The focus of this year’s conference is Safeguarding and Mental Health. The conference will provide an opportunity for practitioners working across a range of services to come together to develop their skills and knowledge.

Keynote speakers from leading national and local organisations will address the issue of Mental Health versus Mental Illness and the Impact of mental illness on individuals and families. Delegates will also learn more about local support services and referral routes.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to attend two workshops to focus on areas of practice relevant to their individual learning needs, facilitated by representatives from both local and national services. The full programme and workshop options are listed below.

**Target audience:**
Practitioners from adults’ and children’s services within the statutory, private and voluntary sector including police, schools, children’s centres, social care, health staff and anyone working or volunteering with vulnerable adults, children, young people and their families in the Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham areas.

*Please note that whilst efforts will be made to avoid it, the programme, workshops and speakers may be subject to change.*

**Closing date for applications:** 8 September 2017
09:00  Registration and refreshments

09:30  Welcome and introduction to the day – Independent Chairs of the Safeguarding Adults’ Board and Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards

09:45  Keynote Speaker – Dr Gohula–Thevan, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Mental Health versus Mental Illness
Dr Kumaran Gohula Thevan is a Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at Slough CAMHS and the Named Doctor for Safeguarding within Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.

10:30  Keynote Speaker - Thomas Jordan, SANE the Oxford Mental Health Support Network
Impact of mental illness
Thomas Jordan is a full-time student and Director for Universities of SANE’s Black Dog Campaign and Co-Founder/Co-Chair of OMHSN. Since experiencing a host of serious mental health issues amongst close friends, Thomas has been involved in mental health campaigning, specifically addressing the student mental health crisis. Over the last year, Thomas has co-founded and run the Oxford Mental Health Support Network, an organisation that helps local and national charities or campaigns to run events or advertise their work in Oxfordshire, for students and the public.

11:15  Refreshment break and networking

11:45  Support services and local referral routes

12:30  Buffet Lunch

13:30  Workshop 1

14:30  Refreshment break and networking

14:45  Workshop 2

15:45  Plenary

16:00  Close
**Workshop 1 – Safeguarding and neurological conditions**

Facilitated by Dr David Henderson Slater, Consultant in Neurological Disability & Rehabilitation Medicine at the Oxford Centre for Enablement.

David specialises in all aspects of care of patients with long term, debilitating neurological illnesses, in particular the care of people with behavioural disturbance, head injury and psychotherapeutic aspects of living as a community in a rehabilitation setting. He has a particular interest in the representation of illness and disability in the arts, and the use of the arts in training medical professionals. The Oxford Centre for Enablement specialises in all aspects of disability and rehabilitation: clinical, education, research, and policy. It aims to help patients, other clinicians and clinical services, researchers, educationalists, commissioners and anyone involved in designing or developing rehabilitation services.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to explore issues the impact on mental health in supporting people experiencing neurological disabilities including MS, Parkinson’s Disease and stroke. It will consider these factors in relation to safeguarding.

The workshop is aimed at both Children’s and Adults’ practitioners.

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**Workshop 2 – Impact of Bullying and Cyberbullying**

Facilitated by Becky Herron, CSE Coordinator and eSafety Lead, Reading Borough Council

Becky Herron is a qualified Youth Worker currently working as the Child Sexual Exploitation Coordinator for Reading Borough Council. Becky is an experienced trainer and CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency) Ambassador who is committed to raising awareness of and tackling all forms of online abuse, including cyberbullying.

This workshop will explore different methods of bullying including online bullying and the impact that bullying/cyberbullying has on the emotional health and well-being of victims. There will also be an opportunity to identifying good practice strategies in supporting and working with both the victims and the perpetrators of bullying/cyberbullying.

The workshop is aimed at both Children’s and Adults’ practitioners.

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**Workshop 3 – Self-Harm and Suicide**

Facilitated by Ruth Simmons, Primary Mental Health Worker, Reading Borough Council

Ruth is a Primary Mental Health Worker and a Registered Mental Health Nurse, with experience of working both systemically and individually with children, young people, and their families. The Primary Mental Health Service is a tier two mental health service for children age 5-18. It provides assessments, direct mental health work, training and consultation.

This workshop will give delegates an understanding of the function of self-harm and will explore early interventions, risk factors of suicidal behaviour, and response to suicidal ideation, including the use of safety plans.

The workshop is aimed at Children’s practitioners.
Workshop 4 – Self-Neglect and Hoarding

Facilitated by Lorna Pearce, Pinnacle Social Work Services Ltd

Lorna is a Consultant Social Worker and has worked in Social Care for twenty years. Lorna specialises in Adult Safeguarding and has undertaken thematic reviews into the issues in working with Self-Neglect for Adult Safeguarding Boards. As an accredited trainer, she also delivers training to frontline workers in this complex area of practice. Pinnacle Social Work Services Ltd. was established in 2014. Lorna works with trusted associates to provide a ‘one-stop shop’ for Social Work Services, including work with organisations of all sizes and individual customers who wish to commission a private service.

This workshop will focus on developing delegates’ understanding of self-neglect and why it occurs, including challenging the myths and assumptions that get in the way of effective practice. By the end of the workshop, delegates will feel better equipped to articulate risk and identify what level of intervention is required, including whether a safeguarding response is indicated.

The workshop is aimed at Adults’ practitioners.

Workshop 5 – Attachment and Trauma

Facilitated by Deborah Robinson, Primary Mental Health Worker, Reading Borough Council

Deborah is a Certified Sensorimotor Psychotherapist, EMDR Practitioner and Social Worker. Having worked in extensively in CAMHS and Social Services she has developed a particular interest in how early childhood experience impacts mental health. Deborah regularly delivers training in Reading and has also delivered training nationally on the area of Trauma and Development. Currently working as a Primary Mental Health Worker, Deborah provides support and consultation to children and workers where concerns around a child’s emotional health are preventing them from achieving and enjoying.

The aim of the workshop is to consider the links between attachment, trauma and emotional health.

The workshop is aimed at Children’s practitioners.

Closing date for applications: 8 September 2017

To book your place, complete the form below and return to:
Learning & Workforce Development, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2LU
Email: training@reading.gov.uk

Cancellation less than 7 days before the conference date or un-notified non-attendance will incur a £75 fine.
You will receive email notification of your place at the conference from Payroll&Pensions@reading.gov.uk. Workshop allocation will be confirmed on arrival at the conference. (If a workshop you have applied for is fully booked, we will contact you to offer you an alternative workshop).

*Cancellation less than 7 days before the conference date or un-notified non-attendance will incur a £75 fine.*