



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Message from the Editor

Can I offer Seasons Greetings to all partners and those members of all our groups who have worked so hard all year?" This year is ending on an extremely busy note and 2009 promises to be just as full.

Do please send any comments to me as follows:
judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk

Goodbyes

As you can see from the photo we have said goodbye to Barbara Trevanion who has been our Independent Chair for almost 2 years. Barbara will chair to its conclusion our current serious case review before embarking on an Art History degree. We marked her retirement with cakes and gifts and wished her well for the future.



Also we are saying goodbye to Fiona Taylor who has for almost 2 years been our interagency trainer and has helped many smaller agencies to get to grips with CP training for their staff. Fiona will be working at Natural England in 2009. We wish her well too for her new challenge.

Steve Selves has taken retirement from the Police and our Quality Assurance Group and is now working at the Internet Watch Foundation.

Elizabeth Deans, Head teacher from Queens Drive West has stepped down from the Policy Practice and Procedure Group. We are looking for an interested school teacher to fill this gap

Welcomes

DCI Dan Vajzovic has replaced Steve Selves as the Police representative on the QA Group and **Amanda Franklin** from PCC media and communications team has joined our Communication and Information Group

REVISED PRACTICE GUIDANCE

The Policy, Practice and Procedures Group is in the process of revising all the local practice guidance. We should be able to circulate information regarding access to the updated versions to you in the New Year.



PSCB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Understanding the Impact of Neglect”

25 March 2009

Deafblind UK Conference Centre

The conference will explore issues surrounding neglect including its identification; the effect of that it has on child attachment & development and how to establish an effective multi agency response.

Keynote Speakers:

Dr Chris Hobbs;	Community Paediatrician, Leeds
Prof. David Howe;	Professor of Social Work, UEA
Ruth Gardner;	NSPCC Senior Research Fellow at the UEA

Further information and booking details will follow shortly

Reminders

Following on from the Haringey SCR and the QA audit there are some practice issues to highlight with you all.

Changes to workers: Please ensure that when an agency's allocated worker changes and that agency is involved in a Core Group all core group members are informed within 5 days.

Referrals: Referrals must clearly state concerns and the opinion of the professional. Please also remember that feedback as a result of a referral is a 2

way process. The PSCB procedures state at 3.1 that within one working day Children's Social Care must acknowledge a referral in writing. At 3.3 it is equally clear that referrers should contact Children's Social Care if they have not had an acknowledgement within 3 working days

Research Proposal – Emerging Safeguarding Issues for New Arrival Communities from A8 countries

The following proposal was submitted to GO East Quality Protects budget and was successful, being awarded £2,000 which PSCB will match.

In 2001 the UK opened its borders to Europe and the city of Peterborough received in the region of 6,000 Portuguese workers. This was followed by the accession of the A8 states in 2004 that saw a rapid surge of migration from Poland, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia etc.

Peterborough has a history of waves of migration however the impact of large numbers of EU migrant workers at one time brought new challenges for services as workers arrived with or brought their children and families to live with them.

An additional impact was the need for interpretation and translation. In addition there was a lack of knowledge by some professionals about cultural practises within the new communities such as child rearing, family life style, education and the type of services that were available to support them and safeguard children and young people in their home countries.

Introduction

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) and the Children and

Young People Plan identify 'minority ethnic new arrival children' as a vulnerable group that it is needed to engage more fully with to safeguard and promote their welfare. The Children's Trust and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) is committed to making sure that all children who live in Peterborough are enabled to achieve the 5 Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes.

PSCB wants to ensure that services can meet the needs and demands of the New Arrival communities.

Proposal

To explore with members of the New Arrival Communities from the A8 countries the similarities and differences within their countries and Britain and how they receive services for children and young people. The research will also explore the issues/challenges professionals in Peterborough have faced in working with families from the A8 countries.

The research will aim to ensure children and young people from A8 countries achieve the ECM 5 outcomes by identifying:-

- Issues of concern to families, children and young people from the A8 countries
- Issues to consider in working with families, children and young people from the A8 countries
- Recommendations on how the existing systems might respond to and support families, children and young people from the A8 countries

- The safeguarding issues for families, children and young people.

