

Meeting Information

Title:	Notes of the BHR Safeguarding Partnership Meeting		
Date:	26 March 2021	Time:	14:00 – 16:00
Chair:	Mark Gilbey-Cross, Deputy Nurse Director, BHR CCGs		
Secretariat:	Eleanor Parkin, Partnerships and Programmes Manager, LBBD		
Online Platform:	MS Teams		

Attendance

Name	Title	Agency
Attendees:		
Mark Gilbey-Cross (MGC) (Chair)	Deputy Nurse Director	BHR CCGs
John Carroll (JC)	Det. Supt. Public Protection	East Area, BCU, MPS
Kate Dempsey (KD)	Principal Social Worker	LB Havering
Teresa DeVito (TDV)	Head of Service - Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	LB Barking & Dagenham
Adrian Loades (AL)	Corporate Director of People	LB Redbridge
Robert South (RS)	Director of Children's Services	LB Havering
Eleanor Parkin (EP) (Notes)	Partnerships and Programmes Manager	LB Barking & Dagenham
Lesley Perry (LP)	Partnerships Manager	Redbridge SCP & SAB
Martin Wallace (MW)	Partnerships and Learning Manager	LB Havering
Guests: N/A		
Apologies:		
Elaine Allegretti (EA)	Director of People and Resilience	LB Barking & Dagenham
Jemma Breslin (JB)	Business Manager	B&D MA Safeguarding Children Partnership

Notes

- Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**
MGC welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received as above. All agencies were represented.
- Notes of Previous Meeting – 12 February 2021**
The notes of the meeting held on 12 February 2021, were agreed.
- Action Log 2020 – 2021**
An updated version of the Action Log was reviewed as follows, it was agreed that completed actions should be removed from the action log;

- 2020/01 - Updates had been made to B&D SCP website pages, ToR for the BHR Safeguarding Partnership were published. closed
- 2020/08 - Prevent Referral Form – under formal pilot in one London Borough. Issues still being considered by the Working Group. C/F
- 2020/17 - Work with Care Homes LAC going missing – process undergone one round of meetings, the care settings are fairly fluid. There is a reduction of the number of people reported missing and the Police are working through analysis. C/F.
- New action 2021/65: Police note that Missing was defined as anyone who's location was not known. The associated risks with people who go missing are important factors. YP were not missing but associated risk was reported. There was a need to refresh and reassure colleagues in the MET Police to distinguish between missing and vulnerability cases. The MET Police to consider a national definition, to be able to make referrals for vulnerability and risk.
- 2020/21 –Case Review documents for BHR – EP had completed branding, logos etc. and circulated latest version for publication on local SCP websites. The Child death review process is to be added to the suite of documents after the process had been confirmed by the CDR Manager C/F
- 2020/22 – CDR referral route for CPSR and link to Rapid Reviews – delayed due to CDR Manager secondment. B&D SCP local meeting agreed to invite Jeanette Ford to the next meeting, TDV had already spoken to Jeanette to provide the explanation C/F
- 2020/33 - League Table shared at a meeting. AL to follow up via e-mail. C/F.
- 2020/40 – Redbridge SCR Baby T. Response received from NHSE. Await response from the Home Office and the HO letter would be reviewed by the BHR SCP once received. C/F.
- 2020/46 - Gangs and serious youth violence cross borough working - AL to chase Anna Watson to take forward discussions locally. C/F
- 2020/51 – response awaited from Paul Archer who is on secondment. LP to follow up again. C/F
- 2021/53 – TDV, LP and MW met 17 March to review partnership achievements, dynamics with local SCPs, reflections on any scrutiny and consider development of an annual report. Closed.
- 2021/54 – Referral numbers on pre-birth and under 1 year, any serious incidents and rises in incidents of neglect/abuse – LA data from the 3 boroughs was circulated. Closed.
- 2021/55 Multi agency audits – TDV provided an update at the meeting. Closed.
- 2021/56 Conversation to take place regarding capacity of Interact, or other solution, for support to schools. C/F
- 2021/57 LBBB restraint escalation policy to be shared. C/F
- 2021/58 Provision of Section 136 data relating to schools if possible – John Carroll to raise with Gordon Henderson C/F
- 2021/59 – on agenda – closed.
- 2021/60 – Regarding placements out of borough, there had not been an opportunity to feed into the national independent review of children's social care as of 26 March 2021. C/F
- 2021/63 – following the DV-Flag report presented at the meeting on 26 March, Hazel North-Stephens had responded by email. Havering and Redbridge agreed affirmative to say will be supportive of the proposal. Requested further clarity and would update at the next meeting. C/F

