



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Message from the Editor

I am pleased to let you know that Prity Patel has been appointed as the Transitional Chair for Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board. She will be working with partners and the staff team for six months to review the way the board works.

The future plan will be to recruit to an Independent Chair later in the year.

For the present however, the newsletter will give readers an idea of how busy all our groups have been

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

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TRAFFICKING

The Home Office and DCSF have established a new formal procedure for assessing and recording cases of child trafficking which became operational on 1 April 2009.

From this date all suspected cases should be referred to a designated Competent Authority (CA). There are two identified.

- a. A central multi-agency CA based in the Human Trafficking Centre.
- b. A linked, but separate CA in the United Kingdom Border Agency which will assess cases where trafficking is raised as part of an asylum claim or in the context of another immigration process

Referral guidance and an assessment tool are available from www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk and these are being piloted at a number of sites (not Peterborough)

NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD CONFERENCE

On 10 June I attended this national event and heard from Lord Laming, Ed Balls, Sir Peter Singleton (Chief Advisor on the Safety of Children) and representatives of Ofsted and the Vetting and Barring Policy Unit. It is hard to summarise the day but overall there was a sense that now is the time for all to be pulling together.

- **Lord Laming “we can do it”.** His message was clear, that we must value staff who make referrals and involve them in decisions for future support.
- **Ed Balls “LSCB’s must ensure that Children’s Trusts are doing what they should regarding Safeguarding”.** He made the point that although the government has accepted Lord Laming’s recommendations it is up to LSCB’s to ensure that there is adequate resourcing.
- **Ofsted** clarified that in any inspection, action plans arising from SCR’s will be tested. In addition the inspectors will, prior to coming to an area, read the previous SCR’s to see if issues highlighted previously have successfully been addressed.
- **Working Together:** We heard a good deal about the revision to Working Together which we can expect at the end of the year. One aspect which I have reason to believe will be reviewed is the too short timescale for completion of SCR’s. We will receive a draft revised Chapter 8 in July for consultation.
- **Sir Roger Singleton** commented by way of conclusion that his new Safeguarding Unit must work with all the relevant inspectorates to ensure the “opportunity to break out of the cycle of death, outcry, review, restructure..... ‘til the next time”.

CONSULTATION

Bob Footer, Head of Youth Offending Service, and I have co-ordinated a response on the guidance “Safeguarding Children and Young People who may be affected by Gang Activity”.

Copies of the draft guidance are available at:
www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

NEW GUIDANCE

Through DCSF, the government has published new statutory guidance on **“Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation”**. This is a much awaited guidance and we are pleased that the term “prostitution” has been replaced by “sexual exploitation”. We await copies of the guidance for circulation to partners.

The government, through DCSF, has also published the **“Review of Elective Home Education in England”**, which was undertaken following the death of a child who had been removed from school by her parents. The review author makes 28 recommendations including a compulsory annual registration scheme for home educating parents, and that local authorities can refuse registration if there is clear evidence of safeguarding concerns. The DCSF has issued a consultation on the registration and monitoring arrangements. Jenny Parris will respond on behalf of the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Board.

All new DCSF guidance should be available on the DCSF website:
www.dcsf.gov.uk

LADO: What's this?

New Guidance relating to the management of allegations against professionals and volunteers was introduced in 'Working Together 2006', which sets out how various agencies and organisations work together to safeguard children. This guidance was introduced following the Inquiry undertaken by Sir Michael Bichard into the death of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman by Ian Huntley in Soham in 2002.

A range of recommendations were made following this Inquiry that were, amongst other things, designed to make it harder for unsuitable people to have access to children through their employment or volunteering activities, and to deal efficiently and effectively with any allegations made against those people employed or working with children and young people.

Definition of an allegation

For the purpose of this process an allegation is where an adult working with or on behalf of children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a child, or
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates unsuitability to work with children.

There can be up to three strands in the consideration of an allegation:

- a police investigation of a possible criminal offence
- enquiries and assessment by children's social care about whether a child is in need of protection or in need of services
- consideration by an employer of disciplinary action in respect of the individual.

These investigative processes are of course not mutually exclusive and have to be coordinated. This is the role of the LADO.

