

Berkshire West Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangement: Child and young people friendly version



Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire are great places to grow up. There are loads of opportunities and most children and young people here are safe and happy, have fun and reach their goals in life.

But we all go through times when things are hard, and when that happens, getting the right help from the right people and at the right time, really matters.

There's a team of people working across the area, from the police, schools, health and council, whose job it is to safeguard and protect children and young people. They are based at centres in Reading, Wokingham and Newbury so have first hand knowledge of the areas you live in.



There have recently been some national changes to safeguarding and this is making us all think carefully about how we work together, looking at what works well and what needs re-thinking to work better.

What matters most is that all our children and young people are safe and protected, so your needs are at the very heart of everything we do. And the best way for us to know what you want is for us to talk to you and your friends, not just once in a while, but whenever you'd like.

We promise we'll listen and take your ideas and comments to our safeguarding meetings where we can share stuff and also learn from any mistakes we've made along the way.



And to keep a close eye on everything we do, we've asked a couple of outside experts to help us, because sometimes when we're so busy helping children every day it's not easy taking a step back to see things clearly.

They will have a fresh eye on everything and can also tell us about things working well in other areas that we might want to try out here.

If we do feel the need for improvements or we want to try new things, then we'll talk to you first to make sure you think they are practical and will make your lives better.



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And once any changes happen, we'll keep a close eye on things over the course of six to 12 months, to make sure they have made a positive difference to your lives. If we don't think they've worked very well, and you agree, then we'll think again.

In the next year our plan is to train more than 500 children and young people so they can help us make improvements to services where we know we need to make things better - children's emotional health is a key one.

