



Berkshire Online Children Partnership Procedures Newsletter – September 2023

The Berkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedure Manual sets out the responsibilities, guidance, and processes for all agencies to follow to safeguard children and promote effective inter agency working as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children and other safeguarding guidance including Keeping Children Safe in Education. These procedures can be found [here](#), and this newsletter relates to information and updates to these Berkshire wide procedures.

In addition, there are separate local authority-based Children's Services Manuals which set out the responsibilities, guidance, and processes for Children's Services to follow in their role. This covers from the point of referral, children in need, child protection, children coming into care, children leaving care, fostering and adoption as well as a range of other responsibilities set out in the Children Act 1989 and other areas of legislation and statutory guidance. Links to those manuals can be found on page 2.

Updated Core Procedures – September 2023

Responding to Abuse and Neglect – This chapter was amended and should be re-read. New information was added on Technology Assisted Abuse, Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment. See full procedure [here](#)

Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers who Work with Children - This chapter was amended and should be re-read. Information was added on Recording Low level Concerns and - responding to allegations relating to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using the school premises for the purposes of running activities for children. The section on [Police Bail](#) was also updated. See full procedure [here](#)

Organised and Complex Abuse - Managing Abuse Allegations Affecting a Multi-site Organisation Guidance (Pan Berks SCP) was added in Relevant Guidance. See guidance and full procedure [here](#)

Information Sharing - Information in relation to the Serious Violence Duty was added into [Section 5, National Guidance in Information Sharing](#). See full procedure [here](#)

Updated Safeguarding Practice Guidance – September 2023

Children Affected by Gang Activity, Criminal Exploitation and Youth Violence - Information in relation to Serious Violence Reduction Orders was added into [Section 4, Protection and Action to be Taken](#). See full procedure [here](#)

Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation - Information in relation to the National Age Assessment Board was added into [Section 1.2.1, Age Assessments](#). See full procedure [here](#)

Children with Disabilities - This chapter was updated to include information from the [UK Social Work Practice in Safeguarding Disabled Children and Young People report](#). See full procedure [here](#)



Faith Related Harmful Practice - This chapter was amended and should be re-read. Information on children abused for the purpose of removal of demons or possessions who often display 'particular and significant' signs of abuse was added into [Section 3, Indicators](#). See full procedure [here](#)

Forced Marriage - This chapter was amended and should be re-read. Information was modified to reflect that the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 raised the age of marriage and civil partnership to 18 in England and Wales, with effect from 26 February 2023. See full procedure [here](#)

Self Harm and Suicidal Behaviour - This chapter was updated in September 2023 to include information from [Self-harm: Assessment, Management and Preventing Recurrence NICE Guidance](#). See full procedure [here](#)

Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements (Roles and Responsibilities) – September 2023

Agency Roles and Responsibilities – This chapter was refreshed and should be re-read. A link was added to Matters of Concern, Safeguarding Concerns, Allegations and Complaints for Children in Custody – Youth Custody Service (Youth Justice Resource Hub) into [Section 4.8, The Secure Estate for Children](#). A new [Section 6, Serious Violence Duty](#) was also added. See full procedure [here](#)

Guidance for Safe Recruitment, Selection and Retention for Staff and Volunteers - This chapter was amended in line with revised Keeping Children Safe in Education. [Section 4.5, Application Form](#) was updated to note that Keeping Children Safe in Education provides that schools and colleges should only accept copies of a curriculum vitae alongside an application form. A curriculum vitae on its own will not provide adequate information. Information in relation to online searches was added into [Section 4.6, Scrutinising and Shortlisting](#). See full procedure [here](#)

Resolving Professional Difference of Opinion and Escalation - The Pan Berkshire Resolving Professional Difference of Opinion and Escalation Policy was updated and should be re-read. See full procedure [here](#)

Additional Information

Social Care Review Information - [Social Care Review Link in Procedures](#)

Safeguarding Children Partnership Websites:

- [Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- [Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board](#)
- [Slough Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Local Authority Children's Services Procedure Manuals:

- [Achieving for Children \(Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead\)](#)
- [Bracknell Forest Council](#)
- [Brighter Futures for Children \(Reading\)](#)
- [Slough Children First](#)
- [West Berkshire Council](#)
- [Wokingham Borough Council](#)