-Agency Safeguarding.

They have also shared learning examples on the approach from a [health](#) perspective and a [police](#) perspective.

Independent Scrutiny

Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham share their learning about independent scrutiny.

Trafford Borough Council (TMBC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), and Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have worked to develop and implement an infrastructure for all-age safeguarding supported and led by a joint Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Board (the 'Board').

The new structure has now been in place since September 2017. In September 2018, a decision was taken by the Board to commission a short independent review of the new arrangements. Following due process, Barnardo's Training and Consultancy were commissioned to provide independent comment upon:

- the effectiveness and impact of the new arrangements,
- whether these had strengthened multi-agency partnerships and,
- how well the new arrangements provide challenge to partner agencies

Embedding a learning approach

Bexley Greenwich and Lewisham share their Learning Hub Model. One of the five priorities chosen by the tri-borough early adopter site (Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham) was to address local practice challenges and specifically to complete the implementation of the Bexley local learning hub, for Lewisham and Greenwich to evaluate the usefulness of the learning hub model and for all three areas to consider roll-out of a hub model across the tri-borough for any future shared priorities.

Salford's Early Adopter Bid included a key theme to improve the way case reviews were undertaken and how learning and impact is understood. This includes cases under the threshold of local practice reviews, but where multiagency learning is evident.

There has been a considerable amount of work undertaken within Salford to achieve the tools that are now in their final draft form ready for implementation.

Birmingham has updated its Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews - Regional Framework and Practice Guidance.

The Black Country is increasing the child death review footprint of the local area, involving multiple local authority areas and NHS organisations.

Aligning policies and procedures across neighbouring areas

Solihull has explored the opportunity afforded by the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to more closely align policies and procedures across neighbouring local authority areas.

Considering progress so far

North Lincolnshire has provided **an overview** of its focus through the Early Adopter programme, including how it has sought to improve outcomes and aspects to be further developed. There is also **an update** on the progress made so far, and **a newsletter** from the partnership.

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.

Update: Wiltshire's data analyst is proving very effective in enabling them to develop a more sophisticated understanding both of individual young people involved in exploitation, whether as victims or perpetrators. They are able to see the networks and connections and in so doing make the approach of the operational team so much more focussed. This can only develop further as their work as a contextual safeguarding site develops.

Tools and resources:

The Home Office has produced **this toolkit** which outlines the various laws and other measures front line practitioners can use to disrupt child exploitation.

Email us: info@ncb.org.uk

LONDON: WeWork London Fields, 115 Mare Street, E8 4RU

BELFAST: The NICVA Building, 61 Duncairn Gardens, BT15 2GB

National Children's Bureau is a charity registered in England & Wales number 258825 and company limited by guarantee number 952717.



**National Children's
Bureau**



**Department
for Education**



**Department
of Health &
Social Care**



Home Office