



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

ISSUE 24

NEWSLETTER DATE: JULY 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The increased and pressurised workload of all of our partners in these difficult times sometimes means that there is a danger of a narrow focus on our own service and not enough time spent on reflection. It is the case that we all have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in our city. This summer newsletter offers some information about the work of the board and other initiatives to inform and enhance the practice of all of us.

We are taking a more proactive approach to promoting our training and you will be aware that Charlotte Lucas, who for many years was your first point of contact for training, has now moved on to the Virtual School Children in Care Team and Allyson Godly has joined us.



Do please keep checking our web site www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk where on a monthly basis you will find an up to date list of contacts for Children's Social Care.

If you have any comments or wish us to use some information from your service please e mail me judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk

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Visit from the Minister

Tim Loughton MP, the Minister for Children and Families visited Children's Social Care on 7 June. He was impressed with the progress made and commented "Peterborough is in a very different place to where it was after its last inspection"

He asked for reflection on the following which will be embedded in the improvement plan.

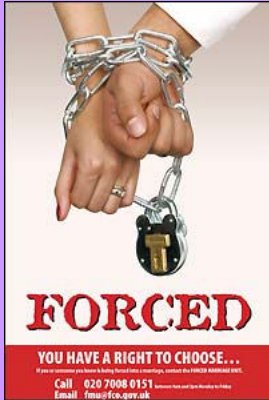
- Ensure improvement is sustainable
- Strengthen relationships with other agencies
- Increase the number of in house carers and the range of placements in Peterborough
- Ensure all staff feel recognised and supported

STOP PRESS

Thursday 15th November PSCB Conference "Child Sexual Exploitation"

QUICK ROUND UP

- The protocol for children missing from home and care is being updated
- The PSCB annual report and business plan is in draft form
- PSCB new Quality Assurance Framework developed
- PSCB audit of core group about to start
- New PSCB multi agency data set developed following on from the Government releasing their framework
- Interviews planned July for a Performance and Quality Assurance Officer for the PSCB



NEWS IN BRIEF

Forced marriage to be made a criminal offence

Forcing someone to marry will become a criminal offence in England and Wales. The new law will be accompanied by a range of measures to increase protection and support for victims with a continuing focus on prevention.

The UK is already a leader on tackling forced marriage. The Forced Marriage Unit runs a helpline providing confidential support and advice to victims and professionals and conducts a nationwide outreach programme with schools and other agencies.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/forced-marriage-new-law>

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/forced-marriage-to-become-criminal-offence/>

'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation'

This report sets out how Local Authorities in England can act to protect children from the horrors of child sexual exploitation. Written in conjunction with the LGA and with advice from the London Safeguarding Children Board, the report will draw on good practice from Local Authorities, Local Safeguarding Children Boards and police forces.

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/current_news.htm?ref=79665

Safeguarding girls at risk of FGM

Following recent media coverage, the Chief Medical Officer and the Director of Nursing have asked all health care professionals to familiarise themselves with the actions they need to take where they have reason to believe that a girl has undergone, or is at risk of, FGM.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/05/fgm/>

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_134369.pdf

Use of reasonable force

This updated non-statutory advice is intended to provide clarification on the use of force to help school staff feel more confident about using this power when they feel it is necessary and to make clear the responsibilities of school leaders and governing bodies in respect of this power.

This advice replaces *The use of force to control and restrain pupils: Guidance for schools in England*.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f0077153/use-of-reasonable-force>



Use of reasonable force

Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies

Tougher identity checks for CRB applications

The CRB is strengthening checks so that it is harder for people with a criminal record to hide convictions by changing their identity to hide their past. It is reducing the number of documents accepted for identity verification. Applicants will now be required to produce documents that involve undergoing tighter checks with the document issuer, such as a passport or driver's licence.



The new ID checking process requires applicants to produce three ID documents from the new reduced list. If they cannot, they will be required to undergo further checks. Plans for these further checks are now being finalised. Details of how they will work will be sent to the relevant organisations shortly.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/tougher-CRB-checks>

Local Authorities acting more quickly to keep children safe

Since 07-08 Cafcass has seen a 62% increase in the numbers of LA care applications. In 2011-12, the number of applications topped 10,000 for the first time ever. Key findings from this research were:

Guardians believed LA care applications were more appropriately timed.

In 85.4% of cases, Guardians believed that the application was the only viable action to keep children safe and that there was no other alternative to court proceedings.

LAs are making applications at an earlier stage of their involvement with children.

There is a greater prevalence of neglect and the children subject to Child Protection Plans (under neglect) have been known to LAs for less time. This suggests that neglect is now being acted upon more quickly, and applications in which neglect is a feature are being made an earlier stage.

Care applications from London boroughs were identified as being more appropriately timed than those from outside London, and most likely to meet the requirements for providing information to court.

Also published are 5 years' worth of individual LA care application numbers and rates.

