

Family Safeguarding NEWSLETTER

ISSUE TWO OCT 2023

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Bury
Council

Introduction

Since our first Family Safeguarding Newsletter in August 2023, there has been lots of progress with Family Safeguarding here in Bury, with our first adult practitioner colleagues appointed, our formal launch event and the first Family Group Conference.

Our Family Safeguarding launch event took place on Tuesday 17 October, reflecting on the teams and tools we now have in place to make positive changes which address the needs of the whole family. Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for DFE recognised this point of implementation as a major celebration and a fantastic opportunity for Bury. I couldn't agree more.

I am also pleased to announce that in September we held our first Family Group Conference. This is such an important part of the family safeguarding model; as a family-led process designed to empower families in a safe space to hear and talk about anything they're concerned about. All part of the essence of Family Safeguarding, working with rather than to.

Thank you everyone for your continued hard work and commitment to our families in Bury.

Jeanette Richards – Executive Director of Children and Young Peoples Service

Team Members

We have made good progress in recruiting to the adult practitioner roles, with two Probation colleagues (Domestic Abuse Officers) and two Early Break substance misuse practitioners now in our Family Safeguarding teams. We have also successfully appointed three Domestic Abuse Practitioners, 2 of whom are already in post, and we have dedicated Family Safeguarding Business Support Officers on board providing dedicated support to the teams. They are on with their induction and have been getting to know their new colleagues.

Domestic Abuse Officers

Marcelle Jones and Sarah Darlington are the two new Probation Officers who will be working with parents where domestic violence is a feature. Here they share a little about themselves and why there have chosen to join the Family Safeguarding Service:

"Hello, my name is Marcelle Jones, I qualified as a Probation Officer in 2006 and have worked (mostly) on the front line ever since. Supervising people who are serving community and custodial sentences either on a community order or on licence following release from custody is a challenging and busy role. I have always had an interest and preference for domestic abuse work and for many years was the Probation representative for MARAC in Bolton where I worked for ten years and more recently Bury where I have been based for the past five years. Working in a multi-agency arena along with Children's Services; attending core groups and contributing to CP plans has always been incredibly interesting and fulfilling work and when the role in the Family Safeguarding Team was announced I didn't hesitate to apply. I believe strongly in rehabilitation and people's capacity for change, when we help people move away from offending, the benefits to the public are numerous, some obvious, some less so. I live and work in Bury and I am excited to work with you in achieving better outcomes for young people and families in our community. Please don't hesitate to send me a

message on teams or send me an email if you would like to have a chat about the work my colleague Sarah Darlington and I will be undertaking

"My name is Sarah Darlington. I have been seconded over to Bury social services for 2 years to work as a Domestic Abuse Officer. I have worked in probation for 11 years. I began as a programme facilitator delivering Thinking Skills, drug and alcohol and Domestic Abuse programmes.

I have been a Probation Service Officer since I returned from maternity leave in 2017. I am looking forward to working with you all!"

Substance Misuse Practitioners

Vicky Hall and Natasha Stanton are the two Early Break Practitioners who will be working with parents where there are substance misuse issues present. Here they share a little about themselves and why they have chosen to join the Family Safeguarding Service:

"I am Natasha, I have joined the Family Safeguarding Team here at Bury as a Substance Misuse Worker as part of the new Family Safeguarding Model. I have worked within the Substance Use field for 7 years and am passionate about supporting families where parental substance use is present, to help families identify and address their needs around substance use and support them to reach their goals of a life free from substances; enabling better lived experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families. I am excited to be part of the new model here in Bury and am committed to providing quality, specialist substance use support".

"My name is Vicky Hall and I've worked at Early Break for 10 years in Bury and Rochdale, working with young people who use substances and families affected by parental substance use on the Holding Families programme.

I came to work for the Family Safeguarding Team as I wanted to be part of the new model being implemented in Bury and I'm looking forward to working more closely with social worker colleagues and the rest of the family safeguarding team. I'm excited to see how the model can help us get better outcomes for children in Bury."



(left to right) Natasha Stanton, Marcelle Jones and Sarah Darlington- adult practitioners

Domestic Abuse Practitioners

The three Domestic Abuse Practitioners appointed are Carolyn Dawson and Chatelle Harvey who are currently already working in Family Safeguarding as Family Support Workers, and Daphline Achumba who is currently working at Victoria Family Centre.

Business Support Officers

We have 3 officers in post already, with 2 more on the way. We will introduce you to the team in a future newsletter, once all are on board.

As part of our wider Social Work recruitment, we have also been recruiting international colleagues from South African to help build a strong and stable workforce. In total we have recruited 23 international Social Workers and Emma Mashele is the fifth and most recent colleague who has joined us and she will be part of our Family Safeguarding Service:

“My name is Emma Mashele, I am a social worker and I have finally joined Safeguarding Team Four at Bury Council Children’s Social Care from South Africa. I was warmly welcomed by the whole team. Bury prepared for my arrival very well and made sure that I had everything I am going to need. The schedule for my induction was well prepared and very clear. Training and information sessions were well prepared and presented to me and the other four colleagues who just joined Bury. I met some of the stakeholders working with Bury Council, I have met with the MASH and Early help teams who are situated at Bury Police Station.

I am very happy to be part of Bury Council family, I am looking forward to sharing my experiences and expertise with the council, most importantly I am more open to learn more from the whole team and other colleagues. I intend to build meaningful relationships with both my colleagues and client here in Bury”.

Training

We will be providing further training for internal staff who have not attended the core Family Safeguarding practice modules, which will be condensed into two days. Dates will follow from the Children’s Workforce Development Team.

For those practitioners who will be using the Family Safeguarding Workbook, our Social Work Consultants have been providing focused training plus 1:1 bespoke sessions with practitioners. Please contact the Workforce Development Team if you would like a 1:1 session on the Workbook: ChildrensWFD@bury.gov.uk

Family Safeguarding Awareness Clinics

Family Safeguarding clinics have been held regularly, led by the Children’s Workforce Development Team and have been attended by a wider variety of partners including Police, Health and Education colleagues. These clinics provide multi-agency colleagues opportunity to share any ideas and ask any questions they may have on the model as well as learning more about what this means for practitioners and families. Upcoming clinics are set out below – there is no need to book, please just click on the link on the relevant date and time:

25th Oct

13:00 -14:00

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 342 719 219 911

Passcode: gmsbFi

8th Nov

10:00 – 11:00

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 387 646 030 094

Passcode: fgUGrh

23rd Nov

10:00 – 11:00

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 844 974 065

Passcode: ahwK97

12th Dec

13:00 – 14:00

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 311 238 569 913

Passcode: G2UWrK

Family Safeguarding Officially Launched

Our formal launch of Family Safeguarding took place on 17 October. The multi-agency launch was aimed at key leaders and managers from across the practitioners field. There was a video address of support from Chief Social Worker Isabelle Trowler, plus a keynote address from Jeanette Richards, as well as other opportunities to hear about our implementation journey so far.

To support the launch there were additional Motivational Interviewing awareness session led by Cambridge Associates. Thanks to everyone who took part on 16 October

We intend to hold a one-year celebration event in Autumn 2024 which will be an opportunity for staff and partners to come together to hear about the impact of Family Safeguarding and sharing local case studies, learning and good practice.



Website

The Family Safeguarding information hub is now live on our Council website: [Go to Website](#)

This is a space to share information about Family Safeguarding with practitioners and families as well as a central point for resources.

We will ensure all of our newsletters are uploaded and we will share more information about our teams. We hope to be able to share case studies and other good practice examples over time.