



The Board also welcomes the opportunity to work alongside the Children's Trust Board in an advisory and critical friend capacity making sure that the objectives of the Children's Plan are met.

The Journey is not an easy one, but with the good will and co-operation of all partners this "step change" can be achieved which is required from each and every one of us.

**"Please keep me safe"** - *This single but profound important hope is the very minimum upon which every child and young person should be able to depend.* – Lord Laming. Progress Report 2009

Let us make sure that **through the PSCB we can** provide a City where this hope can be fulfilled and where each child can grow without fear of being harmed and enjoy their childhood upon which they will build the foundation of the rest of their lives!

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**CHILDREN HELD IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRES - NEW STATISTICS**

The Home Office has released official data on the number of **children being held in immigration detention centres**. 470 children were detained in the first half of 2009 and most of those were asylum seekers aged under 11

The statistics, issued by the Home Office, are available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig209.pdf>

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**Anti Bullying Week  
16 - 20 November**

**'Stay Safe in Cyberspace'** aims to help children and young people stay safe from cyber bullying and encourage parents, teachers and the community learn how to help children and young people around them stay safe.

[www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)



## Parental monitoring needed to stop online sex offenders

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre say that parents need to do more to combat sex offenders use of social networking sites to exploit children.

Its *2008/9 Strategic Overview* report shows that incidents of online grooming are still worryingly high and urges parents to take more notice of their children's computer use.

The report calls on parents to better understand the tactics used by sex offenders, which include asking children and young people to perform sex acts on web cams.

Jim Gamble, the centre's chief executive and the Association of Chief Police Officers' child protection head, said: "This is not about understanding technology or even necessarily the latest online service. It is about behaviour."

Of the 1,373 reports received by the centre over the past 12 months from young children, nine out of 10 involved grooming.

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## CONSULTATION ON CHAPTER 8 WORKING TOGETHER

In March 2008, in his **progress report on child protection services**, Laming called on the government to revise chapter 8 of the **Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance** to improve the SCR process. The government accepted all of Laming's recommendations and, at the end of July, put **revised SCR guidance** out to consultation and closes on 23 October 2009.

In his report, Laming called for the remit of serious case reviews to be widened and made more explicit.

### Proposed changes to serious case reviews

- Reviews to be more focused on learning lessons to improve individual and interagency working, and for learning to be included in local training programmes.
- More emphasis on acting on lessons as well as learning them.
- More account to be taken of previous SCRs carried out by the local safeguarding children board (LSCB) and relevant research.
- Staff to be given feedback after the overview report is completed.
- A greater emphasis on the need for objective and open analysis of where systems can be improved, and the reasons why procedures and policies may not have been followed.

- A new requirement for executive summaries to be shared with all relevant interested parties. This includes partner inspectorates and monitoring organisations as well as Ofsted.
- A greater focus on considering the impact of organisational difficulties on a situation, such as staff sickness or a lack of resources.
- Extending the timeframe for completing SCR reports from four to six months.
- A new rule that an SCR panel chair must not be a member of their LSCB unless they are its independent chair.
- A greater focus on anonymity for everyone involved in the case.
- More consideration of ethnic, cultural or other equality issues.
- A new system under which Ofsted will publish six-monthly reports evaluating reviews carried out during this period. Every second report will include an in-depth analysis of a particular issue.

#### **Further information**

- **Current Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance**
- **Proposed new version of chapter 8**
- **Ofsted's national evaluation of serious case reviews covering April 2007-March 2008**

Judy Jones, PSCB Policy Officer, is collating responses from members to contribute to the consultation

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## **SERIOUS CASE REVIEW**

We completed a SCR in June 2009 which Ofsted has assessed as “adequate”.

The SCR concerned a six week old baby boy whose injuries were such that he required transfer to a specialist unit. Subsequently in conjunction with his parents, life support was withdrawn.

As part of the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board’s (PSCB) commitment to learn and develop inter agency child protection practice, this Serious Case Review was undertaken in order to establish the facts of the handling of the case and to analyse the professional involvement with this family. The purpose of the Review was to identify and recommend any relevant changes to professional practice, and about the ways in which the different agencies in the Peterborough area work together to safeguard children and young people.

