



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Message from Prity Patel,
Transitional Chair PSCB

Contents:

Message from Chair	page 1
The Learning Platform	page 3
Website Development	page 3
Goodbyes and Welcomes	page 4
BBC Child in Need Small Grants	page 4
The Protection of Children in Peterborough	page 5
National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU)	page 6
New Publications	page 6
Consultation	page 7
Young Runaways	page 7
Working Together Consultation	page 8
Safeguarding Standards	page 11
Validation of Safeguarding Training	page 11
Review of single agency Level 1 safeguarding training in Peterborough	page 12

Welcome to the first PSCB newsletter in the New Year!

At the PSCB we have a very challenging but exciting year ahead of us.

Since the PSCB Development Day in September 2009, the Board has been working with the Children's Trust developing a new governance model which will forge a strong collaboration between us and the interface between delivery and scrutiny of safeguarding services in our city. This model has been discussed at the PSCB and CT and has been fully endorsed as the way forward in achieving Lord Laming's recommendation 53 that

"Regular dialogue between the CT and the LSCB should demonstrate all functions of both the LSCB and CT are being effectively discharged" Laming: The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report (March 2009).

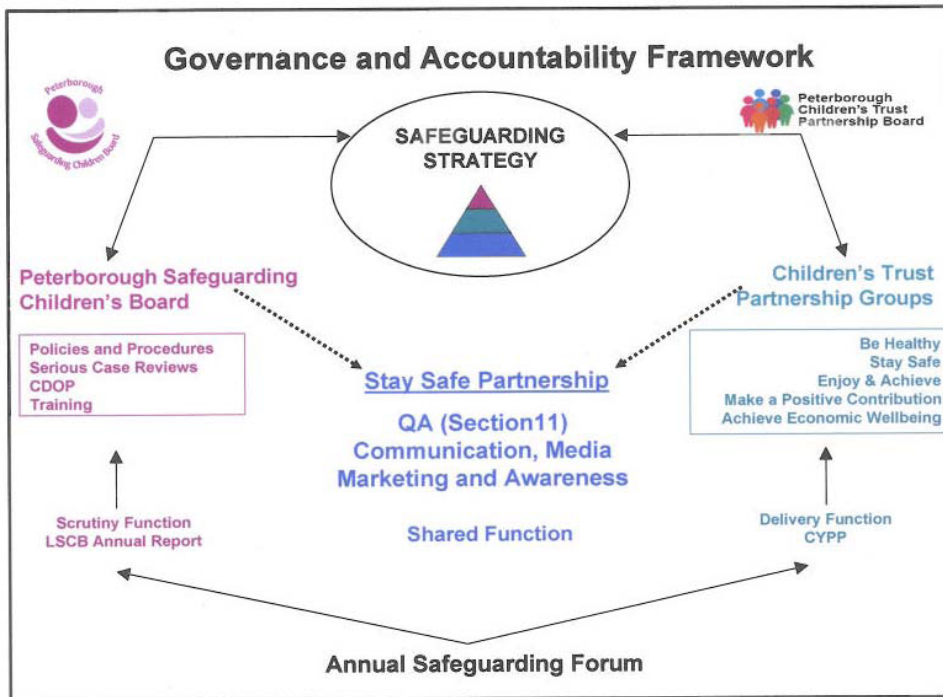
All partner agencies of the PSCB and CT fully recognise that by working to this model not only will the responsibility of improving outcomes for children, including staying safe, which has to be delivered by the CT be achieved but also enable the PSCB to be assured that multi-agency partners are co-operating to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Peterborough.

This will also mean that both entities will continue to fulfil their respective statutory functions, the PSCB of scrutiny and advisory and the CT of delivery and performance.

To facilitate and support this collaborative approach and meet statutory functions an overarching Safeguarding Strategy is to be developed, through the shared function group of the Stay Safe Partnership. This group has members from the PSCB and the CT who will ensure that the shared functions will be discharged. This will include **Quality Assurance** (National safeguarding indicators are a key source of evidence about local service performance. The CT will own the strategy to deliver targets and the PSCB will monitor the effectiveness of targets on performance to safeguard children. The Stay Safe Partnership will deliver a Quality Assurance framework to measure practice, procedures, capability and outcomes). **S.11 compliance** (function of monitoring partner's discharge of responsibilities will be incorporated into the Stay Safe Partnership group.) Developing a **Communication Strategy** in promoting public and professional awareness of local safeguarding issues and **marketing** these issues positively.