4. **Update from Review meeting held 17 March 2021**

RS gave a verbal update of what was discussed at the informal Review meeting, noting it had been an appreciative enquiry to contextualise circumstances encountered over the last 12 months, and how it had worked through our own individual agencies. Much had been achieved and there was a need to tighten up what the BHR SCP was doing; to focus on how the BHR meetings and processes tie into local arrangements. Processes were to be strengthened by reviewing the current Terms of Reference and business planning of the BHR meetings going forward to ensure it would be aligned to current priorities. A closer alignment between the BHR meetings and the local Independent Scrutineers was desired, to ensure sufficient scrutiny of the BHR meetings.

Reporting mechanisms for the annual report needed to come together. RS advised that the Review meeting had agreed for some work to be taken forward by the representatives on the BHR group, tying into the BHR priorities and the priorities of local partnership meetings. Shared learning was noted as good and identifying shared auditing needed further work. The BHR partnership should be the senior partner driving what was happening at a local, individual borough level.

MGC noted there were open and transparent relationships across the partnership and the key outcome was to take the BHR partnership forward and identify areas to build on with the current arrangements. RS had had discussions locally and it was proposed that the Business Managers should come together to review current work and the business plan, reflecting the local authorities represented and contained within local work plans and priorities. They were to look at reviewing the ToR and align with scrutiny, tighten up some of the disciplines of this group on its role, purpose and function.

Membership of the BHR group is to be clarified, noting Teresa and Kate's contributions, as Leads on Safeguarding children, had been very valuable.

Action 2021/65: Propose appointing the principle social worker from Redbridge to the BHR membership to ensure consistency of representation across the 3 boroughs. (AL to action)

Action 2021/66: The Business Managers to work with the Independent Scrutineers to involve them in the next steps, with the emphasis on constructive input, to review the ToR of the BHR partnership, focus on the key objectives based on local need and produce a reviewed ToR and work plan of the BHR group. (LP, MW and EP to action)

Action 2021/67: A high level cover report was required to meet the requirement for an Annual Report of the BHR Partnership, as per the guidance set out in Working Together. The annual report would include an element of reflection of the 3 annual reports summarising the achievements and was to be endorsed by the BHR Partnership. Business managers and Independent Scrutineers to discuss taking forward producing an annual report.

Action 2021/68: In lieu of the appointment of a new Independent Scrutineer at Barking and Dagenham, TDV as representative from B&D, would attend the meeting with the Scrutineers and business managers to help build a process for next year with the Independent Scrutineers.

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

BHR CCG

The Designated Nurse continued to provide the back-up base while other Designated Nurses had been redeployed to frontline work for covid-19. Those that had been redeployed had one day a week minimum to catch-up with safeguarding. Practicing clinicians remained working on safeguarding. The CCG was moving back to business as usual from week commencing 22 March 2021 and the safeguarding business as usual had continued throughout.

In terms of the impact on primary care – the focus was on the vaccination programme. BHRUT referrals and specialities had dropped, it was anticipated they would pick up again as people now started to feel more confident.

RS queried access to vaccinations and how the guidance had been implemented, whether a small number of GP practices had contacted a handful of specific schools, which could, for instance, cause discord among other providers. MGC noted he would be surprised to hear if schools had been approached as the local authority would need to follow up with the CCG, which in turn would need to act accordingly.