Each agency that had an involvement with the family has made recommendations for that agency. Those involved were: East of England Ambulance Service, Peterborough & Stamford NHS Hospitals Trust, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Peterborough Children’s Social Care Services, Cambridgeshire Police and the report will be available from your agency.

The learning can be summarised as follows:

### **STRATEGY MEETINGS**

- need to ensure all relevant professionals are invited
- minutes from meeting should be agreed and a summary of actions should be produced and agreed
- need to ensure agencies out of area where they have had an involvement are invited to attend

### **NEW ARRIVALS**

- need to highlight vulnerability of children from new arrival communities
- need to ensure records show when and where interpreters are used and target new arrivals for high quality ante and post natal education
- need to strengthen links with New Link who are a great source of information regarding new arrivals
- need to acknowledge that there are potentially “hidden communities” in our city who may not be effectively protected by the law or who may not be in a position to access support services.

### **SECTION 47 ENQUIRIES**

- there should be greater clarity for agencies around the joint investigation process
- information should be shared both within hospitals and between hospitals and immediate referrals made
- plans to safeguard siblings must be discussed and agreed in writing by family members
- arrangements for S47 medicals should be reviewed to ensure they are flexible and responsive
- a review of the joint enquiry process to be held and incorporated into Joint Enquiry Training

### **MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- records must be written legibly with note of date and time
- managers record decisions
- “cloning” of records to be reviewed to prevent their misuse
- all referrals for a service to be followed up
- core assessments need to be improved by ensuring all agencies contribute

As criminal proceedings are in hand, the Executive Summary of this SCR has yet to be published.

We have now produced a series of leaflets highlighting the lessons learned and the implications for practice from our last three serious case reviews. These are available from [judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk)

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## **Understanding Serious Case Reviews and their Impact A Biennial Analysis of SCR's 2005 – 07**

This document can be obtained from DCSF Publications; ref DCSF-00442-2009: please quote ref. 00442-2009DOM-EN

## **Have you had your agency safeguarding training validated?**

One of the new roles of Safeguarding Boards as set out in Working Together 2006 is to monitor and validate single agency safeguarding training to make sure it meets local need. Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Essex Local Safeguarding Children Boards have jointly agreed a validation process that will be used to validate/endorse level 1 basic safeguarding training across the 3 areas. The idea behind the validation is to ensure that safeguarding training that is being delivered is of a sufficient quality and includes up to date relevant information.

The validation panel is made up of members of the PSCB Strategic Learning & Development Group. It has met once and has approved/validated its first course (Safeguarding Workshop for Sports Staff). I would now like to take this opportunity to invite you to submit the Level 1/ basic safeguarding course that your agency delivers for validation/ approval.

The validation of courses will support agencies by:

- Supporting the quality assurance and monitoring of training
- Meeting s.11 responsibilities related to training and making links to the workforce strategy
- Providing courses with recognised standards
- Having the option to use the PSCB logo on validated courses.

If you are interested in submitting your course for validation please contact Jo Bramwell PSCB Training & Development Manager for further details (01733 863746 or [joanne.bramwell@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.bramwell@peterborough.gov.uk))

## **The PSCB Workforce Development Brochure September 2009 – June 2010 is now available**

The application form for all courses is available within the brochure and should be forwarded to  
PSCB Training Co-ordinator,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bayard Place, Broadway, Peterborough PE1 1FB  
or by email at  
[pscbtraining@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:pscbtraining@peterborough.gov.uk)

## **Training courses on Neglect and Attachment Theory**

Following the success of the PSCB annual conference "Understanding the impact of neglect" in March 2009 we are delivering two further courses to take forward peoples understanding around neglect.

### **An introduction to developmental attachment theory and patterns of attachment**

**Professor David Howe, 3 February, 9.30 - 16.00**

At the conference Professor David Howe delivered a key note address on attachment. A large number of delegates commented that they would like to have another opportunity to hear him talk further on the subject of attachment. Therefore, we have asked David to come back to Peterborough on **Wednesday 3 February 2010** and deliver a one day course on attachment theory. The course will provide a further opportunity for practitioners to explore and understand developmental attachment theory and patterns of attachment.