I am very pleased to inform you that not only do we have the support and commitment of all partners, but also of our local Members who welcomed the model at a recent sub-committee.

As you can see although we have made tremendous progress, we still have work to do. However, if we all continue to work together then the Board's vision of completing our **Journey to Safeguarding Excellence** in improving safeguarding for children and young people in Peterborough will make the journey a more successful one.



The Learning Platform is a web-based system which provides a personalised on-line learning environment with tools for collaboration and information sharing. It is available for all Peterborough's schools and is also being used by many of the services in the authority. The concept of a Learning Platform has evolved from the use of Virtual Learning Environments which were initially used in Higher Education.

The government realised some time ago that the digital world offered education and authorities great benefits in delivering of a personalised education system and decided that every child should have access to an e-portfolio. The system we use includes the e-portfolio but has developed to include tools which allow teams and individual users to create their own web sites for document storage, communication and sharing of information. It has become a complete solution for anyone needing to share information or collaborate with others in a team environment.

The key benefit of the platform is that it offers a cost effective, secure and safe environment for instant communication to all its users wherever they can access the internet. Our user group includes all of our schools, staff, governors, parents and children but the user capacity of the system can include anyone located nationally or even internationally. This digital world has no boundaries.

The PSCB team has now registered as users on the Learning Platform and are exploring how we can use this with our partners



Website Development

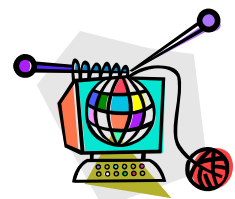
PSCB is in the process of developing a new website in conjunction with Tri-x who has already successfully been commissioned to produce our web based inter-agency procedures for the past two years.

Please bear with us as this site is being "built". In the meantime our information is still accessible via the PCC website using the following steps:

www.peterborough.gov.uk/children_and_families/peterborough_safeguarding.aspx

We are aware that some of you have had difficulties accessing our inter-agency procedures. For ease we recommend that you go direct to them by using the following link set up by Tri-x:

www.proceduresonline.com/peterboroughscb



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:

Debbie Brayshaw, Head of Children's Social Care, Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Quality Assurance Group

Detective Superintendent **John Raine**; Public Protection Dept, Investigations Directorate, Cambs Constabulary:

ALSO Congratulations to John on his promotion to Chief Superintendent and move to the Strategic Management Department, Cambs Constabulary

Robert Ferris; Managing Director, Peterborough Community Services

Detective Inspector **Jim McCrorie**, Public Protection Dept, Cambs Constabulary

Detective Inspector **Darryl Preston**, Public Protection Dept. Cambs Constabulary

Both Jim and Darryl have moved to new posts within the Constabulary

WELCOME TO:

Mark Wheeler, Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Care

Detective Superintendent **Simon Megicks**; Public Protection Dept, Cambs Constabulary

Chris Wilkinson, Director of Nursing, Peterborough & Stamford NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust

Julie Darkin, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, NHS Peterborough

Gill Giaffreda, Named Nurse for Child Protection, Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



BBC Children in Need **launches Small Grants programme**

BBC Children in Need's experience shows that significant and valuable work can be achieved with a small grant and that these are amongst the most imaginative and meaningful grants it makes.

To reflect this it has recently launched a small grants programme, designed to encourage applications from those who may never have considered applying to BBC Children in Need, as well as previous applicants.

Applications are invited at any time; for more information and application forms visit www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN PETERBOROUGH A PROGRESS REPORT.

In November 2008 following the tragic death of baby Peter in Haringay, Lord Laming was asked to prepare a report of the progress being made across the country to implement effective safeguarding arrangements for children after the reforms introduced by the Government following the Victoria Climbié Inquiry.

His report "The Protection of Children in England: a Progress Report" was published in March 2009. He made 58 recommendations across six themes that emerged from the report.

Key statutory agencies in Peterborough were asked to undertake a self evaluation exercise against the recommendations and the Quality Assurance group of the Peterborough Safeguarding Board has undertaken an analysis of those responses. The QA group had representatives from social care, the police, learning and skills, health and the safeguarding children board.

