

Meeting Information

Title:	Notes of the BHR Safeguarding Partnership Meeting
Date:	27 November 2020
Chair:	Adrian Loades, Corporate Director of People, LB Redbridge
Secretariat:	Martin Wallace, Partnerships and Learning Manager, LB Havering
Online Platform:	MS Teams

Attendance

Name	Title	Agency
Attendees:		
Adrian Loades (AL)	Corporate Director of People	LB Redbridge
Elaine Allegretti (EA)	Director of People and Resilience	LB Barking & Dagenham
John Carroll (JC)	Detective Superintendent – Head of Safeguarding	Metropolitan Police East Area BCU
Teresa DeVito (TDV)	Head of Service - Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	LB Barking & Dagenham
Lynne Adams (LA) (for RS)	Head of Quality Assurance	LB Havering
Paul Archer (PA) (for MGC)	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and LAC	BHR CCGs
Eleanor Parkin (EP)	Partnerships and Programmes Manager	LB Barking & Dagenham
Martin Wallace (MW)	Partnerships and Learning Manager	LB Havering
Apologies:		
Robert South (RS)	Director of Children's Services	LB Havering
Mark Gilbey-Cross (MGC)	Deputy Nurse Director	BHR CCGs
Lesley Perry (LP)	Partnerships Manager	Redbridge SCP & SAB

Notes

1 Welcome

AL welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received as above. All agencies were represented.

2 Notes of Previous Meeting – 15 10 2020

The draft notes of the previous meeting, held on 15 October, were agreed.

3 Action Log 2020 - 2021

An updated version of the Action Log was reviewed:

- Action 2020/01 - C/F – awaiting confirmation that ToR have been published on the B&D SCP website.
- 2020/07 – AL has made an approach to the Violence Reduction Unit and a response is still awaited. JC suggested that Jane Corrigan, Detective Superintendent - SO15 Local Operations, be invited to the next meeting.

ACTION 2020/44: D/Sup Jane Corrigan S015 to be invited to the next BHR Safeguarding Partnership meeting.

- 2020/21 – Work on this is continuing.
- 2020/22 – The BHR Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Manager, Jeanette Ford, employed by the CCG, is now in post. Confirmation awaited on how the CDR will link the tri-borough and local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.
- 2020/29 – This has happened. Doug Tanner, Children, YP and Maternity and CAMHS Commissioning Lead, BHR CCG, is arranging a meeting to address this issue at a strategic level in December or January, and will also meet separately with MASH operational leads. Doug will also be invited to the next BHR Safeguarding Partnership meeting.

ACTION 2020/45: Doug Tanner, Children, YP, Maternity and CAMHS Commissioning Lead, BHR CCG to be invited to the next BHR Safeguarding Partnership meeting.

- 2020/30 – As part of central government's uplift of 20,000 Police Officers nationally, returning to 2010 levels, the Metropolitan Police's share is 6,000 Officers, raising the total number from 31,000 to 37,000. Rapid timescales mean that, on a monthly basis, sometimes several hundred officers arrive at once, having completed only part of their training requiring this to continue in the workplace. There is also a general issue about the MPS response to missing people. A continuous improvement framework has been developed, which has highlighted issues around the speed of response and communication with partners. This is currently being addresses.
- 2020/33 – AL will review the list and share it with partners.
- 2020/34 – Mechanisms to deliver this still need to be explored. LB B&D have identified an organisation to deliver some training on mentoring in relation to gangs and serious youth violence linked to terrorism and extremism. Havering receives no funding from the Home Office, but perhaps B&D and Redbridge could share. LB Redbridge uses Ground Works for this.

ACTION 2020/46: AL to ask that Anna Watson, Manager of Specialist Services to Exploited Children, LBR, to co-ordinate a meeting between the respective borough leads for this piece of work to explore how it can be progressed across the BHR footprint.

- 2020/40 – The letter to the Home Office has now been sent. No response received as yet.

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

BHR CCG

PA: The biggest ongoing impact is in terms of young people and their mental health. There continues to be a rise in the number of cases presenting, some in acute crisis and requiring mental-health beds, of which there is a national shortage. This can result in extended stays on the children's ward, which is not an appropriate environment. However, since this is a national issue, it is difficult to resolve locally.

LB Barking & Dagenham

TDV: A large backlog of cases in care proceedings has built up because of COVID-19. Referrals and contacts are almost back to levels that would normally be expected. An expected spike in referrals once schools reopened did not occur, although there has been an increase in physical chastisement as a feature of referrals. Staff fatigue is worsening as an issue, owing to the varying demands that working from home can bring. The track and trace system has led to significant numbers of staff having to self-isolate.