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2012/cafcass_care_study_2012.aspx

Rethinking Child Poverty- A policy paper by the Centre for Social Justice

This short paper argues that the current measure of child poverty is inadequate. It fails to acknowledge that poverty is about much more than a lack of income.

http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/flash/CSJ_Child_Poverty_second%20version.pdf

Calls about neglect to NSPCC double in two years

The NSPCC is warning that a sharp increase in reports of neglect cases is putting additional pressure on already stretched children's services. New figures released by the charity show that reports to its helpline about neglect have doubled over the past two years to reach record levels.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/our-news/nspcc-news/12-06-11-neglect-theme-launch/calls-about-neglect-double_wda89912.html





Proposals to enable children to see both their parent are launched

Plans to strengthen the law so children continue to see both parents, if they separate, have been put forward by ministers.

The Government believes that where it is safe and in the child's best interest, the law should make it clearer that children benefit from having both parents actively involved in their lives, with both sharing responsibility in decisions about their upbringing. The majority of parents who separate reach their own agreements for their children. However, Ministers are concerned that when disputes arise one of the first things that can be overlooked is ensuring children have a strong relationship with both parents.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/proposals-to-enable-children-to-see-both-their-parent-are-launched>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00210258/proposals-to-enable-children-to-see-both-their-parents-are-launched>

Safety signpost: Free electrical safety fun kits

The Electrical Safety Council has produced a fun kit which is aimed at children 4 – 8 years of age to make learning about electrical safety both fun and educational. The re-usable kit includes a house plan drawing, stickers, badges, an electrical safety poster and a spot the hazards sheet.

The fun kit complements ESC's children's website, which aims to support teachers delivering key stages of the science/PSHE curriculum associated with electricity and, specifically electrical safety.

<http://www.capt.org.uk/who-we-are/news/safety-signpost-free-electrical-safety-fun-kits>

<http://www.switchedonkids.org.uk/>



Armed Forces in Peterborough

Peterborough City has within its boundaries an RAF base (Wittering); Territorial Army facility and a Military Hospital Wing (MDHU).

RAF Wittering is home to more than 1500 RAF, Royal Navy (RN) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) civilian personnel and has responsibility for a wide range of diverse operational units.

Peterborough Territorial Army (TA) forms part of the Royal Logistics Corps with approximately 80 volunteer soldiers aged 18 to 58.

The MDHU is based in Peterborough Hospital. Though a predominantly Royal Air Force unit there are members of the QARANC (Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps) serving alongside the RAF and Navy nurses of the tri-service of the Defence Secondary Care Agency (DSCA).

The MDHU Peterborough is a Joint Service Unit. The unit has just over 200 established military posts, the majority being Service personnel but also has an important component of civilian staff. We work alongside 3000 NHS colleagues in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Staff from this facility can be deployed on military operations throughout the world.

The SSAFA Social Worker provides a confidential social work service for all serving personnel and their immediate dependants within the RAF, TA and MDHU. They work alongside the chain of command, statutory and other voluntary services both inside and outside the wire to ensure the best support for SSAFA service users.



Assessment

Why do we get men wrong?

A half day course run by Rachel Sensicle

Purpose: *To understand how and when to include men in the assessment process*

NB *this course is only open to anyone who undertakes family assessments.*

Aims of the day are:

- Highlight the significance of men in the assessment process
- Offer insight into ways to achieve balanced and comprehensive assessments
- Offer methods to ensure a consistent approach in working with men and families

Learning Outcomes:

- To gain and refresh knowledge of involving men in the assessment process.

When and Where?

Thursday 20th September 2012 @ 9:15 for 9:30 start until 13:00, The Lake Room, Kingsgate Conference Centre, Staplee Way

To book your place on a course please contact Allyson Godly on 863747 or by email: allyson.godly@peterborough.gov.uk

'Gave me a fresh perspective on a particular case with a father and different ways to approach my work with him....this has really helped me.'

'Information on the type of man and his individual 'brick wall' was an excellent way of looking at men's characteristics'

'Really good content but excellent delivery which kept you interested....I'd like more in-depth training in this area'

'We need more training for social workers on this subject'

'Enthusiastic and knowledgeable presentation and delivery...kept my interest throughout'



Too Hot to Handle

Here's a great idea: a DVD film, a set of cards to start up a discussion of the issues and flyers for each parent to take away.

Whether you need to sell-in a hot drinks policy at your setting, reduce hospital admissions as a result of accidental injury, or respond to parental concerns about child accident prevention, Child Accident and Prevention Trust's new DVD pack *Too hot to handle* will help you deliver.

The film covers three scenarios:

- A scald from a hot drink
- A contact burn from a hob
- A bath water scald

The discussion cards cover many more scenarios, including hair straighteners.

The film is based on real incidents, with testimony from the parents of the injured children. For additional impact, it features a burns specialist, Dr Amber Young from Frenchay Hospital in Bristol talking about the reality of burns and scalds injuries on young children.

