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|  | **Department of Children’s Services****Education Social Work Service**Margaret McMillan TowerPrinces WayBradford BD1 1NNTel:01274 439651Fax: 01274 320003  |

 10 July 2018

Dear Headteacher,

**Re: Children’s Services changes affecting Prevention and Early Help and Education Safeguarding**

Many of you will be aware the Council are making changes to the way we provide services.

The outcome of the Prevention and Early Help consultation concluded in February 2018 will result in changes to how Education Social Work, Children’s Centres and Targeted Early Help are provided by September/October 2018

A consultation summary can be found at:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/4736/prevention-and-early-help-consultation-feedback-may-2018.pdf>

Some services will still be delivered centrally:

* The Early Help Gateway (including SEND Local Offer and Families Information Service) which will be a single point of contact for advice on Prevention and Early Help.
* Education Safeguarding, including intervention reviews, advice on allegations management, safeguarding curriculum support, and support for new communities inclusive of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities as well as Asylum Seekers and Refugees.
* Oversight of education, including children missing from education.
* Specialist behaviour support and inclusion for children and young people with additional needs.
* Short breaks for disabled children.
* Intensive family support to prevent children coming into care.
* Youth Offending Services.

Whilst a few services will continue to be provided centrally, most will be delivered by new family hubs in four areas. These will cover the following areas:

* Keighley and Shipley.
* Bradford East.
* Bradford West.
* Bradford South.

These family hub teams will be responsible for:

* Early childhood development and school readiness.
* Children’s Centres for children under five and their families.
* Targeted work with individual children and families (Families First and Stronger Families).
* Parenting support through all age ranges (children aged from birth to 19 or 25 with a disability).
* Family and maternal health and mental health.
* Early education and free childcare.
* Education attendance - this will include the basic statutory functions.
* Providing positive activities for young people.
* Health and Wellbeing.
* Diversity and Cohesion.

Each of the four family hub teams will work closely with local schools and voluntary and community groups to support families and improve the lives of everyone in their area.

We will also change the way we commission health visiting, school nursing and oral health services. These will be joined up, and integrated with the four area based teams.

**Changes to Education Social Work Service**

Under the new arrangements the Education Social Work Service will no longer exist as a standalone service.

Schools will therefore not have an allocated Education Social Worker or Education Welfare Officer, or time allocated as they have to date.

If schools wish to continue with the level of support currently received by the ESWS this will only be available as a traded offer. This support aims to target Persistent Absence concerns and whole school attendance projects to provide families and school with support to improve attendance. We also offer support around the prosecution process to ensure a successful outcome in court, when that route is the desired option.

Follow the link below to download the Traded Services Support for Attendance (This was revised in March 2018):

<http://www.skills4bradford.co.uk/what-we-offer/support-for-attendance-and-welfare>

Support can be purchased throughout the year. If you have any questions or queries about the service provision, either now or during the school year, please do not hesitate to make contact: Waheeda.shah@bradford.gov.uk or Lindsey.Fallon@bradford.gov.uk

**Education Safeguarding**

One of the outcomes from public consultation was the on-going commitment to support the needs of vulnerable pupils and Education Safeguarding.

We are pleased to announce certain functions and elements of this will feature in the revised Education Safeguarding structure. Please see safeguarding brochure which will be live shortly and the safeguarding structure on the link below.

<http://www.skills4bradford.co.uk/what-we-offer/safeguarding-training>

<http://share.bradford.gov.uk/sites/ext/structuresandjobprofiles/Shared%20Documents/UPDATED%20Final%20Education%20Safeguarding%20Structure%20-%20APRIL%202018.pdf>

Statutory functions will continue for Children Missing Education. Please see the information below Children Missing in Education

All Children Missing Education referrals must be made via cme@bradford.gov.uk, please note there is an addition to this form, it is important the ‘**CME checklist’** is completed to enable us to carry out the necessary checks.

The DfE consulted on proposed amendments to the Pupil Registration Regulations on improving identifying children missing education. These changes came into effect from 1 September 2016. Please refer to the Bradford Schools Online Pro-forma, to ensure you are practicing in accordance to these requirements and reporting when taking pupils on/off school roll.

Penalty Notices. All prosecution referrals i.e. penalty notices, leave of absence in term time or attendance cases, the Local Authority will continue to be responsible for taking these cases to court and should be sent securely to: pn@bradford.gov.uk

**Accessing Early Help and Social Work Services**

During this period of service re-organisation over coming months we are seeking to ensure the main entry points into our services continue to operate as ‘business as usual’.  The following arrangements we communicated previously will therefore continue:

* Phone lines for our ‘front door’ service  (01274 43 7500) are handled by the Council’s Corporate Contact Centre and then put through to either existing social worker or team, MASH for new cases or Early Help Gateway.

* Many schools are now contacting Early Help Gateway

 (01274 432121) direct or sending the completed referral through the

 Post Box facility on Bradford Schools Online.

* Our out of hours service through the Emergency Duty Team  (01274 431010) is now co-located with the Health First Response Team at Lynfield Mount  – supporting closer working with Health colleagues.  This is backed up by an on call Service Manager and Head of Service at all times.

**Traded Offer for Targeted Family Support**

A number of schools have enquired about buying the time of family key workers from Children’s Services to provide a dedicated service or support to pastoral and safeguarding leads for their school or group of schools.  This is designed to work alongside schools to help deliver improvements in parental support for learning, family support, transitional support, pupil welfare and support especially for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable learners with complex family issues.    We can explore a range of support packages that can be delivered including staff to undertake case work with families, support school staff, support for signposting or direct referral to other suitable services, support with early help assessments using Signs of Safety and support for workforce development.  If this is of interest, please contact Jim Hopkinson, Deputy Director (01274 432904) or Martyn Stenton, Head of Service (01274 432558) to discuss further or email martyn.stenton@bradford.gov.uk.

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely

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**Alina Tai Martyn Stenton**

**Strategic Manager Head of Service**

**Education Safeguarding Targeted Early Help**