

# Newsletter: Winter



Welcome to the Winter edition of the LSCB news. Our aim is to provide updates on the activities of the LSCB and the events/information we run to support the work of practitioners/volunteers to do the best for all children in Luton.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter from Luton Safeguarding Children Board. What motivates us all is a shared interest in working together to keep children safe.

In this newsletter, and across the Board's website, there are resources to support all professionals in Luton in this task. However, it's known nationally that what helps keep children safe is the way professionals work together. What we try and do with the Board's work, is to create opportunities for all professionals in Luton to meet and train or take part in bigger events such as conferences, alongside each other. April 2017 sees the first anniversary of Luton joining with the rest of Bedfordshire for safeguarding training. We hope this combined approach has helped you to gain a deeper understanding of each other's roles, and for the future, know who can help you with a complex safeguarding problem that requires more than you, or your team alone can offer. We'll be evaluating the past year's training programme, and if you would like to add any comments to those that you've put on course evaluation forms, please contact the LSCB team in Luton.

The Safeguarding Board's priorities are reflected in training and in the activities of the Board. This year the priorities have been to improve the way we recognise and respond to child neglect in Luton; and how we work together to support and protect children and young people who are missing from a range of settings - from home; from education, and from care. During March the board has organised performances for all year 8 pupils in Luton schools, of the play "Chelsea's Choice" which is about sexual exploitation. This follows very positive feedback from a similar programme last year. Finally, at the end of March, again in line with the Luton Safeguarding Board's priorities, there is a conference for the whole of Bedfordshire on neglect. Places are getting booked up for this, so please register for your place. I look forward to meeting more of you at events during March and beyond.

Best wishes

**Frances Pearson Independent Chair LSCB**

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**MASH** have changed their email to [MASH@luton.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@luton.gcsx.gov.uk)

**LUTON LSCB** We have changed our email to [Lutonlscb@luton.gov.uk](mailto:Lutonlscb@luton.gov.uk)

# LSCB Conference – 19th October 2016

The conference took place at Venue 360 and was well attended by approximately 145 delegates from 19 agencies across Luton. These agencies ranged from Health, Police, Children's Social Care and Early Help & Prevention through to voluntary agencies such as Self Harm UK.

In the morning session, Professor Julie Taylor spoke about two concepts identifying small changes (1% gains) and the 'must never events'. It is planned that a 'must never' list will be written with regards to safeguarding children and young people. Later in the morning, Annie, a safeguarding survivor talked about her experience. The presentation was emotional and thought provoking for all who attended.

The afternoon sessions were about 'Celebrating Success'. The initial part of the afternoon provided short inputs from services on things they do or relevant information. The format of 'Speed Dating' was used. 20 professionals from a variety of services gave short presentations to groups of attendees rotating around the tables. The second element was three presentations on positive developments, Operation Acer, GCP2 and DI Regan who talked about the new structure for police working with Children & Vulnerable People. Again each presentation was informative and well received by those attending and showed excellent examples of agencies working together.

Suggestions for the 'Must Never' Event List would be welcomed, please send any suggestions to:

**[safeguarding@luton.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding@luton.gov.uk)**





# Threshold Events – Autumn 2016

Four half day threshold events were held throughout October and November, 2016. All events were well attended by approximately 188 individuals from 9 agencies across Luton. These agencies ranged from Health, Police, Children's Centres, Early Years, Social Care & ELFT, with some practitioners from the private and voluntary sector.

The events provided key learning and identified that there was wide spread understanding of thresholds across the majority of the practitioners who attended.

Early Help Services were identified as being a positive resource, with the feedback provided being very positive and this has provided practitioners with learning opportunities and continues to improve working relationships.

The event identified that many attendees did not understand the Escalation Policy and believed they had 'escalated' their concerns when in fact this was not the case. It is hoped that following the events, a greater understanding of this policy and its use better and will apply the policy appropriately when the need arises.

## Pan Beds Spotlight on Safeguarding Disabled Children

The 3 LSCBS invited practitioners on the 25th Jan to consider how we could improve the care and safety of disabled children.

David Miller from the NSPCC spoke about national learning derived from OFSTED and others. Carole Brooks spoke to local data about the numbers of disabled children known to organisations.

Discussions across agencies and disciplines flagged up:

The need to understand what was available locally to families

Understanding the role that early help can play

The challenges for MASH teams in understanding some of the complexities that arise in assessing disabled children

Access to appropriate learning and training opportunities

Participants also considered how much was under – reported within the County as they were surprised that currently only 69 disabled children had a child protection plan.

A report will be completed setting out recommendations for the 3 LSCBs and we will make this available once this is ready.

## Pan Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Training Unit

The Pan Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Training Unit provides multi-agency and safeguarding training.

We offer both classroom-based and e-learning opportunities, allowing you to improve your knowledge and skills in a way that best fits into your work schedule.

