

Meeting Information

Title:	Notes of the BHR Safeguarding Partnership Meeting
Date:	09 September 2020
Chair:	John Carroll, Detective Superintendent Safeguarding, MPS East Area BCU
Secretariat:	Lesley Perry, Manager, Redbridge SCP & SAB
Venue:	MS Teams

Attendance

Name	Title	Agency
Attendees:		
Elaine Allegretti (EA) (from 15:45)	Director of People and Resilience	LB Barking & Dagenham
John Carroll (JC)	Det. Superintendent Safeguarding	MPS East Area BCU
Caroline Cutts (CC) (for AL)	Operational Director – Children & Families	LB Redbridge
Mark Gilbey-Cross (MGC) (for JH)	Deputy Nurse Director (Acting)	BHR CCGs
Kate Dempsey (KD) for RS	Principal Social Worker (PSW)	LB Havering
Teresa DeVito (TDV)	Head of Service - Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	LB Barking & Dagenham
Lesley Perry (LP)	Partnerships Manager	Redbridge SCP & SAB
Martin Wallace (MW)	Partnerships & Learning Manager	LB Havering
Apologies:		
Adrian Loades (AL)	Corporate Director of People	LB Redbridge
Jacqui Himbury (JH)	Nurse Director	BHR CCGs
Robert South (RS)	Director of Children's Services	LB Havering

Notes

- 1 Welcome**
JC welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received as above. All agencies represented.
- 2 Notes of Previous Meeting – 03 08 2020**
The draft notes of the previous meeting were agreed with the one amendment relating to attendance of RS.
- 3 Action Log 2020 - 2021**
An updated version of the Action Log was presented.
Action 2020/01 - C/F – awaiting confirmation that ToR have been added to B&D SCP and Havering SCP websites.
Action 2020/07 - C/F – awaiting update from AL. Added to October agenda (TBC) and JC added to action.
Action 2020/08 - update provided by JC. Further clarification for timescale to be advised at the next meeting. C/F.

Action 2020/10 – further consideration needed by partners to the recommendations and how they apply. Clarification to be sought with Independent Chair of the Redbridge SCP on required timescale. C/F

Action 2020/11 - considered at meeting and final suite of papers, with branding, etc. to be presented to the October meeting. Content for section on CDR to be added once CDR Manager in post. C/F

Action 2020/16 – Report scheduled to be shared with CDR Manager for consideration once in post. Anticipated first week in November. C/F

4. Update from Partners on Impact and Response to COVID-19

LB Redbridge:

- All schools have reopened and majority of children have returned. The risk assessments completed by schools are generally robust and primary school staff are reminding parents/carers at the start and end of the day to be mindful of social distancing.
- Small increase in COVID-19 cases and two recent deaths, both of which are attributed to community pneumonia rather than COVID.
- Referrals into the MASH are picking up as anticipated, with an increase in the volume going directly to S47 enquiries. Concern around potential backlog of MERLINS. Requested clarification from JC on numbers and what weekends the additional staffing will be implemented so that the MASH can plan.
Action: JC to make enquiries with DCI who oversees the MASHs and advise back to CC, KD and TDV to support planning.

LB Barking and Dagenham:

- Upward trajectory in the number and complexity of child protection referrals resulting in an increase in number of children subject to Child Protection Plans. During lockdown the numbers coming into care had dropped, but that is now beginning to rise to 'normal' levels. Number of missing children remains low.
- Every child that has a positive test for COVID is reviewed to check whether they are known to Children's Social Care.
- All schools are open. However, there have been large numbers of children being sent home following symptom identification and positive testing amongst teachers. Schools have in some cases reverted to the blanket guidance of everyone potentially exposed to self-isolate for two weeks. Some children have now returned following review. Consideration being given as to whether face coverings in secondary schools should be enforced.

LB Havering:

- Number of contacts had gone up but are now steady. CP numbers are not going up. LAC numbers are steady.
- All schools have gone back and lots of planning has been undertaken around outbreak prevention. Expecting a surge in referrals now schools are back.

CCG:

- CDOP Manager and CDOP Administrator post holders have been recruited to and will be in post by the beginning of November.
- Recruitment to the two additional Safeguarding Adults Designated Nurses posts has been completed, with both occupants moving from provider services within the BHR footprint.
- Next focus is to increase resource in the quality assurance section of the Safeguarding Team.
- CAMHS access remains a concern following feedback from GPs and access into IAPS by adults. Commissioning colleagues are working on a project relating to Mental Health Standard Funding. A CAMHS collaborative has been set up by ELFT looking at access to Tier 4 beds across London and leading

work across pre-admission space starting on 01 October. This should provide savings which will be ploughed back into home treatment teams for children. Waiting times for CAHMS in Emergency Departments have been identified due to a variety of reasons and there is another workstream addressing this.

- CCG attendance requested at an Emergency Department Safeguarding Meeting. Waiting to hear more about the purpose of this which is likely to be around the safeguarding children agenda.
- Number of positive tests is rising across BHR but the number of deaths is declining. We may see that begin to rise along with hospital admissions. The message is not to be complacent and to continue with handwashing and use of PPE. Anticipating neuro virus and other flu strains and expectation of a second COVID wave. The CCG is seeking 100% compliance of all staff to have flu vaccines to avoid a potential massive impact across the system.