Met Police East Area BCU

JC: Despite the second lockdown, crime levels have continued to normalise. Both the volume and nature of calls suggests that this lockdown has been responded to differently than the first. Schools being open will have contributed to that, but other indicators such as traffic volume suggest that things are normalising. There still appears to be an under-reporting of CSA and CSE, with opportunities to exploit children appearing to have shifted online and become harder to detect. Domestic abuse has increased by 24% across the BHR footprint, split evenly between the three boroughs over the over the summer. This increase has since decreased, but remains at around 9% compared to the same period last year. The Victim profile is now different, including more instances of first-time reporting. There seems to be an increased level of violence, intimidation and coercion. Positively, the East Area BCU is ahead of all the other twelve BCUs when outcome rates for victims are measures. B&D, Havering and Redbridge account for 26% of all DVPN notices issued by the Police. The current focus is on making arrests and dealing with offences within 24-hour period, and to place additional resources within Community Safety Units. The Police have worked with all three Boroughs to be more timely and agile. The East Area BCU is also seeing a high prevalence of officer fatigue. The number of unlicensed music events involving children has taken up resources. Currently, 13% of all Officers are unable to work due to isolation or sickness.

LB Havering

Like Barking & Dagenham, Havering's contacts haven't increased as anticipated, although domestic abuse referrals have increased in complexity and severity. There has also been a similar increase in physical chastisement, and generally more red-rated referrals. Staff fatigue and sickness is also an issue in Havering, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to appoint agency workers. In schools, the number of COVID-19 positive test results for staff and children doubled week on week for last three weeks. Case have stabilised this week but continue to have an impact on schools' ability to operate. Four schools in Havering are currently closed, all having moved to remote learning. Staff fatigue and sickness is also a growing issue in schools.

LB Redbridge

The current picture in Redbridge is similar to those described elsewhere. Referrals did spike during the week that schools went back, with mental health an increasing factor, especially involving children not previously known to the service. Poverty has also been a prominent feature, with some parents stating that they have been unable to feed their children. The number of open court proceedings has been increasing, owing to there being no flow through the court system. There are the same issues around the fatigue in the work force. After good levels of sickness absence during the first lockdown, during the second more workers have had to self-isolate. This reflects the higher rate of COVID-19 cases in North-East London and Essex, where most staff live. There has been an issue around the referrals received from the Home Office in relation to the Family Resettlement Scheme – as many as four per day recently. A meeting with the Home Office is planned to explore this, as many of the referrals do not feature safeguarding issues, or even private fostering arrangements, and this is causing pressure on the MASH. Redbridge recently had three cases of attempted suicide of young people who were inpatients at the time: two in Brookside Hospital and one at the Priory. This has been escalated to MGC.

EA: It would be helpful if concerns raised by one borough with the CCG about facilities shared by all three boroughs could be fed back to all three.

AL: Mark's responses was that none of the three incidents appeared to warrant a Rapid Review, although there seemed to be some issues relating to the availability of ligatures at the facilities.

EA: An issue arose recently in Barking & Dagenham where a seven-year-old child had an emotional outburst at school following a change of placement overnight. Staff at the school called CAMHS, who advised them to call the Police, who attended. It feels like schools calling 999 if CAMHS can't attend may not be the best way to de-escalate situations like that, and this was the second time something like this has happened.

ACTION 2020/47: EA to share details of this incident involving Police attending a school to help manage a seven-year-old child at the advice of CAMHS with JC and PA so that this can be explored from a health and police point of view. Item on to be included on the Agenda Forward Plan for the next meeting agenda so that an update can be provided and consideration given to any system-wide responses required across BHR.

5. Multi-Agency Audit – Adolescent Suicide

TDV: Lynne Adams (Havering), Judy Daniels (Redbridge) and TDV (B&D met to discuss the audit and it became clear that delivering it will be a complex challenge. One task is to scope the audit very carefully and ensure it remains within an achievable range for all three boroughs. The current proposal is to look at five cases of suicidal ideation or intent and follow them through the system to evaluate professional responses and knowledge. It was agreed that Redbridge would draft the audit tool and circulate it to B&D and Havering for further development.

ACTION 2020/48: AL to chase Judy Daniels for the draft tool for the tri-borough multi-agency case audit on Adolescent Suicide.

LA: The meeting also considered the timing of the audit, with Sue Nicholls (Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and LAC for Redbridge) also attending and advising on the impact of completing the audit on health services and ensuring practitioner engagement, both in terms of volume and quality. Further planning work is required to ensure that the audit is as effective as possible.

AL: Arrangements appear to be in place to take this forward.

6. Sir Alan Wood Review of new multi-agency arrangements

EA & AL: B&D and Redbridge have not yet submitted responses to Sir Alan Wood's survey on the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

TD attended Sir Alan's recent webinar on the progress of his review and it appears that he may already have reached some firm conclusions.