Check out a clip of the film, find out more and order online:

www.capt.org.uk/shop/too-hot-handle

The BMA Child Protection Toolkit for Doctors

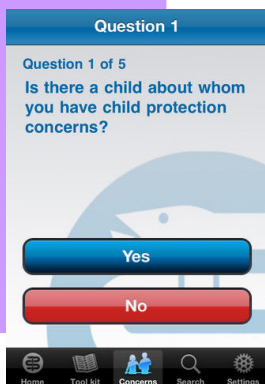
An app for the iPhone

The BMA developed a Child Protection Toolkit for Doctors in 2009 and whilst it was comprehensive, it was more useful to doctors working in a hospital setting than for the GP. This app is available for the iPhone or iPad from the Apple iTunes App Store for 69 pence and is aimed at GPs or junior doctors who would only encounter child protection issues occasionally.

The tool kit is extremely comprehensive and covers everything from recognising and identifying child abuse to making a referral and includes a section speaking to children. There are videos and a section on frequently asked questions. The great thing is that if you have an iPhone you have access to the toolkit wherever you are and navigating the app is very easy. Personally I found it much easier to read the information on my iPad but in reality GPs and doctors are more likely to have their phones with them than an iPad.

This is an app that would be useful to anyone who has contact with children in the course of their work and a great use of technology so maybe someone out there could develop a generic app for the whole children's workforce! Social workers here in Peterborough have iPhones and this would be a great tool for them.

PSCB will be contacting the Named GP for Safeguarding to ensure that he and his colleagues are aware of this app.



Children's Social Care: Better Services for Children and Families

Following on from the successful implementation of their 10 core tasks children's social care have agreed the focus of improvement for the next 6 months

In 2012/13 the service priorities are to:

- Strengthen safeguarding by delivering on the Improvement Plan
- Ensure children have a choice of placements and are fostered within the city and if necessary adopted within statutory guidelines
- Ensure there is a range of preventative services so that children are safeguarded early and their needs are met

Over the next six months the focus will be to:

- Ensure initial assessments and core assessments are completed on time, to an adequate quality and allocated appropriately
- Focus on raising the quality of casework
- Put in place preventative services to avoid unnecessary family breakdown
- Improve care planning and outcomes for looked after children
- Strengthen the multi-agency use of the Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the Child
- Put in place a permanent management structure and workforce
- Improve the impact of partnerships

Child Sexual Exploitation

In January 2011 Barnardos published their report "Puppet on a String: the urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation" It was described by the government as a wake up call.

The report called for a national action plan to tackle the issue and subsequently the Thematic Assessment "Out of Mind: breaking down the barriers to understanding child sexual exploitation", published by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre was published in June 2011.

Finally in October 2011 the University of Bedfordshire published findings from its major research study exploring the nature and response of LSCB's to the 2009 Government Guidance regarding safeguarding children from sexual exploitation.

All of the above and the Munro review of Child Protection influenced the Governments action plan where there are significant actions for LSCB's.

- Monitor ongoing prevalence
 - Develop an effective local strategy ensuring there is a co-ordinated multi agency response
 - Increase understanding
 - Safeguard and promote the welfare of groups of children who are potentially more vulnerable
 - Consider setting up a working group
- Develop links with neighbouring authorities

A task and finish group has been established which reports into the Policy, Practice and Procedures Group (a joint group with Cambs).

A questionnaire has been sent far and wide .Have you responded?

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CSE_LSCBSurvey

See final 4 pages of newsletter for step by step guide



The Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Framework



The new framework published in June describes the key nationally collected data that can help those involved in child protection at both the local and national levels understand the health of the child protection system. It also describes recommended questions that can be asked of children, families, professionals and providers at a local level. Taken together they give a richer view of the effectiveness and impact of child protection including early help services.

The framework is broken down into five themes, with national performance information items and approaches to local information for each. The themes are:

- Outcomes for children and young people and their families
- Child protection activity (including early help)
- The quality and timeliness of decision making
- The quality of child protection plans
- Workforce

The nationally collected data supports; the availability of data for the purposes of accountability and transparency at national and local level, and provides benchmarks of national performance against which performance can be judged locally. It is collected through a range of statutory data collection exercises, nearly all of which are already established. Because this performance information is drawn from different collections, a complete picture will not be available until the autumn of 2014. The Department for Education is working with its partners to establish the most effective way of publishing the performance information together to give most help to local areas in interpreting and using their own data.

National level performance information can only provide part of the picture. Questions about quality and experiences of those who are part of the system need to be asked at the local level, and different ways of doing that will be appropriate to different areas. This framework includes the questions agreed with the sector that local agencies need to ask service users and providers so that their experiences can help drive local improvement. These questions are consistent with those being asked in inspection and peer review and challenge.

The local and national information in this framework should be used by local agencies as well as Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards. The performance information items included in this framework will be kept under review each year and in discussion with the sector including ADCS and Ofsted. The national performance information items need to provide a picture of a broad range of issues from across the child protection system without becoming too detailed or cumbersome. As different sources of performance information become available or different priorities arise, it might be necessary to adapt the framework to reflect these changes.

The safeguarding board has been developing a data set and has been able to include the framework performance requirements with the acknowledgement that as yet some systems are not able to collect the data as is identified.