Face-to-Face	E-Learning
Working Together Module 1 and 2	FGM
Domestic Abuse– Impact on Children and Young People	Child Development
The Impact of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development	Trafficking and Modern Slavery
Core Groups– Roles and Responsibilities– Half Day	Safeguarding– multiple courses available and refreshers
Safer Recruitment for Managers	CSE

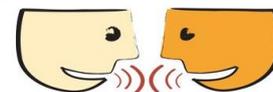
You can find a full range of courses and apply online at:

[www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/safeguarding](http://www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/safeguarding)

To register for the free online safeguarding training visit:

<https://bedfordshirelscb.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/> - Scroll down to register or login.

**e-LEARNING**

## Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Conference

A multi-agency event for professionals from all sectors who work with child and adolescent age groups is being held on:

**Thursday 30th March, 2017**

Time 9.30 – 4.30 (Registration 9.00 – 9.30)

Lunch will be provided

Invited guest speakers are Paula Telford, a National Development Manager for Neglect, working with the NSPCC, and Professor David Shemmings.

Places at this event are limited and therefore please ensure you book your place early. Booking is available via:

<http://www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/safeguarding/cpd/default.asp>



## Luton Graded Care Profile 2 training for Managers

Luton LSCB in collaboration with partners is offering free Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) briefings for managers and supervisors who are undertaking supervision with those staff who have undertaken their training and are therefore licenced to use the GCP2. This is part of a wider programme of work supporting the LSCB priority on neglect

There is a session available from 9:30–16:30. The date and venue is listed below

Venue: Luton Central Library  
Monday 13th March 2017

If you have any queries, please email [LSCB.Training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) if you have any queries or call **0300 300 6676**

## Chelsea's Choice - performances for parents, volunteers and professionals

Chelsea's choice is a theatre production about CSE - Chelsea's story is played out and examined by three students who, along with their teacher, attempt to understand what happened to Chelsea and how it could have been prevented.

It is being performed in Luton high schools and the two evening performances provide a chance for parents, carers, Foster Carers, Professionals (paid or unpaid), volunteers or students involved in work with children, in Luton, the opportunity to hear more about issues within a Luton context and the work that is being undertaken on Child Sexual Exploitation.

**28 February 2017,**  
6pm for a 6.30pm start,  
Luton

**9 March 2017,**  
6pm for a 6.30pm start ,  
Luton

There is no cost for attending but you will need to book a place by emailing us, [Safeguarding@luton.gov.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@luton.gov.uk), providing your name, organisation (if applicable), contact number and number of seats requested

# MASH Update

Over the last few months we've had a number of questions about MASH and as a result we've produced a Frequently Asked Questions document which we will update periodically. So if you have any outstanding queries, please check to see if this document answers your question/s.

## Key messages from the MASH team:

When considering whether to contact the MASH, please check the threshold documents to determine whether the MASH is the appropriate contact for the situation.

- ◆ Once you have assured yourself using the threshold document, then please speak to the safeguarding lead at your organisation before contacting MASH and don't forget where appropriate, you should obtain consent from those with parental responsibility before making a MASH enquiry.
- ◆ In order to fully assess the situation the MASH team needs a full account of the circumstances relating to the child. The safeguarding referral form on the Luton LSCB website covers the information required, so wherever possible please use the form to initiate contact with the MASH

## Information they'll need includes:

- ◆ Clear consent from the person with parental responsibility, unless it would put the child at risk of significant harm to obtain that.
- ◆ a clear account of what you're seeing and hearing that makes you consider the child to be at risk of harm
- ◆ Information on any intervention's which have been attempted and an outline of the work that has already happened with the family to assist with knowing what has previously gone well or not worked.
- ◆ Information on what the parent and, where appropriate, the child thinks about the concerns.

### What's been happening with the MASH?

Since the MASH went live in October, Council staff have been working with partners from other organisations to develop a service that is responsive and coordinated. Initial feedback from a variety of sources shows that on the whole this is being achieved. Remember, MASH is just 3 months old!

The MASH team have been experiencing a high volume of calls and there has been feedback that some people have had difficulty getting through on the phone. Wherever possible, please use the referral form or email the team to ensure the phone lines are kept free for urgent safeguarding situations.

The MASH team have also started to work with the MASH services in both Bedfordshire Borough and Central Bedfordshire to develop coordinated policies and procedures where appropriate. For example, having a similar MASH enquiry form will help colleagues in organisations who work across all three areas, like the Police. This is work in progress and we will update you again at a

### What's happening next?

The second phase of the MASH, which sees the team relocate to the Police station in Luton, is on track to start in April.

There are plans to include drug and alcohol services representation, adult safeguarding, victim support, mental health services and more. Some of these may be virtual links whilst others may have a physical presence in the MASH office.

### Please note change of email to

**[MASH@luton.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@luton.gcsx.gov.uk)**