AL: Sir Alan may have some curiosity about arrangements in BHR owing to the unusual two-tier system. The report recently published by Redbridge's Independent Scrutineer has made some criticism the arrangements, but also acknowledges the

challenges of COVID. One thing he has pointed out is the lack of independent scrutiny at the BHR level, which places it outside the expectations of the national framework. It is suggested that respective scrutineers will share their findings on the individual local SCPs and advise this group about the impact of multi-agency audits across the shared footprint. Sir Alan has said he would like Ofsted to become involved in monitoring multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

TD: During his webinar, Sir Alan talked about arrangements for independent scrutiny and presented the challenge of whether some partnerships, as he phrased it, 'have old wine in new bottles', meaning a continuation of the obsolete Independent Chair role. More than the arrangements themselves, Sir Alan appears to be interested in what impact they are having.

EA: B&D's previous LSCB Independent Chair has retired and is about to depart. The independent scrutiny role is about to be advertised and, it is hoped, will be recruited to by January, through a campaign led by young people. B&D have de-professionalised the role and are seeking someone with lived experience in the borough. Once the post is filled, B&D would support some collaborative work between the respective scrutineers for the three boroughs.

AL: This will be the plan going forward.

JC: There is evidently a frustration from politicians that the new arrangements were designed to achieve radical change but have resulted in a process of evolution rather than revolution. The current guidance allows for much more local autonomy for arrangements, which clashes somewhat with the political imperative to deliver arrangements that are radically different from LSCBs. The JTAI inspection will measure the impact of the effectiveness of the arrangements, rather than whether they conform to political expectations.

AL: It is important to demonstrate a 'golden thread' running from the discussions held within this forum and practice at a local level. It does not feel like the current arrangements are fundamentally off course, or that there should be concern if they do not fully confirm to Sir Alan's expectations.

EA: Discussions within this forum are influenced by case work, evidenced by the agenda for today's meeting. It feels like a boardroom with a clear line of sight to frontline practice. Sir Alan could be provided with examples of this if required.

AL: This group will proceed in its current arrangements with confidence.

7. LAC placed in BHR area by other Local Authorities

AL: Attempts are still underway to pursue this. Obviously, the current arrangements for other authorities placing LAC in the BHR area has implications for both health services and the Police. The notification process needs to be improved, and to highlight areas of risk for particular children and young people, especially with regard to vulnerability to exploitation. It is hoped that a meeting to address this can be convened in December.

ACTION 2020/49: AL to feedback on this issue to the next meeting.

TDV: This work needs to have reference to the recommendations made by the Children's Commissioner in several recent reports. In B&D, children from other Local Authorities have been placed in 16+ units that are completely unregulated, and the first time their presence in the borough has become known to local services was in response to a concerning incident, such as something that would prompt a LADO referral.

8. Briefing on Havering Rapid Review – TQ

PA delivered a briefing on the Rapid Review conducted by the Havering local SCP June, based on the following information [presentations removed]:

JC: Further information was provided to the Havering SCP in October regarding the child's cause of death. Tests undertaken at the post-mortem all indicate that nothing suspicious occurred. The only test that remains outstanding is a glucose test, which typically takes longer, to determine whether a diabetic episode was a contributory factor in her death. As soon as the result is available, the Havering SCP will be advised.

LA: The learning from this Rapid Review raises questions about how professionals approach dramatically overweight children and young people, for example how different the response can be to that of a child being underweight. Professional responses to this issue can be very subjective. It feels like the approach used to undertake this review in Havering has been good, and the resulting learning has challenged thinking within the local partnership.

EA: It feels like this issue is something that could be explored across the BHR footprint so that a co-ordinated tri-borough response can be considered. This year, the Black Lives Matter movement has generated work with help colleagues around obesity, which is a significant challenge in Barking & Dagenham. In some areas of the borough, 60% of adults are obese, which obviously has an impact on children. In a previous authority, a child was taken into care because of an obesity issue. It would be interested to explore the possibility of a pathway to services to support with this across the tri-borough footprint, as data suggests it is an increasing problem.

TDV: Obesity is underreported as a child safeguarding issue.

PA: It was certainly underreported in the case investigated through Havering's Rapid Review. There is work to be done on professional recognition of child obesity as a safeguarding issue.

EA: Parental inaction is an issue here.

TDV: Health input into CIN meetings and other multi-agency forums is key here.

AL: It would be helpful to consider which of the recommendations from Havering's resulting from Havering's Rapid Review could be implemented across the BHR footprint as a whole. Some very clear processes changes have been recommended, for example around health professionals explicitly explaining the potential risks to the child. This would be an opportunity for professional development relevant to the entire tri-borough footprint.

