

**RESPONSE TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL QUERY OVER
CHARGING FOR ATTENDANCE ON THE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
(LEVEL 2) SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRAINING
COURSE**

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Council's need to ensure that all people working with children and young people have received appropriate and relevant safeguarding training, a programme was devised 4-5 years ago. This consisted of a number of modules including safeguarding, mental health and domestic violence etc.

With specific reference to safeguarding, two levels of programmes were provided, these were:

Level 1 – This is a free half day event called Introduction to safeguarding children and young people. This is aimed at any worker who has contact with these groups including those who do deal with children and young people in an intensive or very regular way eg Girl Guide Leaders, Sports Coaches, etc. This programme is free to all attendees. Bracknell Forest LSCB is the only LSCB in Berkshire which offers a Level 1 programme that is open to all Partner Agencies and is available free of charge.

Level 2 – This has been a two day workshop, providing greater detail than the Level 1 programme and is aimed at those people who work specifically with this group eg paediatricians, youth workers, etc. There is a £50 charge (per day) for attendance. This charge is consistently applied across the three Berkshire East LSCBs (i.e. Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead).

Facts

- 1 These programmes have been available for the last 4-5 years, with no changes to the costs to participants. The level 1 programme has been delivered by a group of approved people working mainly within the Council, the Health Service or Bracknell and Wokingham College. They have provided their time for free on the basis that their employees could participate in any of the sessions offered. By this method, a common introduction to safeguarding programme is delivered across the statutory and private, independent and voluntary sector. This means that people moving around the wider children's workforce who have attended this programme do not have to repeat it.
- 2 The Shared Responsibility (Level 2) programme encourages multi agency participation and is in line with the recommendations of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010). The programme is delivered by external providers, at a cost to the Council. Because it is a two day programme, there are also additional accommodation and catering costs to be taken into account.
- 3 This programme has recently been revised and will now run as a one day event, hence reducing the cost to participants by 50%.

Unrestricted

- 4 The LSCB subsidises the costs of the Shared Responsibility training programme for private, independent and voluntary sector are charged half the price of statutory organisations ie £25 a day which contributes towards the tuition, accommodation and catering costs.
- 5 The majority of the workforce require level 1 training; there is no grant or other funding available to cover the costs of delivering any safeguarding training. Bracknell Forest LSCB have structured the charging policy locally to ensure that the costs incurred through delivering the level 1 programme are covered by the income generated from delivering the level 2 programme; this is to ensure that costs do not prohibit any member of the workforce from accessing basic training. However, Bracknell Forest Council Learning and Development team have identified that costs are rising and the current full rate charge of £50 a day is not sustainable in the long term.
- 6 Other LSCB's in other parts of South East are already charging £60 a day for statutory bodies and £30 for the PIV sector; in addition, because the level 2 programme in these areas is a two day programme the average cost is £120 per attendee, as opposed to £50 per attendee in Bracknell Forest.
7. Consideration has been given to the withdrawal of any catering for these programmes but as they are held in venues where it is not possible to purchase refreshments locally it would be difficult to do so. The catering available consists of tea/coffee during the day and a small sandwich/piece of fruit and packet of crisps at a charge of £3.00 a head in total, even removal of this would not significantly reduce the costs to the private, independent and voluntary sector. Further the revised programme is now an intensive one day event, with short breaks, hence minimising the opportunity for delegates to go off elsewhere to get food for themselves.
8. The LSCB is committed to ensuring that child protection training remains accessible to the children's workforce, to enhance the quality of support that children and young people in the borough receive. For example, Bracknell Forest LSCB is one of the few areas nationally that offers training in the evening and at weekends. The LSCB periodically reviews, with other LSCBs in the South East, arrangements for child protection training to ensure that arrangements are equitable and enable attendance from all sectors; these review arrangements will continue.

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