### **The Neglect of Adolescent Neglect**

**Professor Mike Stein, 10 November, 12.45 - 16.30**

In the UK neglect is the most common reason for children and young people becoming the subject of a child protection plan, although it is an issue which receives relatively little attention in comparison to other forms of maltreatment. Adolescent neglect has received very little attention in the UK even though there are substantial numbers of neglected 10-15 year olds in England.

It was against this background that the DCSF and DOH funded a 3 part study that looked at;

- A review of the International research on neglected adolescents
- A guide for multi agency professionals working together on behalf of neglected teenagers
- A guide for neglected young people

Professor Mike Stein was one of the researchers who undertook the study for the DCSF and DOH and is coming to talk about their findings and what this means for peoples practice on **Tuesday 10 November 2009**.

**Both of the above courses have limited spaces, to apply for either course please see the PSCB 2009-2010 Workforce Development Brochure which is available from the PSCB Training Co-ordinator (tel: 01733 863747 or email [pscbtraining@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:pscbtraining@peterborough.gov.uk))**

## NEW GUIDANCE

H M Government, Foreign & Commonwealth Office has produced multi-agency practice guidance “Handling cases of Forced Marriage”; this can be downloaded at [www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage](http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage)



**Forced Marriage is an abuse of human rights and an abuse of the rights of the child**

## IN ADDITION

The National Centre for Social Research has produced a research report DCSF – RR128 “*Forced Marriage Prevalence and Service Response*”  
[www.dcsf.gov.uk/research](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research)

There is currently a small inter-agency task group in Peterborough working to develop a protocol to manage cases of Honour Based Violence.

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DCSF has published “**Safeguarding Disabled Children**” practice guidance.

This practice guidance makes clear that disabled children have exactly the same human rights to be safe from abuse and neglect, to be protected from harm and achieve the *Every Child Matters* outcomes as non-disabled children. Disabled children do however require additional action. This is because they experience greater and created vulnerability as a result of negative attitudes about disabled children and unequal access to services and resources, and because they may have additional needs relating to physical, sensory, cognitive and/or communication impairments

You can download this publication from [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)



DCSF has issued **Statutory Guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care.**

The document is issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 which means that, except in exceptional circumstances, local authorities must act in accordance with this guidance.

It can be downloaded from [www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm)

**Currently there is a “Young Runaways” working group in Peterborough looking at mapping local services**

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The DCSF has also updated the following three documents. These were all published on 21 August 2009 and are available at [www.info4local.gov.uk/documents](http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents)

- Early Identification, Assessment of Needs and Intervention: The Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People – A guide for practitioners
- Early Identification, Assessment of Needs and Intervention: The Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People – A guide for managers
- The Team Around the Child and Lead Professional: A guide for managers

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## **Information Sharing Guidance**

Lord Laming has re-iterated partners should “consistently apply the information sharing guidance” published by DCSF October 2008. This is available from DCSF website and is updated from the previous guidance published April 2006.

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## **ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER**

### **GOODBYES:**

The safeguarding board has said goodbye to the following and wishes to record its thanks for their contribution to the board:

Maureen Phillips, Assistant Director, Family and Communities,  
Brenda Town, Assistant Director Children's Services, Peterborough Community Services

Mandy Renton, General Manager, Peterborough & Stamford NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust

Helen Herron, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, NHS Trust

Rita Mease, Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Peterborough Hospital and

DCI Dan Vajzovic, Cambridgeshire Police

## **PSCB received some publicity in “Community Care” dated 10 September**

[www.communitycare.co.uk](http://www.communitycare.co.uk)

There was an article linked the common factors in Victoria Climbié and Baby Peter cases with respect to the carers ability to mislead social workers. The article looked at disguised compliance “both tragedies represent examples of the effect of “a tendency to be over optimistic”, says Judy Jones, Policy Officer of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board. “We are in the business of hoping that our interventions will lead to positive change and that children will be safer” she says.