PA: As detailed in the appendices of the briefing document, NELFT (North East London NHS Foundation Trust) is leading on the obesity pathway work in Havering and therefore it will be extended across the BHR footprint.

ACTION 2020/50: TDV to deliver PA's presentation on Havering's Rapid Review on TQ to relevant groups in LBB, and AL to share it with colleagues in LBR.

PA: Is there an opportunity to join up some of the work currently being done on neglect both locally within the three boroughs and across the wider BHR footprint?

TDV: The Care Profile 2 training is already being rolled out in Barking & Dagenham and a new neglect strategy is being developed.

EA: Barking & Dagenham's new neglect strategy needs to reflect this use of child obesity. One challenge to co-ordinating the work on neglect happening in the three local boroughs is that each is at in a different place on this issue. For example, the case belonging to Barking & Dagenham that will be presented at the next BHR Safeguarding Partnership meeting is much more complex and encompasses far more wide-ranging neglect issues.

LA: Havering are currently updating their neglect strategy and tools, with a particular focus on body identity and providing professionals with prompts to consider this. Local health partners are closely involved in the work.

AL: There is much useful system learning from the case reviewed by Havering that has relevance across the entire tri-borough footprint, and all three individual areas will join up as much as possible in responding to it.

ACTION 2020/51: PA ask NELFT to link in with safeguarding leads from each of the three BHR boroughs regarding the obesity pathway currently in development.

10. Audit to monitor compliance with mental health pathway for children and young people in BHRUT

EA: There has been a spike in the number of cases of children and young people presenting to Emergency Departments with acute mental health difficulties. A similar challenge has been reported by Kent in their recent review paper. Mark Gilbey-Cross was due to provide this group with assurance that the escalation process is working across the BHR footprint.

PA confirmed that the escalation process is working and that Emergency Department staff are referring to their safeguarding teams appropriately, which is being escalated up to the CCG as required.

EA: There remains an issue of whether concerns are being escalated from the CCG to the local authority.

AL: This needs to feed into the work Doug Tanner is doing.

EA: Doug already attends a relevant assurance group.

AL: There was a suggestion at the last meeting to look at the work done by Kent on this issue and consider whether BHR had an adequate response to young people with suicidal ideation.

EA: There was also a suggestion to turn the work done by Kent into an audit tool.

ACTION 2020/48 (see above): AL to ensure that the tool being developed by Judy Daniels for the multi-agency audit reflects the Kent review of Adolescent Suicide

AL: A conclusion of the audit was that the mental health protocol was not adhered to in large numbers of cases.

PA: This conclusion was from an older audit. Assurance has since been received that cases are now being escalated appropriately.

ACTION 2020/45: Doug Tanner, Children, Young People and Maternity and CAMHS Commissioning Lead, BHR CCG, to be invited to the next BHR Safeguarding Partners meeting.

11. BHR Case Review Tracker

There have been no updates to the case tracker since the last meeting.

12. Agenda Forward Plan – was noted as reported with the addition of the following agenda items to be scheduled as raised in the meeting:

1. Det Sup Jane Corrigan to be invited to the next meeting for an item on the development of work between the partnership and the Violence Reduction Unit.
2. Doug Tanner, Children, YP and Maternity and CAMHS Commissioning Lead, BHR CCG, to be invited to the next meeting for an item on the system response to child and adolescent mental health.
3. Update on tri-borough multi-agency case audit on Adolescent Suicide.
4. Learning from the Barking & Dagenham neglect case (BS) to be presented at the next meeting.
5. Update (from EA, PA and JC) on case in Barking & Dagenham involving Police attending a school to help manage a seven-year-old child's mental health crisis at the suggestion of CAMHS.
6. Update (from AL) on work done to address issue of vulnerable young people being placed in the BHR area by other local authorities without sufficient notification.

13. AOB

EA is chair of the BHR Transformation Board, one purpose of which is to promote relationships with colleagues in NELFT. There been exploration of services and opportunities available to looked after children and care-experienced young people, and consideration given to a providing a minimum offer for this cohort. There has also been consideration of a personalisation approach that would equip those leaving care at 18 with a personal budget. Would the Partnership be happy for this concept to be explored further?

AL: Yes, this work can only help with broadening the range of opportunities for this cohort. Incidentally, BHRUT (Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge NHS

Hospital Trust) recently provided a Redbridge young person with work experience in a fracture clinic because they had specifically asked for it.

14. Dates of Future meetings via MS Teams

- 12 February 2021 @ 10:00
- 26 March 2021 @ 14:00

ACTION 2020/52: The meeting currently scheduled for January to be cancelled to assist with local responses to safeguarding issues arising over the holiday period.