Each Local Authority had to designate an officer/s (Local Authority Designated Officer, (LADO) to maintain oversight of individual cases when an allegation is made, provide advice and guidance to employers, liaise with other parties to ensure that cases are dealt with as quickly and consistently as possible through the use of a fair and thorough process. The LADO will ensure some objectivity is achieved and should be informed of all allegations against staff.

For more information and to discuss any concerns please contact:

Karen Osborne on: email: karen.osborne@peterborough.gov.uk
Tel: 01733 863654 or Mobile: 07950368318

Or

Lynn Chesterton on: Email: lynn.chesterton@peterborough.gov.uk
Tel: 01733 863748 or Mobile: 07508003203

ROUND UP OF PSCB GROUPS

Child Death Overview Panel

As you know, this panel is held jointly with Cambridgeshire LSCB. We are pleased that we have been able to appoint Jackie Day as an Independent Child Death Overview Panel Chair.

Jackie will become a member of both Safeguarding Boards and will ensure an annual report is presented to both boards. She has recently ensured that all members complete the DCSF toolkit to assess where we consider our panel and rapid response arrangements are. Clearly we are on track.

Serious Case Review Panel

Having had to submit two reports to demonstrate progress against our last Serious Case Review to the Minister we were relieved to receive the evaluation letter from Ofsted stating "the reports satisfactorily address the areas of weakness identified in Ofsted's previous evaluation".

At this moment in time we are awaiting the evaluation of the SCR despatched to Ofsted on 11 June.

The SCR group is constantly updating the process of undertaking a SCR as we learn more lessons and benefit from more detailed Ofsted guidance.

Quality Assurance Group

The group has recently received the report of the Independent auditor who was commissioned to undertake the Supervision Audit. General messages are that all respondent supervisees had a source of advice and expertise they could access, the majority from their supervisor and some from colleagues and other professionals. However, there was some confusion in the purpose and nature of supervision amongst some supervisors and supervisees from within the same agency, even where there was a clear policy.

One particular area of multi-agency practice was highlighted which the QA group intend to pursue.

We were heartened to have received over 50% returns.

The full report has gone to each of our partner agencies for their comments and will be presented to the PSCB in July.

Safer Employment Operations Group

Aisla Nicholls, Lead HR business partner for Children's Services has now been tasked by PSCB and the Children's Trust with leading a multi-agency group to draw up a set of standards on safe employment/safe recruitment which will be presented to the Staying Safe Partnership Board on 10 July 2009. The standards must lead to consistent practice across the workforce.

Policy, Practice and Procedure Group

The group continues to work on updating our local practice guidance for use with the safeguarding procedures. Short life task groups will be established to work on recently identified issues such as Cross Border Protocols and policy and procedures as a result of the Honour Based Violence project.

It is this group who also contribute to DCSF consultations and need to be up to date with new guidance from DCSF.

Communication and Information Group

The group has the responsibility for developing the Safer Parenting Guide and newsletters and ensuring that our website is up to date.

Currently we are aware that the City Council's relaunch of the web site may have led to delay in information appearing. We are looking at the possibility of developing a stand alone web site.

You will also be aware that increasingly our communications are electronic!!

Strategic Learning and Development Group

One of the new roles of Safeguarding Boards is to monitor and validate single agency safeguarding training to make sure it meets local need. There is now a validation process in place which will be used to validate/endorse level 1 basic safeguarding training across Peterborough to ensure that safeguarding training being delivered is of a sufficient quality.

The validation panel has met once and has approved/validated its first course (Safeguarding Workshop for Sports Staff). For further information see page 6.

The 2009/2010 Training brochure is currently being finalised and will be distributed in the next few weeks. In the meantime, we have listed below the courses which will run during September and October 2009:

11 September 2009	An introduction to Safeguarding
18 September 2009	Domestic Violence – the effect on women and children (Group A)
29 September 2009	Framework for Child Protection
27 October 2009	An introduction to Safeguarding

For further information and an application form for any of the above courses please contact Charlotte Lucas on 01733 863747 or by email at pscb.training@peterborough.gov.uk

Safeguarding in Education Group

The Safeguarding in Education group has continued to meet half termly to discuss relevant issues and disseminate recent local and national information. Recent agenda items have included recent government reports, the new PSCB Parenting Handbook, the role of the CAF Coordinator and an update on the introduction of the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

The group fulfils a useful function as a two way conduit of information to and from representatives of most the city's education settings. Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome – please contact Jenny Parris by email at jenny.parris@peterborough.gov.uk

Documents on website: www.pscb.org.uk

Annual Review

The annual review into the work of the board has been completed and will be on the website for readers to download.