The analysis of responses from agencies across Peterborough suggests that the City is reflective of what Lord Laming found nationally. Peterborough has basic, sound safeguarding practice based on its local PSCB procedures. However, they are not always "used intelligently and effectively." [*Laming March 2009*] The evidence from recent SCR's demonstrate that simple procedural processes have been absent from case management.

There is local evidence of good interagency working "despite rather than because of organisational arrangements." [*Laming March 2009*] Organisational boundaries, cultures, information sharing and professional debate and feedback need to be addressed. The agenda for integration of services and natural alliances will be significant to achieve systemic interagency collaboration.

Social Care, Health and the Police locally reflect the national shortage of staff and wariness of professionals to want to engage in the front line child protection work. Each agency has a clear strategy in response to national requirements but it is proposed that a collaborative approach to this section of the work force recruitment may have some benefit and should be explored.

The submissions from organisations demonstrated training is available but lacks overall co-ordination and multi agency collaboration to provide "high quality specialist training across services" [*Laming March 2009*] at specialist levels is lacking.

An overarching training strategy would join up all staff requirements, identify gaps and offer the opportunity to consider innovative ways of delivering at all levels.

Peterborough can also demonstrate the "social, emotional and financial consequences of not improving children's wellbeing and keeping them safe at early stages of their lives." [*Laming March 2009*] The delivering through localities structural transformation of services will provide the "step change" for Peterborough to demonstrate strong leadership and accountability through a non-compromising safeguarding strategy that reflects and supports the delivery of safeguarding practice at universal, targeted and specialist levels as required in the Governments Stay Safe Action Plan. The recommendations begin to shape a multi agency audit schedule for the PSCB.

The recommendations have now formed the basis for the business plan for 2010 and beyond.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit – priorities and progress

On Friday 18 December 2009 the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit published a report outlining its work plan and progress made on Lord Laming's recommendations. It can be found at www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu.

Alongside this report, the Government also published:

Working Together to Safeguard Children, Chapter 8 – Serious Case Reviews (statutory guidance) and Government response to the consultation on Chapter 8

The revised Chapter 8 of *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, which reflects Lord Laming's recommendations on SCRs and the outcomes of the recent public consultation on this chapter, has now been published. LSCBs, agencies and other professionals are required to implement this statutory guidance on SCRs with immediate effect.

The revised statutory guidance is now available on the Every Child Matters website at www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/seriouscasereviews/scrs/

Local Safeguarding Children Boards Practice Guidance – A Summary Outline for consultation and a call for evidence.

In *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report*, Lord Laming recommended that DCSF provide further guidance to LSCBs on how to operate as effectively as possible. A summary outline, based on key findings from Loughborough University, has been produced to form the basis of a call for evidence / good practice and is now available at:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01184-2009>.

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit invites local partners to share evidence by 29 January 2010. This can be sent to lscb.guidance@nsdu.gsi.gov.uk.

New Publications

Research in Practice has published its January research and policy update. It includes reviews on the use of complexity theory to understand child neglect; and the impact of Children's Trust initiative on children's outcomes.

Source: [Research and policy update - issue 108 - January 2010](#)

The NSPCC has published a new factsheet looking at the **law on physical punishment** in the UK and what we know about attitudes to physical punishment.

Source: [NSPCC inform](#)

The NSPCC has published the full research report, **Children and families experiencing domestic violence: police and children's social services' responses**

Source: [NSPCC inform](#)

Consultation

Children's Trusts Statutory Guidance on co-operation arrangements including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Plan.

This new guidance is largely, and the regulations wholly, underpinned by changes introduced by the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (ASCL Act 2009)

What has changed?

This guidance reflects the changes arising from the ASCL Act 2009

- The Children's Trust Board will be placed on a statutory footing from April 2010.
- Responsibility for developing, publishing and reviewing the CYPP passes from the local authority alone to the Children's Trust Board. The first new style CYPP must be published by April 2011.
- The CYPP becomes a joint strategy in which the Children's Trust partners set out how they will co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people in the local area. It differs from the previous CYPP in that although the scope of the new CYPP includes all services that affect children and young people's well-being, once the Children's Trust Board has identified its main cross-cutting priorities, the Plan should focus on what the partners will do together to deliver them.
- Responsibility for implementing the CYPP remains with the individual partners, who are under a duty to have regard to the Plan. The Children's Trust Board is responsible for monitoring the extent to which the partners act in accordance with the Plan and to publish an annual report which sets this out.
- Schools (including Academies, non maintained special schools and Short Stay Schools/Pupil Referral Units), FE and sixth-form colleges and Jobcentre Plus will become new statutory 'relevant partners' in the Children's Trust co-operation arrangements from January 2010. This means that like other statutory 'relevant partners' they:
 - will be required to co-operate with the local authority and its other partners to improve children's well-being through the Children's Trust;
 - will (subject to any specific restrictions on partners' funding arrangements) be able to pool budgets and share other resources with the other partners;
 - and
 - must be represented on the Children's Trust Board

