



# Family Safeguarding **PARTNER NEWSLETTER**

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**Bury**  
Council

## Introduction

I am delighted to be able to share that Bury is now a Family Safeguarding local authority! We are one of 19 local authorities who have either fully implemented Family Safeguarding or are in their implementation journey. We are the first GM authority (& the first inadequate authority to do so).

We believe that this model will help us to keep more children safely at home with their parents or carers. There has been lots of training over recent months and for those staff and partners who have attended any of the virtual or face to face events, I hope you are as inspired as myself and the rest of the senior leadership team are in using this model to work restoratively with our children and families.

This is an evidence based model – you can find everything you need to know about it on the [Centre for Family Safeguarding website](#) - and very soon we will have our own Bury Family Safeguarding micro-site which will provide more information.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Bury. We know from elsewhere in the country that Family Safeguarding delivers better outcomes and provides a framework for more rewarding and impactful work for everyone working with children and families.

**Jeanette Richards – Executive Director of Children and Young Peoples Service**

## Why Family Safeguarding?

In 2015, Hertfordshire County Council designed and put into practice their vision for Family Safeguarding, following a successful bid to the Department for Education's (DfE) Innovation Programme. Following their success – evidenced in a DfE evaluation report in 2017 - the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice was established in 2019, with the aim of becoming a centre of excellence.

**The family safeguarding vision: To keep more children safe at home with their families.**

Family Safeguarding is a whole family approach to working with children and families that supports parents to create sustained change for themselves and for their family.

Central to the foundations of the approach is the intrinsic value and worth of families. As a model of practice, it aims to keep more children safely in their families in line with the vision of the Children Act 1989. To achieve this, all Family Safeguarding authorities recognise the need to change their attitudes to families, to create a culture based on seeing every family as deserving of help and support, and not people deliberately setting out to harm their children.

## Multi-disciplinary teams

A team of specialist adult practitioners in domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse will be co-located with children's social workers and family support practitioners. This approach enables a multi-disciplinary whole family response through direct assessment and more timely support from specialist adult practitioners with the sharing of knowledge and skills across disciplines.



## **The family safeguarding workbook and family programme**

All of the professionals working with our families will record in the assessment workbook in Bury's LiquidLogic recording system. The workbook consists of several summaries - one for each worker role involved with the family. Each worker will be able to record their work and write a monthly summary, which can then be openly shared with the other workers in the team. Because all staff in Family Safeguarding Teams will be using the workbook, the information can then be combined to form an integrated family assessment. This is used to inform progress and help to direct their intervention.

The workbook was implemented in April and is already being used by social workers in the Family Safeguarding teams.

### **Group case supervision**

Group Supervision is a central component of Family Safeguarding with monthly supervision meetings for each family, allowing multi-professional group discussions to review progress, discuss outcomes and agree next steps.

### **Motivational Interviewing**

Motivational Interviewing is based on a set of strengths-based principles guiding the work with families. Through motivational conversations parents are empowered to identify and resolve difficulties and to make sustained changes for themselves and their children. The model provides the multi-agency team with a common 'shared language' and rationale, including concepts, tools and techniques that are seen as positive, helpful and achievable to put into practice. It also improves the quality of assessment, analysis and care plans.

## **Bury – our journey so far.**

- July 2022** DfE approved support from the **Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice under the Sector Led Improvement Programme (SLIP)**. This covers support from Hertfordshire in relation to project management, implementation and training.
- July 2022** **Bury Cabinet approved additional investment to fund the Family Safeguarding implementation** Funding for the first two years to be paid for by Bury Council, agreed until March 2025.
- Jan 2023** **Phase 1 of the Family Safeguarding training programme** – this included the core family safeguarding training delivered by colleagues from Hertfordshire as well as the Motivational Interviewing training delivered by an external provider. Phase 2 is being planned for Autumn 2023, which include other professionals appointed to the Family Safeguarding teams.



**June 2023** **Soft launch** – on 5<sup>th</sup> June, Family Safeguarding was informally launched in Bury. 5 Family Safeguarding teams are in place and using the techniques and approaches from the family safeguarding and motivational interviewing training, recording their activity in the workbook.

**July 2023** **DfE Observation** of Family Safeguarding Supervision

**Aug 2023** **Multi-agency teams in place** – partner agencies are committed to the programme with the intention that most of the multi-disciplinary teams will be in post by the end of August.

**Oct 2023** **Formal launch** – we are aiming for all multi-agency professionals to be appointed and in post.

Here is a short video by Hertfordshire County Council that provides an overview of what the Family Safeguarding team does. Please share with your colleagues: <https://youtu.be/XQ3E-4BGN68>

## Family Safeguarding Clinics – upcoming dates

We have a rolling programme of Family Safeguarding Clinics to raise awareness about the Family Safeguarding model and answer any questions from partners about how it will impact on practice here in Bury. The next dates are:

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 12:30 – 13:30

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 – 10:00 -11:00

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Further dates will be arranged for October onwards.