

Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership



Strategic Priorities and Business Plan 2024- 2025

Our Vision for Safeguarding

We want all children and young people in Bury to enjoy safe childhoods and to be protected from harm, and to make sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding through multi agency learning and development.

The [Bury Children and Young People's Plan](#) sets a call for action to improve the lives of children, young people and families in the borough. To support this, the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership has agreed its vision to ensure that all children and young people in Bury enjoy safe childhoods and are protected from harm. We will work hard to ensure that everyone understand their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding, by providing an effective multi agency learning and development programme.

As a Partnership and as a borough we will have a safeguarding system across the partnership to ensure that ALL children are safe and secure.

We want children to achieve the best in life and to feel safe and secure in their families and communities. This will be achieved by supporting:

- Children and young people grow up safely.
- Children and young people feel safe in families that care for them.
- Children, young people and families know where to go if they need help.

The Partnership has chosen five priorities to inform this year's business plan. Each priority will have underpinning actions for delivery, and a quality assurance schedule to test their implementation and outcomes for children and families in Bury. The priorities are:

Priority 1 - Needs are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity, by ensuring the Neglect Strategy is embedded into partnership working.

Priority 2 - To protect children and young people from sexual abuse.

Priority 3 – Improving how we work together with families before and after birth to safeguard babies.

Priority 4 - Implementing Working Together 2023.

Monitoring of delivery of all strategic priorities will be by the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership. A thread throughout all priorities is engagement of children, young people, families and practitioners.

Priority 1 - Needs are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity, by ensuring the Neglect Strategy is embedded into partnership working	
Lead: Director of Social Care and Early Help, Bury Council	
Subgroup: Learning and Development	
Rational	Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment in the UK, in the year 2020 – 2021 concerns around neglect were identified for half of the children who were the subject of a child protection plan in the UK – this is mirrored in Bury where in the same year of those child protection plans started 48% were in respect of concerns about neglect. In Bury 40% of 210 children subject to a child protection plan are registered under the category of neglect. 60% of admissions to care are as a result of neglect.
What does success look like	<p>Success will be measured against the criteria set out in the Neglect strategy, with greater community understanding of neglect; and with frontline practitioners from all agencies confident in identifying, assessing, and addressing child neglect. More specifically, we should see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the numbers of children where neglect is a concern being supported through early help assessment and planning. • An increase in the number of children and families whose needs have been met and outcomes achieved who step down successfully from statutory services to early help and from early help to universal services; and a reduced number of repeat interventions by statutory services for neglect. • A reduction in the number of ‘rapid reviews’ and ‘serious case reviews’ where neglect is a feature. • Long term reduction in the number of children with Children’s Social Care plans for neglect; and a reduction in the duration of those plans.
Objective (What improvement will we make)	To prevent child neglect in Bury and reduce the number of children experiencing neglect in the Borough.

Priority 2 – To protect children and young people from sexual abuse

Lead: Detective Superintendent, Greater Manchester Police

Task and Finish Group

<p>Rationale</p>	<p>Bury compares similarly to its statistical neighbours and to England, for child protection plans started where child sexual abuse (CSA) features as the initial category of abuse.</p> <p>While the impact of child sexual abuse on victims and survivors can vary significantly, there is strong evidence CSA is associated with an increased risk of adverse outcomes in many areas of a person’s life. This can include physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, relationships, social economic outcomes and vulnerability to re-victimisation. The impact of CSA can last for a lifetime.</p> <p>NSPCC data outlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns around sexual abuse have been identified for over 2,800 children in the UK who are the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register. • Over a third of all police-recorded sexual offences are against children. • Girls and older children are more likely to experience sexual abuse. • The vast majority of children who experience sexual abuse were abused by someone they knew. <p>The Partnership has undertaken several reviews where Harmful Sexual Behaviour (J22) and where there has been intrafamilial and extra familial sexual abuse (B20, D21,G21,Q22)</p>
<p>What does success look like</p>	<p>A good multi-agency response to child sexual abuse (CSA) involves a coordinated and collaborative effort by multiple agencies working together with a clear focus on the child at the centre of the concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the Sexually Harmful Behaviour pathway when developed, and raise awareness of this. • Over time, there is a reduction in the number of re-referrals to Children’s social Care where CSA is a concern, monitored by the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Executive. • Over time, there is a reduction in the number of children subject to child protection plans under the category of CSA for a second time or more over a 12 month period, monitored by the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Executive. • The Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup will monitor data in relation to CSA (numbers of

	<p>strategy meetings, assessments completed with CSA as a risk factor and number of Child Protection plans, number of prosecutions, Sexual Assault Referral Centre medicals) to understand the level of need in Bury and use this to guide our practice approaches and response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education programmes to provide children and young people with information that helps them to understand what CSA is, in an age appropriate way and helps them to understand what is happening is wrong and the importance of positive relationships. • Practitioners and all designated safeguarding leads have access to multi agency CSA training.
Objective (What improvement will we make)	To protect children and young people from sexual abuse by understanding, preventing and reducing the impact of child sexual abuse (CSA) both inside and outside the family environment.

Priority 3 - Improving how we work together with families before and after birth to safeguard babies.	
Lead: Designated Nurse Child Protection, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board	
Task and Finish Group	
Rationale	Recent local and national case reviews have highlighted safeguarding risks to babies. Three rapid reviews during 2023 regarding baby deaths, exploring: shaken babies; bruising in non-mobile babies; poor housing conditions; substance misuse; safer sleeping.
What does success look like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit awareness and use of the safer sleeping toolkit introduced in 2023/2024. • Implement learning from the 2023 pre-birth assessment audit. • Review policy on non-mobile babies to ensure it is consistent with national guidelines. • Increase understanding of child protection procedures, to ensure referrals are made to childrens social care when a non-mobile baby is observed to have bruising or any other injury in line with National

	<p>Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the ICON campaign to reduce the number of cases of abusive head trauma in infants. • Ensure the focus is kept on the child, particularly when parents have complicated and complex lives which may come to dominate professional intervention. • Increased awareness of risk factors which could indicate that an unborn child may be likely to suffer significant harm and therefore be subject to a pre-birth assessment. • Developed a specific e-learning course Protecting Babies from Harm and a more in-depth virtual course Keeping Babies Safe for practitioners from all agencies. • Consistent messaging and assessment of safer sleep practice and seeing where a baby sleeps day and night
Objective (What improvement will we make)	Reducing avoidable harm in babies under 1 by recognising risk and protective factors.

Priority 4 - Implementation of Working Together 2023	
Lead: Business Manager, Safeguarding Partnership	
Task and Finish Group	
Rational	<p>In December 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) published an updated version of its statutory guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.</p> <p>Bury needs to ensure compliance with the statutory guidance during 2024.</p>
What does success look like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners in place. • Independent scrutineer model refreshed and embedded. • New partnership chair arrangements implemented. • Review how voluntary, charity and social enterprise sector engage with the partnership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements reviewed and published. • Annual report published in September 2024. • The role of education is emphasised in the new safeguarding arrangements at a strategic and operational level. • Clarify arrangements relating to funding, information sharing and reporting.
Objective (what improvement will we make)	To embed strong, effective and consistent multi-agency child protection practice.