Safer Parenting Guide 2009

We are particularly pleased with the 3rd edition of the Safer Parenting Guide. Did you see the article in the Evening Telegraph on 30 May following the launch of the guide? Parents and carers of children who are in reception class at primary school or in Year 7 at secondary school should now have received a copy. It will also be distributed by health visitors and voluntary organisations. I hope any agency that wishes to have copies of the guide has now received them. I will be happy to receive any feedback from you at judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk. We also have a web based version which will shortly be on the website for readers to download.

Electronic Safeguarding Procedures

The interagency safeguarding procedures have been updated and are now on the website. We will review them again after six months to see if we need to work on any further revisions and add new practice guidance

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 (01733 863746 or joanne.bramwell@peterborough.gov.uk)

Translations



Building blocks to encourage good behaviour from the Safer Parenting Guide and The Good Parent's Job Description leaflet are now available electronically in Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese. If you would like copies of either of these please contact kay.mayor@peterborough.gov.uk



Information disclosure about Child Sexual Offenders

As you are aware there is a pilot scheme running in Peterborough where you can ask the police to check if a person in contact with a child has a record for child sexual offences.

For more information about this pilot contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 0345 456 4564 or visit www.cambs.police.uk.

Some information leaflets are available from us on request; contact kay.mayor@peterborough.gov.uk.



Website

Peterborough City Council is in the process of relaunching its website and as it hosts our website, you may experience some difficulties in the early days. The launch date is not yet known, we will keep you informed.



Unannounced Ofsted inspections

As from 1 April 2009, Ofsted will undertake short unannounced inspections. They have provided some guidance on what they regard as effective practice in relation to contact, referral and assessment.

- Practice and procedures manage risk of harm and ensure best possible outcomes for children and young people.
- Practice and procedures comply with statutory requirements and associated guidance. They are implemented efficiently and effectively and ensure that referrals are responded to promptly.
- Decisions are made in accordance with statutory timescales. Children suffering or at significant risk of harm are identified and receive a prompt and appropriate response.
- Agreed inter-agency thresholds (or arrangements for access to services), and responsibilities for safeguarding children are applied and regularly reviewed.
- Assessments are clear and analytical. Risk and protective factors that impact on children's safety and welfare are identified. Conclusions flow logically from analysis and include judgements about standards of care, allowing assessments to be translated into effective plans.
- Section 47 enquiries are thorough and timely and always carried out by a qualified and suitable experienced social worker. Findings in relation to significant harm are clear. Action needed to ensure children's safety is identified and implemented promptly.
- Record keeping is up to date and demonstrates effective management of risk of harm, sound decision-making and effective planning.
- There is evidence of focused multi-agency and partnership working, led by the Children's Trust Board and Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- Communication and liaison with relevant agencies is established and effective.
- There is evidence that the Local Safeguarding Children Board has a robust approach to quality assurance and audit.
- Monitoring and evaluation are helping to ensure that practice across all partner agencies is improving or sustained at a high level and meeting the needs of particular groups of vulnerable children.
- Senior managers take appropriate measures to assure themselves that referral and assessment processes in their area are effective at identifying, assessing and managing risk of harm.
- There is evidence that senior managers effectively challenge casework and decision-making.
- The experiences and views of children and parents are gathered and used to influence service delivery and development.
- Children and family members are involved in assessment or planning to meet the child's needs, and the views and feelings of children and the views of family members are taken into account.
- Critically reflective supervision, management audit and oversight are provided to all staff, and are resulting in improving practice. Suitable training for staff is available and is improving practice.
- The service is resourced sufficiently to meet identified needs.
- Performance indicators reflect good and sustained and/or improving practice.