Young Runaways

Our working group has almost completed the local practice guidance "Children missing from home and care". Once this has been signed off it will be added to our procedures and an e-mail alert will be sent.

Working Together to Safeguard Children.

A consultation, launched 18 December 2009 with a response date of 11 February 2010

In *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* Lord Laming made a number of recommendations which the Government has proposed to address through the revision of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance. This revised draft guidance addresses 17 of Lord Laming's recommendations, as indicated in the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit's earlier pre-consultation. The revised draft also updates the guidance to reflect changes to the policy and legislative landscape since *Working Together* was last published in 2006.

Background and Context

Lord Laming's Progress Report

On 12 November 2008 Ministers announced to Parliament that they had asked Lord Laming to prepare an independent report on the progress being made across the country to deliver effective arrangements to protect children, and to identify any barriers to effective, consistent implementation and how these might be overcome.

Lord Laming published *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* on 12 March 2009. In the report he confirmed that robust legislative, structural and policy foundations have been established and that the *Every Child Matters* reforms put in place following the death of Victoria Climbié set the right direction and were widely supported. Lord Laming highlighted the significant positive progress that has been made in the child protection system and the commitment of people working at the front line.

But Lord Laming was also clear that:

"...much more needs to be done to ensure that ...services are as effective as possible at working together to achieve positive outcomes for children."and he called for "a step change in the arrangements to protect children from harm"

In order to drive up the quality of practice at the front line, Lord Laming made 58 specific recommendations relating to: leadership and accountability, support for children, interagency working, children's workforce, improvement and challenge, organisation and finance and the legal framework.

The Government's Response

On 12 March 2009 the Government immediately accepted all of Lord Laming's recommendations and on 6 May 2009 published *The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan - The Government's response to Lord Laming*¹. The action plan set out the Government's detailed response to Lord Laming's recommendations and made commitments for future action.

17 of Lord Laming's recommendations, not including the six being addressed in chapter 8, will be addressed through the revision of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (*Working Together*) guidance as will a further commitment from the Government's action plan relating to the appointment of lay members to LSCBs.

The Proposals

In responding to Lord Laming's recommendations to revise *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, the revised text incorporates Lord Laming's specific requests by:

- specifying that Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), in exercising their functions, should keep under review the sources of referrals to local authority children's social care services and monitor the quality and action taken in response, including feedback to the person making the referral (recommendation 6);
- re-emphasising the importance of senior managers under the DCS having relevant skills in education and social care, including safeguarding in particular (originally set out in revised guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services, published earlier this year) and also highlighting the importance of high quality leadership and experience in safeguarding and child protection to managing effective children's services (recommendation 7);
- including a section in chapter 3 on the new requirement for LSCBs to write an annual report (also see recommendation 53), which will capture an analysis of the needs of all children and young people in the area (recommendation 9);
- reiterating in Chapter 5 the importance of training, expertise and support to manage referrals where there are child welfare concerns and in particular concerns about children's safety. Specifically it highlights the importance of high quality, experienced social workers undertaking key management and supervisory roles in intake/duty teams. Revisions to Chapter 4 also stress the importance of specialist training for these roles and Chapter 2 references the local authority's responsibility to ensure relevant staff receive this high quality training (recommendation 11);
- including specific reference, in Chapter 5, to the child being seen, alone where appropriate, by the lead social worker. Chapter 5 also sets out that in response to a referral, local authority children's social care should ask the referrer if they hold any information about difficulties being experienced in the family/household due to domestic violence, parental mental illness, substance misuse and/or learning disability (recommendation 13);
- emphasising, in Chapter 2, the importance of the Children's Trust Board working in consultation with the LSCB to put in place appropriate systems and practices to ensure that Children in Need have early access to effective specialist services and support to meet their needs (recommendation 14);
- setting out, in Chapter 4, the elements of high quality supervision for staff working, or in contact, with children and families (recommendation 16);
- stressing, in Chapter 5, the importance of high quality record keeping, of direct involvement with children and their families and of well managed processes and activities following a referral to local authority children's social care where there are child welfare concerns. It also emphasises the importance of all professionals who are involved with, or have knowledge of, a child and family, attending core group meetings, reviews and other key decision making meetings, wherever possible, or preparing a written report and delegating a colleague to attend and participate on their behalf. The guidance also recognises the statutory responsibility of local authority children's social care services to determine whether a child is a child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, but sets out that over time, as a consistent understanding of local thresholds for