After an SCR a few years ago, Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board was sparked into putting together guidance for staff working with hostile, non-compliant clients or those using disguised compliance. “It was evident that, although on the face of it we were confronted by parents who appeared to be conforming to the plans, they weren't,” says Judy Jones. “We were being lulled into a false sense of security that things were moving in the right direction.”

As the guidance points out, if disguised compliance is missed, the consequences can be worrying: cases can drift; risks may increase; and workers may fail to recognise issues of concern, misinterpret vital information and lose interagency communication.

The guidance is part of the Practice Guidance section of the Inter-Agency Procedures and can be downloaded at [www.proceduresonline.com/peterboroughscb](http://www.proceduresonline.com/peterboroughscb)

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**The new “Child Safety” pocket card (wording shown below) has been developed and is now available and can be obtained from [kay.mayor@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:kay.mayor@peterborough.gov.uk) .**

**So far it has been distributed to Children’s Centres, the Fostering Shop, highlighted at the VoiCes forum and interest has been shown by health visitors.**

**SCHOOLS – COULD YOU PLEASE INCORPORATE THIS INTO YOUR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTERS TO PARENTS AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE**

### **REMEMBER**

- Children have a right to have fun and be safe
- Parents and carers have a responsibility to ensure that children are safe at all times
- Try to be aware of children’s needs and their understanding of time, and don’t always expect them to fit in with yours.
- No matter how much you teach your child about safety, remember the limits of their age and maturity
- Listen to your children and ask questions about the activities

### **Ways to keep children safe**

- Teach simple rules about personal safety
- As soon as children are able to understand, teach them their name, address and telephone number
- Arrange somewhere safe to meet up in case you get separated in busy public places
- When they are mature enough, make sure they tell you:  
**WHO** they’re going out with  
**WHERE** they are going  
**WHEN** they will be back

## Laming Report

The Quality Assurance Group has analysed the returns from partners who completed a self evaluation exercise against the Laming Report. At the PSCB meeting on 30 September a proposed strategy was presented for both the Trust Board and PSCB to take forward areas for development.

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## Emerging Safeguarding Issues for New Arrival European communities

Preliminary Study – author Julie Solley, Training & Development Officer, New Link



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board commissioned a study to explore the implications of safeguarding children and young people from new European arrival communities. The board received a presentation at its meeting in July and considered the recommendations further at its September meeting.

What follows is a reproduction of some conclusions.

“International migration has always been a feature of life in Peterborough, with many different communities settling in the City over the years. This study was undertaken with the predominant groups of New Arrival EU communities. Our aim is to increase knowledge of the experiences of safeguarding children in the home countries of New Arrival EU communities and now resident in Peterborough. The intention of this study is to assist, inform and support relevant agencies to enable all children and young people in Peterborough to achieve the five outcomes of the ECM agenda.

In regards to the ECM agenda, the three main challenges presented by this study that will impact on all three sample (parent/carer(s), children and young people, professionals) groups achieving the five outcomes are:-.

Firstly there is a lack of continuity between agencies in recording and sharing accurate information of these groups. There needs to be a consistent approach (currently processes vary between agencies) and an increase in ethnicity categories to reflect the complex composition of our local communities.

Secondly the impact of living in a deprived ward area, the unemployment, low income and other factors that identify these areas and the resulting living conditions of these groups.

Thirdly unfamiliarity of language tends to result in a lack of general understanding of the ECM agenda, the community being unaware and unable to access services”

The executive summary and full report are available from Judy Jones, PSCB Policy Officer at [judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk)

## BRIGHT FUTURES

The Children's Trust has produced a second newsletter for those working with children and young people in Peterborough



It is available from [childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk) or telephone 01733 864008

### PRIVATE FOSTERING: *'Can't anyone hear my voice?'*

Private fostering is legally defined as an arrangement that occurs when a child who is under 16 (or 18 for a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) is cared for by someone other than their parent or a close relative for 28 consecutive days or more. A private foster carer may be a friend of the family or the child's friend's parents. However, a private foster carer is sometimes someone who is not previously known to the family, but who is willing to foster the child privately.

