



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Message from Prity Patel Transitional Chair PSCB

"As Transitional Independent Chair of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB), I am very pleased to welcome you to the autumn edition of the PSCB Newsletter.

I hope that you will find the newsletter not only an interesting and informative read regarding current developments in the world of Safeguarding children and young people, but also a source of inspiration of how we can all continue to work together to deliver services for children and young people across this City.

So what does the future hold so far as the PSCB is concerned?

The Board had a development day on 25th September 2009 which was attended by all partners (The Local Authority, CAF/CASS, NHS Peterborough, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, NSPCC, Probation, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, Peterborough and Stamford NHS Hospitals Trust and Peterborough Community Services) responsible for ensuring the welfare of children and young people in Peterborough. The day was one of self reflection and assessment. It was unanimously agreed by the Board members that we are embarking upon a "**Journey to Safeguarding Excellence**". This will entail continuing to build a firm foundation upon the very good work of the Board carried out already. However, the Board members also recognised that in order to meet the challenges that lie ahead of all of us in this current climate we **will need to lead** in setting standards of "good practice" and deliver through integrated services where possible. This can and will only be achieved by sharing and understanding respective professional roles and responsibilities and ensuring wider communication between Partnerships within Peterborough.

The Board will continue to effectively **monitor, evaluate and challenge partnerships** where and when necessary to ensure service delivery impacts on outcomes for the children and young people of Peterborough to make "**that real difference**".

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

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

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

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

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CHILDREN HELD IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRES - NEW STATISTICS

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

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

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209.pdf>

**Anti Bullying Week
16 - 20 November**

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

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk



Parental monitoring needed to stop online sex offenders

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

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

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

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

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

CONSULTATION ON CHAPTER 8 WORKING TOGETHER

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

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

Proposed changes to serious case reviews

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

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

Further information

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

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

SERIOUS CASE REVIEW

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

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

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

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

The learning can be summarised as follows:

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

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

It can be downloaded from www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm

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

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

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

Information Sharing Guidance

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

ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

GOODBYES:

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

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

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

Helen Herron, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, NHS Trust

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

DCI Dan Vajzovic, Cambridgeshire Police

Laming Report

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

Emerging Safeguarding Issues for New Arrival European communities

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



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

What follows is a reproduction of some conclusions.

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

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

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

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

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

The executive summary and full report are available from Judy Jones, PSCB Policy Officer at judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk

BRIGHT FUTURES

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



It is available from childrens.trust@peterborough.gov.uk or telephone 01733 864008

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

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

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

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

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

¹ *Briefing on private fostering*, The Hadley Centre, University of Birmingham, 2007.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Janes van Vollenstee, Private Fostering Officer, 01733 – 864424 or by email at jan.es.van-vollenstee@peterborough.gov.uk

For Private Fostering Notifications / Referrals, please contact:

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

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