referrals are developed, and the overall quality of those referrals improves, there will be an increasing correlation between referrals received and initial assessments undertaken (recommendation 19);

- stating clearly the need for all professionals (working in both adult and children's services) to refer their concerns to local authority children's services in *all* circumstances where they believe a child may be suffering, or be likely to suffer, significant harm. It also emphasises the responsibility of local authority children's services to act appropriately in response to the referral, and the responsibility of professionals making referrals to make these as high quality and comprehensive as possible, consistent with a clear understanding of locally agreed thresholds (recommendation 20);
 - reflecting the change in regulations making schools as a statutory 'relevant body or person' of the LSCB from April 2010 (recommendation 22);
 - making it clear that the Children's Trust Board has a responsibility to ensure that all their partners follow the government's Information Sharing Guidance (recommendation 23);
 - highlighting the importance of workforce development and of integrated frontline delivery of services to maximise their effectiveness and encouraging the development of co-located services (recommendation 25);
 - outlining that LSCBs, as part of the wider Children's Trust arrangements, should ensure that all staff who work or have contact with children are appropriately trained to understand normal child development and to recognise potential signs of abuse and neglect (recommendation 29);
 - further highlighting the key role that the LSCB plays in ensuring that single-agency and inter-agency training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare is provided in order to meet local needs and emphasising current expectations that LSCBs will wish to evaluate the quality of training, ensuring that relevant training is provided by individual organisations and checking that the training is reaching the relevant staff within organisations (recommendation 30);
 - reiterating the previously outlined a presumption of independence for LSCB chairs and making it clear that the LSCB and the CTB must not be chaired by the same person (recommendation 51);
 - stressing not only the importance of all partners being active members of the LSCB but also the importance of the profile and seniority of members who must be able to speak authoritatively on behalf of their agency or professional group (recommendation 52);
- and
- setting out the new requirement for LSCBs to write an annual report, including proposed coverage of that report (recommendation 53).

In addition to responding to directly to the recommendations made by Lord Laming, the revised working draft also includes changes which take account of changes to the policy and legislative landscape since the guidance was last revised in 2006.

The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DCSF e-consultation website in March 2010

Safeguarding Standards

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust Commissioners have been working with regional colleagues to develop standards as a benchmark of good practice for organisations who wish to be commissioned by local authorities and or Children's Trusts to provide services to Children, Young People and their Families.

The standards documents and the workbook have been endorsed by PSCB and the CT and will be officially launched at the Children's Trust Conference on 28 January 2010. There will be an implementation workshop held in March.

Validation of Safeguarding Training

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 (863746 or joanne.bramwell@peterborough.gov.uk)

Review of single agency level 1 safeguarding training in Peterborough

Under the new draft Working Together to Safeguard Children document “it is the responsibility of the LSCB to ensure that single agency and inter-agency training on safeguarding and promoting welfare is provided in order to meet local needs”

In response to Working Together I am currently carrying out a small scale review of single agency safeguarding training in Peterborough. The review looks at what basic safeguarding training agencies are currently delivering, how frequently the training is held, who delivers the course and how it links with the PSCB safeguarding training programme.

The questionnaire has been circulated to a number of agencies that I know deliver their own safeguarding training. It is likely that there are other agencies in Peterborough that deliver their own safeguarding training that I am not aware of. In order for the review to be as comprehensive as possible if you deliver safeguarding training for your agency and you have not received a questionnaire entitled PSCB Review of level one safeguarding training please contact me on joanne.bramwell@peterborough.gov.uk or telephone 01733 863476



If you have any comments or articles for future PSCB newsletters please email judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk