**From:** Deborah Richardson <deborah.richardson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk> **On Behalf Of** Palvinder Kudhail  
**Sent:** 23 March 2022 17:39  
**To:** {CS-SD-Comms} <mail-cd-sd-comms@buckinghamshire.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** No. 19: Bi-weekly communication from Service Director - All staff must read this

Colleagues,

Last week many of you participated in the activities taking place to celebrate National Social Work Week which included a range of health and wellbeing sessions, practice workshops and a thank you from members of the Senior Management Team at each area office. It was wonderful to see so many of you engaged in the various activities and we had some great feedback from you on the content of the sessions and further suggestions on improving the service. I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your contribution. Please get in touch and let me know if you have any further ideas, suggestions or comments you would like to share.

At the end of this month we will welcome 15 of our ASYEs from the Academy into the frontline teams. We are really excited about the ASYE Academy model and the impact it will have on our longer term aspiration to increase the number of permanent employees within our services. Our latest team of ASYEs will support in providing additional capacity to our frontline teams and I hope you will welcome them and provide them with support, guidance and advice as they progress in their social work career journey.

More great news - Alison Munt, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Children with Disabilities was nominated by staff and was a deserving winner of the ‘Leadership Award’ at the 2021 Proud of You Awards which took place last week. Alison, we are extremely proud of you! I also want to highlight that our fantastic residential team at Newlands were highly commended for the Bright Futures Award. There were a number of other staff from across the service nominated which is incredible. You can find out who, and more about the other winners [here.](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Finternal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk%2Fmy-council%2Fnews-and-views%2Fproud-of-you-awards%2Fawards-2021%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cromilly.knight%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C1d6df411c53e489847cf08da0cf40231%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637836540893678186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=UBllAglZp0q6LTj8EZ34igrPUj%2BMuosGrPj5uI5qaic%3D&reserved=0)

As always, please take the time to read these communications and have discussions in your team to ensure that everyone is clear about what is included.

**Thames Valley Police ‘Strat’ Line**

Following feedback from staff regarding the strategy discussion telephone line, we have been working closely with Thames Valley Police to collectively review and improve the current process. As a result of these discussions, significant developments were made by Thames Valley Police (TVP) to replace the strategy discussion line with an interim short term solution, pending a potential online solution in the future. A successful pilot has now concluded and has proven to be much more efficient for social care staff seeking TVP engagement in strategy discussions/meetings.

From 1 April 2022, to replace the strategy discussion telephone line a simple request sheet has been created that social care will need to complete and send to TVP. This will be responded to promptly with a reference number and information about the family for the strategy discussion. The request sheet (which can be accessed [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fproceduresonline.com%2Ftrixcms%2Fmedia%2F7251%2Fstrategy-discussion-request-template.xlsx&data=04%7C01%7Cromilly.knight%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C1d6df411c53e489847cf08da0cf40231%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637836540893678186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=UjfpaROjpL1fAgU7RjCWrOLqsM6ZGR4rV%2B4HTX3ZX%2BE%3D&reserved=0)) can be used for any information that is required from TVP such as PNC checks for child protection conferences when new issues emerge. A completed request should be sent to [MASHpolicerequests@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:MASHpolicerequests@thamesvalley.police.uk). Please ensure when completing a request form, any previous information relating to other children has been removed.

The ‘strat’ line will remain in place alongside these arrangements for the time being in the event it is required and social care can continue to escalate to TVP Call Supervisors if a social worker is on hold for more that 15mins, so that this can be investigated.

A shared calendar has been introduced within TVP with slots available to hold strategy discussions/meetings. MASH supervisor availability will be maximised by utilising specialist teams and the Officer in Case (OIC) where possible. Any remaining calendar conflicts will be discussed with social care to determine which of the strategy meetings should be prioritised for police attendance.

If you encounter any issues or delays in being able to convene a strategy discussion, please escalate firstly through the MASH supervisors, then Paul Bowen (TVP MASH Manager) and finally to Charlotte Donohue (TVP MASH Strategic Manager) if you are still encountering an issue.

During discussions with TVP, they have raised some concerns about occasions when strategy discussions/meetings are convened as a ‘re-strat’ because timescales for initial child protection conferences had been missed. This practice is unacceptable and should not take place.

Please remember that in some self-harm cases where there is no new information or risk identified, TVP may not attend strategy discussions/meetings. A checklist has been agreed for TVP to refer to so that there is a clear audit trail of decision making. Regardless of their attendance, up to date Police checks will be undertaken to inform the decision about attendance. In these situations, a response to social care about Police attendance and the rationale for their decision not to attend will be sent to social care so that it can be included in minutes of strategy discussions/meetings.  Please ensure this information is reflected in the child’s electronic record.

**Newlands**

On 18th and 19th January Ofsted undertook an inspection at Newlands Children’s Home. The [feedback](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffiles.ofsted.gov.uk%2Fv1%2Ffile%2F50178673&data=04%7C01%7Cromilly.knight%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C1d6df411c53e489847cf08da0cf40231%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637836540893678186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=pk6h3umMVSf9GgcDqQkZ9ZM5G3PaqxgpKqfdexfQFa8%3D&reserved=0) was fantastic with the home determined to be good overall and outstanding in the effectiveness of leadership and management. Inspectors spoke to young people in the home and their judgements are reflective of the difference we have made to their lives. This outcome are testament to the hard work of the staff in the home, the children’s social workers, IRO’s and other partners. Well done to everyone involved.

**Checklist for accommodating a child**

To support staff to complete all the necessary tasks required when accommodating a child, a checklist of tasks required has been produced and can be accessed [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fproceduresonline.com%2Ftrixcms%2Fmedia%2F7248%2Fchecklist-for-accommodating-a-child-or-young-person-including-under-s20.docx&data=04%7C01%7Cromilly.knight%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C1d6df411c53e489847cf08da0cf40231%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637836540893678186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=KWwP%2BjKFRSRfxONGV7xj7%2B4a2AODcuVcK5GRXhVtZ3o%3D&reserved=0). Please ensure you refer to the checklist when seeking to accommodate a child. It will provide some helpful and supportive guidance on what needs to be considered and completed as part of the entry into care journey for the child.

**Information and advice when accommodating young people**

When accommodating young people coming into care, we must ensure we are clear with the young person about the benefits of care but also the expectations of them during their time in care. We have seen recent examples of young people coming into care at a very late stage not engaging with their placement, accepting support around their health needs, working with their social worker or other professionals etc. To support social workers in managing this dialogue with young people, we have produced some helpful guidance which can be shared and discussed with the young person. You can find this guidance [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fproceduresonline.com%2Ftrixcms%2Fmedia%2F7250%2Finformation-and-advice-when-accommodating-young-people.docx&data=04%7C01%7Cromilly.knight%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C1d6df411c53e489847cf08da0cf40231%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637836540893678186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=hL2r16oKfcPyCbLGrNAPA4DK4lAtCWdIVtT1CDnGepQ%3D&reserved=0).

**Permanency Panel Arrangements**

We have recently reviewed the permanency panel arrangements taking into account feedback from staff and Ofsted following our most recent inspection. Paperwork has been kept to a minimum and I would like to remind all staff to regularly check the [Permanency Tracking guidance](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fproceduresonline.com%2Ftrixcms%2Fmedia%2F7171%2Fpermanency-tracking-for-looked-after-children-february-2022.pdf&data=04%7C01%7Cromilly.knight%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C1d6df411c53e489847cf08da0cf40231%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637836540893678186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=b50t6C0%2BpEQW9lhFTFFIrtoT%2BvAJXWYeJ9SgqdvwbDc%3D&reserved=0) to ensure you are completing the right paperwork at the right time and not more than is required. In addition some slight tweaks have been made to the [Legal Planning Booking form](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fproceduresonline.com%2Ftrixcms%2Fmedia%2F7172%2Flegal-planning-booking-form-february-2022.dotx&data=04%7C01%7Cromilly.knight%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C1d6df411c53e489847cf08da0cf40231%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637836540893678186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=dzb8MsuJzSVy5r%2FSGxvQ8PYPbW%2B2JOwEmRCZZasoVRE%3D&reserved=0) which now includes a requirement to seek Head of Service sign off when requesting a Legal Planning Meeting.

**SoloProtect**

Mark Bowes is now running two fixed training sessions per week on Microsoft Teams for new SoloProtect users. They will be on Tuesdays at 3pm and Fridays at 10am. All SoloProtect user training should now be done in these sessions.

New starters should attend the first possible session after they start and have received a device. Once new starters have been set up and given their devices please direct them towards the recurring meetings set up in Mark Bowes’ calendar on Tuesdays and Fridays. If they open a session in Mark’s calendar they will be able to join the Teams meeting that way. Alternatively if they would like to have it in their diary BSOs/managers can forward it to them from Mark’s calendar.

**Slang Dictionary**

Slang words and terminology are used in a criminal context and can often be indicators of involvement in gangs and criminal activity. Many children and young people who are criminally exploited will use terms they’ve picked up from specific involvement within gangs, serious violence, drug trafficking and other forms of illicit activity. As professionals, understanding these colloquialisms - and knowing how to decipher and contextualise them - can be beneficial when identifying those at risk, contextually safeguarding service users and implementing cultural competency in professional practice. Attached is a ‘Slang Dictionary’ produced by St Giles’ SOS+ Service containing a comprehensive list of words, terminology and phrases, with examples of how they’re used in sentences which may be helpful in considering when working with allocated children and young people.



**Easter Bake Sale**

On Wednesday 30th March our Residential Team at the Elms will be holding an Easter bake sale. The event will be raising funds to provide easter eggs for Ukrainian refugees entering the UK. Alongside the bake sale they will also be holding a raffle for an Easter hamper, filled with easter goodies.  Please take a look at the poster attached and book an hour to visit the team if you can.



Have a fantastic week.

Palvinder

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