Methodology

- Questionnaire for circulation to professionals or telephone interview
- Questionnaire to discover experiences of A8 Communities
- Group discussions with A8 Communities groups
- Children's and young people's participation in a age appropriate manner
- Analysis of information gathered (mixture of quantitative and qualitative data)

Reporting

We hope to report findings at the end of March 2009

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Peterborough Stay Safe Operation

A joint operation between the council and police ran the first stay safe operation in the Dogsthorpe, Welland and Paston areas of the city on the evening of the 5 December 2008. Designed to protect vulnerable young people who are found in public spaces and who appear distressed, vulnerable or in some kind of trouble. Uniformed police officers can intervene using child protection legislation under the 1989 Children's Act S46 which enables the young person to be taken to a place of safety; normally a community centre, where a team of social workers/youth justice workers will support the young person and arrange for them to be reunited with their parents or carers safely and as soon as possible. They will follow through with appropriate referrals to address any issues that arise.

The operation is 100% funded by government as part of the national youth crime action plan which also funds 69 other areas through out the country. It is based on successful pilots such as the one in Liverpool.

Although the evening was freezing cold and wet a total of 18 young people between the ages of 13 and 15 were involved, nine of whom were brought to a place of safety and reunited with family. The first was a young woman aged 14 who had run away from a children's home, two appeared to have family issues whilst the remaining 15 had issues around drinking alcohol. The multi-agency team worked well together and all felt the operation was a real success and made an important contribution to safeguarding. It is intended to run stay safe programs regularly next year in different locations around the city.

Bob Footer.
Head of Youth Offending Service

INSPECTIONS.....INSPECTIONS.....INSPECTIONS

Even before the reporting of the tragic death of Baby P we had been advised that there would be a stocktake of LSCB progress following the 2006 Priority Review on which committed the Government to a review in autumn 2008. This will be in three parts:

- The progress of LSCB's
- A study of Serious Case Reviews (SCR)
- A review of Safeguarding arrangements in Independent Schools, Non Maintained Special Schools and Boarding Schools

LSCB Stocktake

The overarching issues identified are as follows:

- The progress LSCB's are making in co-ordinating and challenging safeguarding policy and practice in Local Authority areas
- Governance and accountability
- Engagement of partners
- Universal, targeted and responsive safeguarding
- Assessing LSCB impact
- Child death overview panels
- Serious case reviews (linked to SCR study)

This will report in Spring 2009

Serious Case Review Study

The study will examine the process of commissioning, conducting and implementing SCR's and will address the following:

- Is the criteria in Working Together still appropriate
- Are processes being applied correctly within timescales?
- How effective is the participation of relevant agencies in undertaking and responding to SCR's?
- Relationships with other processes relative to child injury or death
- Do SCR's lead to improvement?
- The impact of SCR's in supporting shared learning
- How effective is the balancing between sharing SCR findings and ensuring confidentiality?

Are the contributions of Ofsted and Go East Office sufficiently understood?

This will report in Summer 2009

Independent Schools, Non Maintained Special Schools and Boarding Schools

This review will be led by Sir Roger Singleton, Chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

He will focus on the following in a series of structured interviews and visits with key stakeholders:

- Mapping the requirements and expectation of current arrangements
- Consider evidence of their application in practice

- Identify areas for improvements and make recommendations for any changes
- Seek evidence of how systems operate in practice from key stakeholders

The review will consider arrangements in the following:

- Independent day schools (including those for SEN provision)
- Academies (and City Technology Colleges)
- (Non maintained Special Schools)
- (Maintained boarding schools and special schools with boarding provision)

N.B. – Those in brackets are not relevant in Peterborough

This will be concluded in February 2009

Joint Chief Inspectors Report

The latest joint chief inspectors report (2008) into safeguarding children assesses arrangements for safeguarding children and young people in four key areas.

- The effectiveness of the overall safeguarding systems and frameworks that are in place
- The wider safeguarding role of public services
- The targeted activity carried out safeguard vulnerable groups of children
- The identification of and response to child protection concerns by relevant agencies

The report shows that much has changed since 2005 and provides evidence of improvements in Children's Services and in outcomes for children and young people. In particular, there is a greater emphasis on safeguarding all children and improved inter agency support for children in need of protection.

The Every Child Matters agenda, the Children Act 2004 and a range of other initiatives have provided a much needed impetus for change. Most children feel safe and are safe in their homes and communities. However, there are still concerns, that some

children are not well served. Inspectors were particularly concerned about looked-after children, children and young people seeking asylum and young people in secure settings.

Following the completion of the **Joint Area Review into safeguarding in Haringey**, Secretary of State, Ed Balls has ordered a new Serious Case Review into the death of Baby P.