LB Redbridge

Had a gruelling 2 weeks in terms of activities, level of referrals had doubled, a lot more Domestic Violence was being disclosed and mental health need, including high end LAC cases. Increase in suicidal ideation was being seen, which had been seen when lockdown eased previously and then it tailed off, hopeful it would do so again.

RS asked if there had been an increase in early help and universal plus, it was noted that everything went into the MASH, including below threshold.

LB Barking and Dagenham

TDV reported an increase through the front door, including high needs and disabilities. A rise in expensive residential placements had been seen because of the mental health factor in older adolescents.

Seminars with frontline practitioners had been held to dispel some of the myths around vaccinations. An increase in frontline face to face meetings was starting to be seen and the lift in shielding meant more people were being put forward for vaccinations and there was a need to dispel anti-vac messages.

Virtual working had transformed the way we work; resilience of staff had been celebrated constantly, although tiredness was creeping in.

BHR BCU MET Police

There was a continued decrease in the overall level of crime reported. The decrease had shrunk and was approximately at 10%. Crime levels were projected to normalise across the 3 boroughs as lockdown relaxed. The notable exception was Domestic abuse (DA) – the increase had decreased; previously at the early stages of lockdown there had been a 25% increase across the 3 boroughs. Now it was at 12% increase, which was still a significant amount of crime.

Police services were unpicking the reasons for the decrease which happened just before the last lockdown. There were 164 people missing last month. In December 2019 there were 3 times more people missing in a month than there were now. This was in some part because of the pandemic, but it was not accountable for all. There

was an issue of identifying what is a missing person and what the police response should be. Partners and colleagues were trying to communicate about the risk, where the location was known, as crucially it was about the risk, and the risk is what should be communicated.

There was an increase in the number of child abuse referrals to the police since children returned to schools, particularly noted in Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham. JC was looking across other BCUs to see if the same pattern was happening elsewhere.

An increase in adults referred and assessed as vulnerable had been seen, with merlins for adults last month at 846. This was down from the overall high of over 1,000 since August. The Police were meeting more people who were vulnerable, and less crime was being committed.

There was a rigorous process to ensure no queue-jumping for the vaccine for Police staff, whilst also ensuring the opportunity was not wasted for frontline staff to be vaccinated. Sickness levels were low at 4%.

The protests and issues over the summer had challenged the Police and they had been rocked by the death of Sarah Everard, as it looked as though he had used a warrant card to lure her into his car. The MET response had angered some officers who had been upset at being represented in that way. Organisationally, they were dealing with the fallout and how to respond. There was fair criticism of the MET's response, and the issue was also within the organisation about how staff are supported to respond.

LB Havering

RS noted the BLM campaign had seen social unrest. The key fact was that the virus had not hit all of us the same, there was a disproportionality issue. The way in which we support residents and use Early Help and universal plus services, where BAME communities were often under-represented in accessing support, should be a focus for this group. The wider issues would be good to be looked at by the BHR partnership as a collective.

Action 2021/69 – Health inequality and impact of covid-19 on safeguarding across a range of protective characteristics is to be included in the work plan for the BHR Safeguarding Children Partnership.

6. Partnership Priority: Children and Young People's Mental Health

6.1 Update: Multi-Agency Audit – Adolescent Suicide Ideation

TDV reported that Judy Daniels, Sue Nichols, Lynn Adams, Gordon Henderson and Teresa DeVito had put an audit tool in place and identified CYP at risk of suicide and suicidal ideation. 5 cases would be chosen from each borough and summary sheets had gone out to respective agencies. It would be for the agencies to complete the sheets and the audit would be conducted by 6 May 2021 followed by a round table discussion.

MGC commended this as an excellent piece of work.

AL asked if it would be agreeable to take 5 cases from health to include in the audit, as young people come into the health system that then go through to safeguarding. The audit would then close any concern and test thresholds to track them from health into the local authority.