HMP Peterborough

Peterborough City has within its boundaries a mixed prison (HMP Peterborough). It is a local category B prison. The prison is operated by Sodexo Justice Services. Opened in March 2005, it is the only dual purpose-built prison in the country for men and women, who are kept separate at all times. The prison also has a 12 place Mother and Baby Unit, where babies can stay until they are 18 months old. Peterborough accepts adult male prisoners from Cambridgeshire and females from Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. HMP Peterborough through Sodexo, employ a Child Protection Officer. Her duties include the Mother and Baby Unit, pregnant female offenders and visiting children.

HMP Peterborough links with the local NHS Trust to provide a specialist midwife (Helen Foster) for all pregnant and post natal prisoners in the general prison population and new babies and mothers in the Mother and Baby Unit. Over 100 women a year are at different stages of gestation a year within the prison population in HMP Peterborough, arriving from across the whole of the UK.

Munro review progress report: Moving towards a child-centred system

Professor Eileen Munro reports a “culture change” in the child protection system but outlines an urgent need to accelerate reforms to create a more child-centred system. She said reforms are moving the focus of help and protection firmly onto children and young people and away from excessive bureaucratic demands. She believes there are many front line managers and social workers who now have the confidence to exercise their judgment and provide effective help, based on the individual needs of a child.

The report highlights the following progress:

- Removal of fixed assessment timescales with positive feedback from trial authorities.
- Ofsted’s revised child protection inspection framework which focuses on the impact and effectiveness of help and protection for children, young people and their families.
- Examples of services working together and with social services to provide better understanding of children’s needs.
- Improvements to initial education, in selecting the right people and training the next generation of social workers.
- Appointment of a Chief Social Worker and LAs starting to recruit Principal Social Workers to their teams.

The report calls for faster progress in:

- A reduction in statutory guidance so that there is more scope for professional and local autonomy. There has been a delay in implementing these changes, due to the need for proper public consultation. Once this has been removed services should be better placed to work together to offer improved early help.
- The Government needs to encourage better understanding between services as reforms take place in health and policing.

The importance of implementing all the proposed reforms in full.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00209302/munro-child-protection-reforms-welcomed-but-pace-needs-to-be-accelerated>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/healthandwellbeing/safeguardingchildren/a00209245/munro-progress>



Shortly after the PSCB Training Brochure was distributed in April and applications started to arrive it became apparent to the Board that the information was not reaching everyone. This has hopefully now been rectified with a wider distribution list but if your agency or department is still not receiving updates or hasn't seen the brochure, please send me an email and I'll forward a brochure and add you to future mailing lists – PSCBTraining@peterborough.gov.uk.

PSCB has developed a database which will not only improve our processes, but which will give a clearer picture of attendance at training courses and will inform us where to direct training in the future. Allyson is also sending regular e-mail reminders to notify agencies and departments of upcoming training courses which have places remaining so that we can fill the courses.

The Impact of Training Tool continues to be updated in the month following each training course, to give delegates an opportunity to reflect on any changes to their practice since the training. Delegates are reminded to complete the online form in a monthly e-mail in order to obtain their certificates.

More children set to benefit from free early education

More families with children aged two-years-old living in Paston, Walton and North Bretton will be able to benefit from free early education sessions from September 2012.

Peterborough City Council is one of ten local authorities chosen to take part in a trial being rolled out by the [Department for Education](#) to increase free early education sessions for two-year-old children.

The trial will launch in September 2012 and will allow families with children who meet the eligibility criteria to access up to 15 hours free early education sessions each week. The city council currently offers up to ten hours a week free early education for all two-year-old children and families who meet a strict criteria.

The trial will conclude in March 2013, prior to the nationwide roll-out of the scheme in September 2013.

The city council will receive up to £253,000 in the current financial year to fund the trial.

“Peterborough City Council currently offers early education funding for all two-year-old children and families who meet a strict criteria. The Department for Education stipulates that the funding is aimed at the most economically disadvantaged two-year-olds and their families. Therefore, to be eligible children must live within one of the identified 15 per cent most disadvantaged areas in Peterborough.

The trial, announced by the Department for Education, will extend the availability of the funding so that it includes more families living in Paston, Walton and North Bretton. These families will no longer need to live within one of the 15 per cent most disadvantaged areas.