- The Healthcare Commission and the NHS are to look at child protection arrangements.
- Ofsted is to undertake unannounced inspections of every local authority.
- Any LSCB which has undertaken a Serious Case Review which Ofsted judged to be inadequate has been asked to convene a panel to be chaired by an independent person to reconsider the review.

Ed Balls has written to all local authorities asking them to examine their own safeguarding arrangements.

Baby P

Much has been written about this case and the Serious Case Review has a whole host of recommendations for all the agencies who had an involvement. The lessons learned are pertinent to all practitioners and I could not do better than reproduce the following quotation from the Executive Summary:

"With the benefit of hindsight, a number of key issues can be seen to have compounded the risk to Baby P including:

- Limited efforts made by professionals to involve father in the early period of intervention
- Trust and responsibility placed by the Young People's Service in a family friend, with insufficient assessment, monitoring and review of her ability, role and performance
- The pervasive belief that the injuries were caused by lack of supervision and his own behaviour and lack of adequate assessment of the household following further injuries and bruising
- The inability to identify and prosecute a perpetrator for the injuries
- Delay in an adequate referral to and provision of the required specialist Child Health appointment
- Delay holding a legal planning meeting and advice subsequently provided that the threshold criteria for obtaining a care order were not satisfied"

The Joint Area Review is available to read from:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/haringeyreview

Safeguarding in Education Update

The new Education Safeguarding Procedures have now been updated and printed. Most education settings will have received their hard copy together with a model school child protection record to act as a good practice example. This last was provided on the recommendation of a serious case review. Most schools were able to send a representative to a procedures launch event (kindly hosted by the Thomas Deacon Academy and The Voyager School) or the recent Child Protection Information Network meeting, when there was a short presentation on the main changes.

Please contact Jenny Parris if you would like an electronic copy of the procedures and/or the Power Point slides

The next CPIN meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 February at the Deaf Blind Centre.

A few important reminders

- Please continue to copy all referrals to Referral and Assessment to Tricia Keogh
- Students who are making disclosures about possible abuse should not be subjected to detailed questioning and/or asked to make a statement. The reasons for this are that to require them to repeat details of abuse is actually considered to be abusive in itself and also could be interpreted by defence lawyers as influencing or distorting evidence. The police are very clear that they require just basic information which will then prompt a joint enquiry with a DVD interview so that the child does not have to

be interviewed more than once. Guidance also says that parents should not be contacted when there is a probable crime as this may lead to evidence being destroyed or pressure on witnesses to withdraw the disclosure.

- All allegations against professionals, regardless of source should be referred to the LADO Lynn Chesterton 01733 863748 for an initial evaluation. Lynn will agree any further action with other agencies usually Children's Social Care and Child and Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit This is to maintain consistency of thresholds and also to assure any parent that any one agency is not attempting a cover up.

The Safeguarding in Education sub group of the PSCB continues to meet regularly and anyone interested in joining this group or wishing to raise an agenda item is invited to contact Jenny Parris at jenny.parris@peterborough.gov.uk

Jenny Parris

Safe Employment Update

The safe employment agenda continues to be an important issue and one which is receiving increased attention from Ofsted.

Education settings have been sent the latest Ofsted safeguarding standards which in some cases expand on the requirements in the DCSF guidance. In addition recent Ofsted inspections have resulted in even further requirements being identified and this is currently being discussed with Ofsted in order to be able to provide clarification on any further required standards.

A model safe recruitment policy for schools has also been provided for schools to adopt or adapt as they wish.

Safe recruitment training has recently been updated by NCSL and is becoming available for the wider children's workforce but take up has been slow. All PSCB partner agencies should acknowledge their responsibilities with regard to safe recruitment and are strongly urged to avail themselves of the available training.

Agencies should be aware that the new Vetting and Barring Scheme will be phased in from autumn 2009 and more information on the details of this and the categories of employment it will apply to will be available in the New Year.

A few important reminders

- Children's workforce appointment panels are strongly recommended to use the PCC reference request template or equivalent which specifically asks for any past concerns about suitability to work with children
- Wherever possible references should be taken up before interview
- Appointment panels should agree a core of questions to be asked to all candidates, supplemented by questions resulting from references and information on application form including gaps in employment
- Newly appointed employees should receive clear guidelines on safe working practice and maintaining professional boundaries

Jenny Parris