

# VOCypf Update

**Gemma Williamson – VOCypf Officer**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Voluntary Organisations for Children  
young people & families

# What are the aims of VOCypf?

- **Identify** the needs of children, young people and families
- **Assist** the sector to work effectively and deliver quality services
- **Involve** the sector by facilitating effective communication, networking and collaboration
- **Inform** the sector by disseminating information on sector developments and opportunities for funding and training
- **Advocate** on behalf of the sector
- **Encourage engagement** between the sector and statutory partners, by working collaboratively to enable the diverse views of the sector to be represented



# How is VOCypf Funded?



BEDFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL



A joint SLA has been agreed with our 3 funders for 2017/18.  
Meetings are held every 3 months to review the SLA and the work done by VOCypf



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# How is VOCypf staffed and governed?

VOCypf is led by an **Executive Group** which meets every three months

2 part-time staff:

- **Gemma Williamson** – VOCypf Officer
- **Helen Hall** – VOCypf Communications Officer

VOCypf is hosted by the **CVS** in Bedford



# Work in Central Bedfordshire - 2017/18



- **Advocating** on behalf of the sector – by attending **Strategic Meetings**
- **Encouraging engagement** between the sector and the local authority – through support work on CBC's **Locality Hub Project**



# Strategic Meetings – Central Bedfordshire



- **Children’s Transformation Board :**  
Workforce and Cultural Development
- **JSNA Steering Group**
- **Local Safeguarding Children Board**
- **LSCB Sub Groups:**  
Learning and Improvement Group  
PAN Bedfordshire Training and Development Group  
PAN Bedfordshire CSE Strategic Group



# Locality Hub Project – Central Bedfordshire

- Central Bedfordshire Council is moving towards co-located services across the county
- Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Biggleswade are the first formalised hubs with two further hubs in development that will launch in 2018
- CBC wants to understand the services for CYPF that are provided by voluntary and community organisations within each of these areas
- **Work done (in December)** - Research into organisations that provide services in Dunstable – compilation of a list of organisations and the services they offer



# Work in Bedford Borough - 2017/18



- **Advocating** on behalf of the sector – by attending **Strategic Meetings**
- **Assisting and informing** the sector – through work on a **Safeguarding Project**



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# Strategic Meetings – Bedford Borough



- **Child Health and Well-Being Partnership Group**
- **Domestic Abuse Delivery Group**
- **SEND Virtual Team Meeting**
- **Local Safeguarding Children Board**



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# Safeguarding Project - Bedford Borough

This project is being supported by  
**Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board.**



**Aim:** To work with voluntary sector organisations to ascertain what safeguarding procedures are in place and how staff/volunteers are trained in safeguarding.

# Safeguarding Project - Bedford Borough

## Work done (since September):

- Identified and researched potential organisations to visit
- Developed a spreadsheet containing details of each organisation
- Researched safeguarding standards, procedures and checklists
- Developed a safeguarding checklist
- Developed safeguarding resources
- Produced information sheets

It is hoped that this work will confirm the good practice that is already in place within each organisation and also identify any gaps in safeguarding provision.



# VOCypf communications

- **Newsletter** – produced fortnightly – sent to approximately 350 people. – gives updates on national news, local events, funding, training and vacancies
- **Facebook Group**
- **Website** <http://cvsbeds.org.uk/about-vocypf>
- **Annual Report**



# Other work – 2017/18

- **Counselling Collective** – network of 7 organisations - meeting held every 6 months
- **Bursary Fund for training** - assists organisations to access training for their staff and volunteers. A maximum of £100 funding is available per person per course and a maximum of £200 is available per organisation per year - <http://cvsbeds.org.uk/training>
- Support for launch of **independent poverty group** in Bedford Borough