PLACES AVAILABLE ON JULY COURSES

Date	Course	Time	Places Allocated	Places remaining	Trainer/s	Brochure Page	Where
16/07/2012	Domestic Abuse Workshop for First Line Managers	Half Day	15	7	Tracy Foster	Flyer sent	1 st Floor, Northminster House
23/07/2012	Board Members Induction	Full Day	5	1			Bayard Place
27/07/2012	Strategy Meeting Workshop	Half Day	15	13	Helen Herron/Jo Cottell	Flyer sent	1 st Floor, Northminster House

PLACES AVAILABLE ON SEPTEMBER COURSES

Date	Course	Time	Places Allocated	Places remaining	Trainer/s	Brochure Page	Where
06/09/2012	An Introduction to Safeguarding Children	Half Day	1	14	Helen Herron	15	Northminster House
11/09/2012	The Impact of Serious Case Reviews and the Child Death Overview Panel	Half Day	20	Full	Helen Herron/Sally Giddins	Flyer	Northminster House
17/09/2012	Recognising and Responding to Signs & Symptoms of Child Abuse	Full Day	7	8	Helen Herron	Flyer	Northminster House
20/09/2012	Assessment - why do we get men wrong?	Half Day	10	22	Rachel Sensicle	Flyer	Kingsgate
26/09/2012	Framework for Child Protection	Half Day	7	8	CS Integrated SG Unit	20	Northminster House

To book a place please contact Allyson Godly on 863747 or email:

PSCBTraining@peterborough.gov.uk

New Guidance

There are 3 new pieces of guidance included on our website

Bruising in Pre-mobile Babies

A PROTOCOL FOR ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT AND REFERRAL BY HEALTH AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS

KEY MESSAGES:

- Bruising is the most common presenting feature in physical abuse in children.
- The younger the child the higher the risk that the bruising is non-accidental, especially where the child is under the age of 6 months.
- Bruising in any child 'not independently mobile' should prompt suspicion of maltreatment
- Bruising in any child 'not independently mobile' should prompt an urgent senior paediatric opinion and when there is no obvious medical cause, there should be an immediate referral to Social Care.

The aim of this protocol is to provide frontline health and other professionals with a knowledge base and action strategy for the assessment, management and referral of pre-mobile babies who present with bruising or otherwise suspicious marks. It can now be found on our web site.

It does not reiterate the process to be followed once a referral to Children's Social Care has been made. For this, practitioners must consult Peterborough's LSCB procedures.

Children Who Move Across Local Authority Boundaries: Cross Boundary Protocol

A new protocol was developed and agreed by Safeguarding Children Boards and Children's Social Care in Suffolk, Norfolk, Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton and Peterborough and should be used with any other authority.

Hospital Discharge Arrangements

Following on from the recent serious case review the following has been added to the Hospital Safeguarding Procedures and the PSCB Interagency Procedures

If the child is subject to a section 47 multi agency enquiry, a strategy meeting involving the social worker, the police, the consultant paediatrician and the named nurse/midwife for child protection or other senior member of nursing/midwifery staff will take place at the earliest opportunity. There will be a written agreement between parents and children's social care regarding contact, visiting arrangements and level of supervision required. The terms of this will be documented in the child's medical notes. Supervised visiting will be arranged by children's social care. There will be written agreement between parents and children's social care with regard to discharge. All of this information will be documented in the child's medical notes along with a copy of the plan.

Any child/neonate subject to a section 47 multi-agency enquiry will not be discharged until a discharge strategy meeting with all professionals involved has taken place. In relation to the neonate, full planning may have taken place in the antenatal period and a copy of the hospital plan with discharge details will be in their notes.



Working Together to Safeguard Children 2012

Consultation Documents

The Department for Education has published the new consultation drafts of Working Together to Safeguard Children. There are three separate documents:

1. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2012, this sets out the responsibilities of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and its member agencies.
2. Managing Individual Cases, this explains how children and families should be dealt with from the point of referral of safeguarding concerns to the discontinuation of the child protection plan.
3. Statutory Guidance on Learning and Improvement, this explains that learning from cases including serious case reviews should be a continuous process based on a systems philosophy. This document also contains the largely unchanged arrangements for the conduct of the Child Death Overview Panel.

These documents can be accessed at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1839&external=no&menu=1>

The consultation period ends on September 4th 2012

Document 1: Working Together to Safeguard Children.

This document states the legislative requirements, explains what the expectations are of all agencies engaged in the protection of children and identifies a framework for the LSCB to coordinate its work and to monitor and report on the effectiveness of local arrangements. Whilst there are a number of revisions and changes (outlined below) this part of WT2012 contains no great surprises.

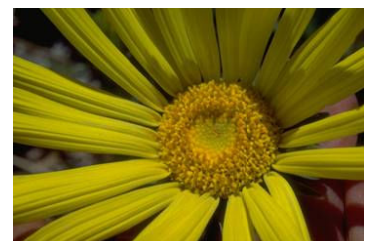
Each LSCB must still develop and publish local policies and procedures about agencies working together.

The work of the Health and Wellbeing Boards and their Strategic Needs Assessment in terms of the children's safeguarding agenda is clearly laid out here and this body will scrutinise the LSCB's annual report.

The roles of the LSCB and the Lead Member as an observer at LSCB meetings are outlined and the agenda of transparency and challenge are clearly expressed and supported as are information sharing obligations.

The principles of multi-agency working and creating a culture where all the relevant agencies listen to and engage in dialogue with children, both in decisions and in determining the development and improvement of services, are upheld here. Adult social care services must consider whether children in the households of the people with whom they work are safe.

