



# Birmingham Forward Steps e-bulletin



**8 January 2018**

**Issue 3**

## Welcome!

The new health and wellbeing service for all pre-school children throughout Birmingham began operating on Monday, 8 January. Led by [BCHC](#), the new service sees the integration of health visiting and children's centre teams as part of a drive to give every child in Birmingham an equal chance to have the best start in life so they can achieve their full potential.

Named **Birmingham Forward Steps** following consultation with families about what they would like the service to be called, the citywide model is to be delivered collaboratively by BCHC working alongside [Barnardo's](#), [Spurgeons Children's Charity \(Spurgeons\)](#), [the Springfield Project](#) and [St. Paul's Community Development Trust](#) across 10 districts for children and their parents/ carers from shortly before birth up to the age of five. Commissioned by [Birmingham City Council](#), it is designed to provide all families of pre-school children with accessible, community-based services in their own homes, GP surgeries, children's centres and a number of other community venues such as places of worship or libraries, with extra help available to those that need it.

A new,, dedicated website is live at [www.bhamforwardsteps.co.uk](http://www.bhamforwardsteps.co.uk) offering general information about the service, the provider partnership and a postcode-search directory that enables members of the public to find out where their nearest children's centre is and how to contact the team there.

As we go live today, can we also offer a big 'thank you' to all colleagues across the partnership who have worked so hard with each other and with Birmingham City Council to arrive at this point.

## Staying safe – a quick guide for safeguarding business continuity

### Day 1 - What stays the same?

1. Safeguarding practice, policies and procedures ([BSCB](#) and organisational) and the responsibilities of all staff to identify and request support for children of concern remains the same. No change to requests for support via [the Birmingham Children's Advice and Support Service \(CASS\)](#), phone number 0121 303 1888.
2. Health Visiting bases, Health Visitor duty team system and secure Health Visitor team email contact addresses, (see [BFS website](#) and/or [BCHC intranet](#) (for BCHC staff).
3. BCHC Safeguarding Named Nurse team available for advice and support 0121 466 7090. An advice line is open for clinical teams across BCHC to seek safeguarding advice throughout the working day. Calls are recorded on a database and reported on a quarterly basis. A Named Safeguarding Nurse is aligned to every Health Visiting team. The aligned nurse will meet by pre-arrangement with the Health Visiting team leader and team, on request and (as a minimum) every three months, to review safeguarding practice issues, communicate new messages and learning alongside providing support as required.
4. Family support workers will be allocated to families and will keep these families regardless of changes to organisation or base. New cases will be taken as usual and the need to record all contacts with families and assessment outcomes remains the same.
5. Single agency case allocation meetings will continue for health visiting and children's centre teams.
6. Named Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) will be in every children's centre to advise and support children's centre and family support workers on issues around safeguarding practice and

decision-making throughout the working day. These will be identified at induction and publicised for staff and partners to identify their local DSL.

7. The designated safeguarding leads (DSL) network meetings and forums will continue as per normal schedule.
8. Access to case supervision for all BFS staff will continue in accordance with the policies of their employing organisations (BCHC, Barnado's, Spurgeons, St. Paul's and the Springfield Project).
9. Service responses to invitations from Birmingham Children's Trust to attend child protection, child in need, LAC reviews, strategy meetings and early help panels do not change in the first instance. Where staff have received invitations to attend meetings they should continue to attend, the service has been given a 100% attendance target for children's meetings. If staff cannot attend when invited, they must communicate with their team leader who will liaise with colleagues in relation to attendance and representation.
10. Professional attendance at children's meetings is essential for children and is therefore monitored by commissioners and the BSCB. Every team must have a timetable that shows when meetings are being held and whom will attend in order that there is assurance of compliance with the contract.
11. There are **no** changes to the training requirements for staff, or their access to training. There is **no** change to BCHC or BSCB training provision or organisational safeguarding internal programmes, or the right of access of staff to these courses in consultation with their line management.

### **What changes on Day 1?**

1. The contact details for Birmingham Forward Steps children's centres will be on [the new website](#) and also available via reception of the sites. The BFS website contains a postcode checker directing users to their local children's centre and providing the phone number. [A full list of phone numbers is also available on the BCHC website here.](#)
2. Secure email addresses for all partner communications relating to children will be identified and communicated to local stakeholders and multi-agency partners.
3. New bases for transferring Family Support Workers (as above) will be established.
4. Allocation of unallocated family support cases and new referrals received over the past three weeks will commence.
5. Venues for stay and play sessions – contact the local children's centre for location and directions. Services will start again on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.
6. Current, and recently closed, family support case files (paper or electronic) from previous

children's centres will be collected and transported to the new children's centres according to postcode and ward boundaries. They will be signed into each centre according to a strict protocol agreed with Birmingham City Council commissioners. A checking procedure for every file will be undertaken to ensure receipt of all case files transferred.

7. A two-week induction period for transferring children's centre staff will commence within their new organisations on Day 1 of the contract.
8. The [Birmingham Forward Steps website](#) will be live to support information for public and professionals and will be developed with further service information and resources for professionals going forward.

## Health Visiting

BCHC Health Visiting teams will continue to provide support in relation to the health and wellbeing of children and their families providing universal services for all families. They will be working within the Birmingham Forward Steps partnership and with other key stakeholders eg. General Practitioners, Midwifery, and School Nursing to improve the health of children and families in the crucial first years of life.



St. Paul's Community  
Development Trust



Working for  
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We want to hear from you! Please send comments, requests and queries to [earlyyears@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk](mailto:earlyyears@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk)