MPS

- Notting Hill Carnival in operational terms not as challenging as had been anticipated. Significant numbers of unlicensed music events across London but these were dispersed or managed appropriately.
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams are engaging with schools as they return and resources have been reviewed in anticipation of a surge in demand. Daily churn of referrals returning to near normal levels but no significant rise yet.
- Domestic Abuse levels and numbers of children exposed had increased during lockdown. These are still higher than usual. Focus is being given to dealing with DA cases promptly within the first 24 hours which has resulted in improve victim engagement and prosecution rate.
- Guidance around COVID-19 is being reviewed following the government announcement that social gatherings will be restricted from 14 September to six people from no more than two household. The four pillars of the MPS approach remain in place - Engage, explain, encourage and enforce – but there is potential that there may need to be more emphasis on enforcement if social distancing becomes too relaxed.
- Missing children numbers remain low. Pilot programme being proposed which focuses on improving engagement with LAC and care providers by the BCU, particularly with those settings that generate the highest number of missing children reports.

Action 2020/17: JC to hold meeting with RS, AL and EA to take forward.

5. Statutory Responsibilities Table

The table was agreed subject to final confirmation from AL and RS. It now reflects that any delegation of responsibility from the BHR Safeguarding Partnership to local Partnerships is to the Statutory Partners at that level.

Action 2020/18: LP and KD to clear with AL and RS. Document to then be published on local SCP websites.

6. Rapid Review/CSPR

TDV presented the suite of draft documents relating to commissioning and undertaking Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Comments made at the last meeting and subsequent to that had been taken into account. There was now general agreement that decision making should be held by the statutory safeguarding partners at a local level but learning shared across the BHR Safeguarding Partnership and monitoring of progress of reviews, via the tracker. MGC pointed out that the reference to Serious Incidents could be misleading for health colleagues as this term refers to a different internal health process.

Action 2020/19: TDV to review references to SIs and make this clear, using the terminology in Working Together 2018.

Action 2020/20: MW/ LP to compare the Agency request form with those that have been used in LBR and LBH and make any further improvements or developments as appropriate.

Action 2020/21: TDV/MW/LP to work together on finalising the suite of documents and branding for hosting on the local SCP websites.

Action 2020/22: TDV to ask the new CDR Manager will be asked to develop content on the link with the CDR process, including the referral route for consideration of CSPRs to local SCPs.

Action 2020/23: LP to add to the Agenda Forward Plan for the October and November meetings.

The BHR Case Review Tracker had been brought up to date for review and monitoring. Needs to be maintained as a 'live' document.

Action 2020/24: LP to add as a Standing Item to the Agenda Forward Plan.

7. **Response to Recommendations from the Redbridge LSCB SCR Review Report**
The recommendations made in the [Redbridge LSCB Serious Case Review \(SCR\) 'Baby T' Report](#) specifically to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership were presented in table form with actions allocated to each agency. It was agreed that more time was needed to consider the implications for each.

Action 2020/25: any comments to be made to LP between meetings and to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting for sign off.

Action 2020/26: LP to clarify with Independent Chair of the Redbridge SCP any concerns around timescale for taking forward the recommendations.

8. **Adolescent Suicide – Possible Themed Review**

CC provided a brief overview of the case of an adolescent suicide in June, on which a Rapid Review had been undertaken and the report sent to the National Panel. The Panel had agreed with the conclusion made by the local safeguarding partners that a CSPR was not appropriate but encouraged exploration of a themed adolescent suicide review. Partners were asked to consider the value in a review and if there was merit, whether this should be conducted by the Partnership or recommended as an action for CDR.

LP had provided data for the period March 2019 – August 2020 on suicides which involved low numbers. MPS were working on the data they held on suicide attempts but this was problematic as there was no automatic flag and two systems (CAD and MERLIN) had to be interrogated. The rough data set had identified 21 attempts for LBR; 23 for LBH; and 26 for B&D. This data had to be verified. There were also issues with how an attempt was defined and interpreted and also whether they were incidents that happened within BHR but the individual children could live outside of the footprint.

EA supported exploring a themed review and felt that there were significant challenges currently with the mental health services available to adolescents, particularly those experiencing transition from children to adult services. She felt it was worth looking at the 18 – 24 pathway collaboratively. JC agreed that a focus on transition would be worthwhile.

LP advised that NELFT had undertaken a themed review recently across a wider footprint and had identified a trend with young people with ASD. She had asked if the learning could be shared. There was also the learning from the Internal Learning Reviews (ILRs) undertaken in Redbridge on two adolescent suicides last year.

LP advised that the conclusion of the Rapid Review that had instigated the discussion did not find that there were issues with CAHMS service provision offered and transition didn't feature. MW confirmed that neither were these issues in the LBH suicide.

MGC said that the [National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health](#) is likely to have covered issues such as transition, which we wouldn't want to repeat if there is learning there already. He felt that looking specifically at adolescent suicide relating to COVID is too early as we are still in the pandemic.

Action 2020/27: LP/CC to take away and look at whether there are sufficient gaps in learning that could be addressed in a BHR themed review and bring back to the October meeting for a decision.

9. Agenda Forward Plan Update

The current version of the Agenda Forward Plan for the remaining meetings for 2020 – 2021 was reviewed and updated.

10. Any Other Business

- No AOB.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Meeting dates had been agreed as follows:

- 15 October 2020 @ 09:00 – Chair – EA Secretariat Eleanor Parkin (LBBD)

Action 2020/28: dates to be set for the remainder of the year to March 2021 at six weekly intervals by LP/MW/TDV