Common and shared assessment arrangements are supported as a universal service, which upholds the Munro principle that early help is offered both to encourage cooperative work with families and to reduce inappropriate demand on Children's Social Care. However, Professor Munro's recommendation that every family receive an 'Early Help Offer' appears to be one element of reform that has not been supported by the government possibly for reasons related to the unavailability of additional resources.



Working Together to Safeguard Children 2012

Document 2: Managing Individual Cases: the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families.

This document outlines the responsibilities and actions that must be taken where there are concerns that children are suffering (or likely to) significant harm. Here is the meat of the child protection reform feast and whilst some might have been expecting something new and exciting, there really aren't any surprises and the whole thing has a familiar taste! The document sets out the principles of assessment using the familiar triangular model and the principles that underpin the Framework for Assessment. 'Checkpoints' are identified such as referral, seeing the child, initial child protection conference etc; and these constitute the parts of the system, which have to be observed.

Despite these fixed points, this guidance is less specific and requires local arrangements to be put in place in relation to the type of assessment, which will be required - so long as the principles of assessment are adhered to. The idea seems to be that children and families will experience a single assessment as opposed to the current Initial followed by Core assessment model.

As an illustration of the way that things have changed, most timescales have gone (a social worker still has to decide on the outcome of a referral within one day) but the principle remains that the process must be dealt with in a timely manner, that this needs to be agreed, along with the conduct and nature of the assessment, with the child and the family and that the social worker is responsible for monitoring this.

It appears that LSCBs will be able to decide what guidance they want to retain and/or innovate.

All the supplementary guidance about children in specific circumstances (previously included in chapters 6 and 11 of Working Together 2010) has gone. However there is no reason to lose the practice wisdom and guidance that has been developed in recent years and the statutory guidance published separately will continue to have effect.

What this represents though is a real shift in culture for Children's Social Care and partner organisations. The ability to maintain local arrangements will help to avoid confusion and radical change, for which the workforce needs to be prepared and trained. Social workers in particular will need support to move to a position where they can confidently exercise their professional judgement in relation to how cases are managed. Some LSCBs and Children's Social Care in particular will see these changes as an opportunity to help empower the workforce to provide a more flexible, child-centred service whilst others will need time to have this level of confidence in their staff.



Document 3. Statutory Guidance on Learning and Improvement.

The final document in the consultation trilogy relates to the importance of the LSCB's ability to learn and improve its practice as a result of the consideration of cases. The principle that was embodied in part 8 of former editions of Working Together, that learning can be gained from cases which have led to tragedy and serious abuse, is evolving and this development is explored. Professor Munro's systems approach is proposed to be a requisite although there is no specific accreditation which will be statutory. This approach requires the participation of the case practitioners to understand and analyse what has happened so that the underpinning reasons for the conduct of the case can be understood both by them and by others engaged in similar work, avoiding a hindsight bias which makes things seem more sequential in retrospect than they actually were.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is the pioneer of this approach with their Learning Together model (available at <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report19.asp>) which is being developed to be able to be more responsive to a wider variation of cases. Their work in this area has developed from the pilot phase and started to be rolled out throughout England with the list of accredited reviewers growing all the time and an accreditation process is near fruition.

However, learning from cases where things have gone right, near misses and active case audits are all examples of the way that this method of learning must be developed by LSCBs and SCIE is broadening its model to accommodate this. Other people have developed methodologies sympathetic to this sort of work including Paul Tudor's Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) (available at www.reviewconsulting.co.uk)

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DISABILITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP



Listen

Include

Build

DID YOU KNOW?



Would you like to know more and be able to provide inclusive environments and services for disabled clients?

Come to one of the workshops it is **free** it will start at 9.30am and end at 1pm

Date	Venue
Wednesday 11 July 2012	To Be Confirmed
Thursday 9 August	To be Confirmed

To book a place, or find out more, contact us by email or phone.

Sandy Burns at DIAL, E mail: Sandy Burns at dialpeterborough@btconnect.com OR Julie Solley at julie.solley@btinternet.com – Mobile 07988859194

These courses are funded by Equality and Human Rights Commission and delivered in partnership with DIAL.



Strengthening support for families with multiple problems

A new Troubled Families initiative will be led by the Safer Peterborough Partnership to provide a stronger, more integrated approach to supporting families with complex multiple needs. The Troubled Families agenda was announced by David Cameron in December 2011, in which he stated that 'last year the state spent an estimated £9 billion on just 120,000 families, around £75 per family.'

Following the speech, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) described these families as having 'serious problems'. The DCLG define troubled families as households who:

- Are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Have children not in school
- Have an adult on out of work benefits
- Cause high costs to the public purse

Government estimate Peterborough has 450 troubled families. The council will be responsible for identifying these families and providing appropriate intervention to turn around the lives of these families by March 2015.

Haven't we been here before?

Previous initiatives have focused on families at risk and families with complex needs, with the Family Recovery Project a recent forerunner.

Government acknowledge the council is already in contact with some of the families who fall within the Troubled Families Agenda. This new work represents less of a brand new programme of activity with a new set of aims and more a new funded, structure opportunity to undertake sustained work with families the council already know.