The Children Act 1989 requires parents and private foster carers to give the local authority advance notice of a private fostering arrangement. It also places specific duties on local authorities with responsibilities for children's services. The legislation made what was considered a private arrangement into a public matter by giving local authorities a role in ensuring that children are safeguarded. The death of Victoria Climbié in 2000 drew fresh attention to the importance of these arrangements and the Children Act 2004 Section 44 placed a duty on local authorities to promote public awareness of the notification requirements. These measures were introduced in 2005.

The legal definition of private fostering covers a wide range of circumstances in which children may be privately fostered. A briefing by the Hadley Centre shows that the legal definition of private fostering encompasses:<sup>1</sup>

- children (often of West African or Chinese origin) whose parents are studying or working in this country and whose hours or location of work or study make it difficult for them to look after their children
- children at boarding school who live away from their parents in the school holidays, usually because their parents are abroad, and where those arrangements are not made by the school
- children and young people from abroad who come to study at language schools and are placed with 'host' families for 28 days or more
- children from abroad on cultural exchanges
- children who come to this country for medical reasons
- private arrangements intended to lead to adoption, usually involving children from other countries

<sup>1</sup> *Briefing on private fostering*, The Hadley Centre, University of Birmingham, 2007.

- children and young people who live with friends after their family has moved, often so they can continue at the same school or college to take examinations
- young people who go to live with their boy/girlfriend's family, sometimes following an argument at home.

In 1991 the Department of Health discontinued the practice of collecting statistics on the numbers of privately fostered children because of the perceived unreliability of the figures. At that time there were around 2,000 private fostering arrangements known to local authorities compared with 10,907 recorded for 1969. However, it was estimated unofficially (mainly by voluntary sector childcare organisations) that the real figure was much higher.

The most recent data on private fostering was published in April 2008 by the DCSF, which now collects the relevant information through local authority returns. <sup>2</sup> Since the new regulatory framework was introduced in 2005, there has been a steady increase in notifications. At the end of March 2008, 1,330 children were reported as being cared for in private fostering arrangements in England, compared to 1,250 at 31 March 2007 and 980 at 31 March 2006 – a 36% increase since 2006.

Although the number of notifications has steadily increased, this is still considered to be only a small proportion of the actual numbers and there is a concern that notifications do not include many of those privately fostered children who are potentially the most vulnerable. There is slow progress in raising awareness among professionals, low prioritisation of resources and limited public awareness. Teachers, health and other professionals should notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement that comes to their attention, where they are not satisfied that the authority has been, or will be, notified of the arrangement.

Peterborough will be starting its Private Fostering Awareness Training in September 2009. Monthly training sessions are scheduled until March 2010, and will be available for Children's Social Care staff, Children's Services, Voluntary and Independent Organisations.

***If you would like to find out more about Private Fostering, please contact:***

Janes van Vollenstee, Private Fostering Officer, 01733 – 864424 or by email at [jan.es.van-vollenstee@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:jan.es.van-vollenstee@peterborough.gov.uk)

**For Private Fostering Notifications / Referrals, please contact:**

Referral and Assessment Team, Children's Services, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bayard Place, Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 1AY, 01733 – 864180 / 864170.

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<sup>2</sup> *Private fostering arrangements in England, year ending 31 March 2008*, Statistical First Release (SFR 18/2008), DCSF, 2008

Currently our web based procedures are being updated by Tri-x. It will include links to many of the new publications in this newsletter



The Safer Parenting Guide 2009 has been very well received and we are now planning to secure an inter-active CD of the handbook which can be used by professionals in any Childcare setting.

This also has a voice-over and will compliment the hard copy of the handbook.

You may have expected our Newsletter and Workforce Development (training) brochure to be on our website; however as many of you are aware Peterborough City Council is in the process of developing a new website and we are unable to load any new documents at this moment in time.



**If you have any comments or articles for future PSCB newsletters please email [judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk)**