Action 2021/70 – TDV agreed to have a conversation with Sue Nichols at Redbridge, for Sue to take up the request with Daniela Capasso to include 5 cases from health in the audit of adolescent suicide ideation.
MGC gave his support to include cases from health in the audit.

7. Outcomes, Feedback and Learning from Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Learning from LBBN Neglect Case

TDV gave a presentation on the findings from a Neglect case at LBBN. The family was found through a routine audit of children presenting at legal planning meetings. A lot of work had already been done to move forward on the resulting findings from the case review.

A summary of the background highlighted that it was absolutely tragic that this level of impact had happened in 2020-21. The amount of contact with services the family had, there was a lack of communication and escalation.

LP asked about the voice of the older children. There had been presentation at 2 MARAFs that had gone to early help services. A lot of the focus was on Mum with learning difficulties but not on the children or extended family.

E A asked for an assurance exercise from all partners, it was difficult for agencies to say categorically that there were no other such cases. Neglect was subjective and EH practitioners found it a challenge to call out neglect; vulnerability of the whole family should be seen, not just the children.

RS commented that we keep seeing neglect cases like this one and with poverty and deprivation we are likely to see this more going forward. He thanked TDV for the presentation noting that it encouraged all to take something meaningful into our work plans going forward.

AL noted there had been very similar cases in Redbridge, when looked at professionally the question time and again was why it did not progress and where was the Dad? The cumulative effect of neglect and the point of time of interventions, with how do we get better at spotting issues and regular intervention. Repeat referrals were the frightening factor.

TDV responded that there were always going to be families that dipped below the 'good enough' line. KD noted neglect would always be with us and awareness needed to be at all levels in all agencies. A tolerance of neglect was built over time, for example in schools social workers get too optimistic as they see progress for a family, but still neglect was subjective. Working with parents, there is a need to understand their capacity and the children's needs, to have an awareness to catch people before they fall.

LP reported Redbridge used a neglect toolkit that helped to give confidence to workers and family support workers, however everyone needed to be using it otherwise neglect may not be flagged elsewhere.

Action 2021/71 – The BHR group agreed it would like to see recommendations from the LBBN Neglect case and assurance exercise to understand what could be done jointly across BHR to address this.

- 8. Response to attacks by patients on staff and patients at Goodmayes Hospital**
JC provided a verbal update on the work to support staff and colleagues assaulted by patients, and/or patients assaulted by other patients at Goodmayes. Offences were not always being reported and the challenges were around capturing allegations. Patients who were also victims of crime taken to care facilities under section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

An ongoing conversation between the MET Police and Goodmayes was to develop and agree a set of protocols to be implemented. Key elements would be in improving the response to the victim as a member of staff, which were not being reported previously, normalising occurrence. The Police were working with Goodmayes staff to be better able to capture allegations. Building staff confidence that the response would be effective had also been helped by Goodmayes' positivity to engage for improvement. They had recruited a retired superintendent as the head of security which had helped with collaboration and were allowing an evidential package to be developed to help support and understand staff needs, as well as the needs of patients.

The ability to secure evidence, principally through CCTV, working with the hospital to gain access and working with colleagues in care settings, allowed for mutual escalation and challenge.

MGC asked whether this work was specific to mental health NHS provision and what was the level of crime against BHRUT and other providers. JC responded that the focus had been specifically on Goodmayes and the issues and challenges of level of criminality in that facility. Officers assaulted and abused had been normalised, now a much stronger stance and challenge was being taken.

JC gave an example of where 6 vulnerable adults were victims of crimes, in reviewing the system it would be a mandatory tick box to say whether an adult was vulnerable or not. There was an inability to recognise and respond to vulnerability. The assessment of vulnerability had been linked to age, but it needed to be more nuanced and include non-visible vulnerabilities.

9. BHR Case Review Tracker

The content of the tracker was noted, and AL reported that an addition would be included following a meeting at 4pm about a rapid review.

10. Agenda forward plan was noted.

11. AOB

Elaine Allegretti was nominated to chair the next meeting on 7 May 2021 @14:00-16:00