The Government has pledged 40 per cent of the total money needed to work successfully with the estimated 450 troubled families.

A grant of £20,000 has also been made available to the council to fund senior-level resources to oversee the programme of action in Peterborough.

The remaining 60 per cent will be found in the council's existing budgets.

Sue Westcott, Assistant Director Safeguarding Families and Communities explains

"The troubled families initiative aims to help families who are experiencing difficulties in a range of areas in their lives; housing, health, social care, police and education.

This initiative will help us identify these families and for all agencies to work with them in a co-ordinated and consistent way"

"The key for us is having good partnerships and using the intelligence of all agencies to support targeted work.

"Investment is needed now to prevent troubled families costing Peterborough more in the future."

NSPCC

The NSPCC has published a new leaflet looking at emotional neglect and emotional abuse in pre-school children. Issues covered include: signs to look for in parent-child interactions and signs to look out for in the child.

Source: NSPCC Inform 25 June 2012

Further information:

[CORE-INFO: Emotional neglect and emotional abuse in pre-school children. \(PDF\)](#)

The NSPCC has also published a web page on the sports safeguarding framework. It aims to help embed safeguarding practices in sports organisations that have achieved the safeguarding standards.

Source: [NSPCC Inform June 2012](#)



SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING HELD 24TH MAY 2012

Outlined below is a summary of agenda items discussed at the last meeting. Should any further details /information be required on an item please contact the named person.

1. **Improvement Board and Current Targets:** Phase 1, which consisted of 10 core tasks has almost been completed with Phase 2 implementing the Quality Assurance Framework. A recruitment campaign running since April has resulted in 5 new starters with 16 firm offers for staff due to start. There is a need for arrangements to be put in place to replace the Children's Trust. Malcolm Newsam
01733 863606
2. **Strategy Discussion Audit and Pre-birth Audit** The results of the strategy meetings were not good but the Board acknowledged that the time period was before December 2011. Sue Westcott proposed a further audit of 20 cases to report back at the next Board.
The pre-birth audit shows there have been improvements since the previous audit. Father's Involvement and timeliness of assessments are all being addressed as part of the improvement plan or by PSCB training. John Scott
01733 863667
3. **Somerset SCR** Tim Loughton MP has written to every LSCB about benchmarking against the recommendations from the North Somerset SCR. It was suggested a greater emphasis should be on teaching children about the dangers they can face outside the school environment. Flick Schofield will write to schools requesting a copy of their safeguarding report for collation into a report for the Board. Jenny Parris
01733 863713
4. **Children's Social Care QA Framework**. The new QA framework will measure the impact of delivery with a more robust QA system which will embed practice standards and evaluate against targets. It is suggested that children with Child Protection Plans for more than 18 months should be audited by the LSCB quality & effectiveness subgroup. Sue Westcott
01733 863613
5. **Training Annual Report** Nick Edwards reported that the SLDG are looking at e-learning packages and including competencies for the 2013/14 Training Brochure. It has been discovered that course information may not have been cascaded which may have contributed to the poor take up of some courses. Nick Edwards
01733 207630
6. **Multi-agency Performance Framework and Dataset**. Malcolm Newsam said it was ambitious however Senior Managers should be held responsible. Names for accountable persons should be placed against the indicators. The National Dataset is to due be released within the next few weeks. Judy Jones
01733 863745
7. **Intensive Support Team (IST) Review Visit to NHS Peterborough** An informal visit had taken place however nothing was identified that hadn't already been picked up previously and the visit has not generated a new action plan. Dr Emilia Wawrzakowicz
01733 776148
8. **Budget Report** The Budget report set out the expenditure from the previous financial year and the plan for the current year with enough to maintain a level of work and to cover another SCR. Judy Jones
01733 863745
9. **Any Other Business** A task and finish group looking at child sexual exploitation has been set up and is chaired by the police. It is timely as a result of the high profile Child Sexual Exploitation case in Rochdale. A report on their progress to date has been requested. The view nationally is victims of CSE do not see themselves as victims and will not report it. Ian Bailie
0345 456 4564
Ext 4230
10. **Date of next meeting:** 12 July 12, City Care Centre, 2.00 – 4.30



Department
for Education

What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited

A step-by-step guide for frontline practitioners

1. This step-by-step guide complements, and should be read in conjunction with, the *Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation*¹ statutory guidance published in 2009. It is intended for frontline practitioners in the statutory and voluntary and community sectors (VCS). It outlines the actions they should take, as a minimum, if they suspect that a child they are in contact with is being sexually exploited.

2. Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse which involves children and young people (male and female, of a range of ethnic origins and ages, in some cases as young as 10) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation are found in all parts of the country and are not restricted to particular ethnic groups.

3. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for ensuring that appropriate local procedures are in place to tackle child sexual exploitation. All frontline practitioners need to be aware of those procedures (including ones for early help) and how they relate to their own areas of responsibility. LSCBs and frontline practitioners should ensure that actions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who are sexually exploited focus on the needs of the child.

Step 1: Identifying cases

4. Frontline practitioners from voluntary and statutory sector organisations (including, for example, health and education) should be aware of the key indicators² of children being sexually exploited which can include:

- going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late;
- regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education;

¹ *Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation* statutory guidance
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00689-2009>

² This checklist, which is not intended to be comprehensive, is based on advice to parents and carers published by Barnardo's in August 2011: <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cutthemfree/spotthesigns>.

- appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- associating with other young people involved in exploitation;
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- suffering from sexually transmitted infections;
- mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing;
- drug and alcohol misuse; and
- displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.

Practitioners should also be aware that many children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation do not recognise themselves as such.

5. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point. Return interviews for young runaways can help in establishing why a young person ran away and the subsequent support that may be required, as well as preventing repeat incidents. The information gathered from return interviews can be used to inform the identification, referral and assessment of any child sexual exploitation cases.

6. In assessing whether a child or young person is a victim of sexual exploitation, or at risk of becoming a victim, careful consideration should be given to the issue of consent. It is important to bear in mind that:

- a child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other type of sexual touching;
- sexual activity with a child under 16 is also an offence;
- it is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old if they hold a position of trust or authority in relation to them;
- where sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old does not result in an offence being committed, it may still result in harm, or the likelihood of harm being suffered;
- non consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim; and
- if the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim or his or her family has been subject to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have given true consent and therefore offences may have been committed.

Child sexual exploitation is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 years and not just those in a specific age group.

Step 2: Referring cases

7. Where child sexual exploitation, or the risk of it, is suspected, frontline practitioners should discuss the case with a manager or the designated member of staff for child protection. If after discussion there remain concerns, local safeguarding procedures should be triggered, including referral to local authority (LA) children's social care and the police, regardless of whether the victim is engaging with services or not.

Step 3: Assessment

8. On receipt of a referral to LA children's social care, a qualified social worker should discuss the case with other services and professionals that they consider relevant and decide on a course of action within one working day of the referral. Where there is a risk to the life of a child or a likelihood of serious immediate harm, an agency with statutory child protection powers must act quickly to secure the immediate safety of the child.

9. An assessment under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 must be undertaken in all cases where child sexual exploitation, or the likelihood of it, is suspected. The local authority, health and other partners must follow the process set out in the *Framework for assessment of children in need and their families*³. The assessment is not an end or a process in itself, but the means of informing the planning and delivery of effective services for children. The need to make timely, proportionate assessments to understand a child's needs and circumstances is critical to secure good outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people. The assessment should contain a conclusion as to whether the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

10. If a section 17 enquiry shows that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the social worker should hold a strategy discussion involving the police, health and other relevant statutory and VCS organisations to consider whether a section 47 enquiry is required. If the decision is taken to initiate a section 47 enquiry, the social worker should convene a child protection conference.

11. The child or young person's wishes and feelings should be considered when determining what services to provide and before making decisions about action to be taken to protect individual children.

12. Where the child or young person is not deemed to be in need, the social worker must consider onward referral to agencies who provide services for children and young people with additional needs (for example, a VCS or health organisation; see Step 4 below).

Step 4: Supporting victims out of CSE and in recovery

13. Statutory agencies and voluntary sector organisations should reach agreement on the services to be provided to the child or young person and on how they will be co-ordinated. The types of intervention offered should be appropriate to the needs of the child or young person. They should take full account of both the identified risk factors and the child or young person's family and wider circumstances. The latter might, for example, include previous abuse, running away from home or care, involvement in gangs

³ The *Framework for assessment of children in need and their families* can be found at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4003256. A draft revised framework was published for consultation on 12 June 2012. The final version will be published on the Department for Education website following the consultation.

and groups and/or child trafficking. The health services provided might include sexual health services and mental health services or counselling.

14. Because the effects of child sexual exploitation can last well into adulthood, such support may be needed over a long period of time. For this reason, effective links should be made between children and adult services and between statutory and VCS organisations.

15. Consideration should also be given to supporting the families of victims, including through the work of organisations like the Coalition for the Removal of Pimping.

Step 5: Identifying and prosecuting perpetrators

16. The police and criminal justice agencies lead on the identification and prosecution of perpetrators. All frontline practitioners involved with victims of child sexual exploitation should continually gather, record and share information with the police as soon as practicable, including data on running or missing episodes.

Step 6: Ensuring child victims are supported through related legal proceedings

17. Child victims should be supported throughout the prosecution process and beyond, including through the use of special measures where appropriate⁴. Independent Sexual Violence Advisers⁵ or specialist VCS services, where available, may also have an important role to play.

Further information

18. Further information on child sexual exploitation can be found on the Department for Education website⁶.

⁴ See the Victims and Witnesses section of the Crown Prosecution Service website: www.cps.gov.uk.

⁵ Further information on Independent Sexual Violence Advisers can be found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/sexual-violence/isva/>

⁶ Further information on child sexual exploitation can be found at: www.education.gov.uk/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation