

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Message from the Editor:

We have said goodbye to Prity Patel who has steered the development of the board as transitional chair for the last 12 months. We wish her well for her next challenge.

We are pleased to welcome Flick Schofield as our new chair. Flick currently chairs Cambridge LSCB and she will ensure that wherever possible joint work is the name of the game.

Finally we have to say “good luck and goodbye” to Kay our Administrator who has supported all of the board members and staff team for the past five years. She will be a hard act to follow!! Kay has decided to retire on 23 June and the day after she finishes she will jet off to San Francisco to see her grandchildren.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

PSCB Website

Our stand alone website goes live on 14 June 2010. It is very user friendly and we hope it will make accessing our information far easier. It has been developed by Tri x who already manage and update our web based procedures.

Do please look at the site and give me your feedback –
www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk.

There will still be a link to PCC website.



PSCB Training Courses

The new PSCB training brochure will be out soon but in the meantime please find below the courses we will be running in September 2010.

Course Date 2010	Title	GROUP
9 September	An Introduction to Safeguarding Children	A
13 September	Working with Sexually Exploited Young People	A
20 September	An Introduction to Normal Child Development (0- 5)	A
22 September	Domestic Violence – The Effects on Women & Children	A
24 September	Child Protection Refresher Training	B/C

For a booking form, more information on any of the courses or to ensure you receive a copy of the brochure when it is available contact Charlotte Lucas on 01733 863747 or please visit our website www.peterboroughscb.org.uk.



Keeping Children Safe Disclosure Scheme to be rolled out nationally

What is it?

The 'Keeping Children Safe Disclosure Scheme' is a formal way for Cambridgeshire residents to enquire whether an individual who has un-supervised access or potential un-supervised access to a child has a record of child sex offending and/or poses a significant risk of harm to a child.

Who can apply?

Parents, carers, guardians, extended family, friends, neighbours or anyone who looks out for the welfare of a child.

Anyone can register a child protection interest where they have concerns about a named individual who cares for or has access to a named child(ren).

For example, it could be a new partner who is living or staying in the same house as the child(ren).

When is a disclosure made?

Where the individual has previous convictions for child sex offences and is considered a risk to the children concerned, relevant information may be given to the person best placed to protect the child. This is usually a parent, carer or guardian, who needs to know the information in order to keep the child safe.

Any member of the public can apply for information about an individual if they are concerned, but disclosure will only be given to the person best placed to protect the child.

Under the scheme, any disclosure remains a decision for the police in consultation with relevant partner agencies. Disclosure cannot be guaranteed in all cases. All disclosures must be lawful, proportionate and necessary to protect a child from the risk of significant harm. The safeguarding of children will be paramount throughout.

At present the scheme currently operates in four force areas in England:

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's service is only available to residents living in the county.

How can I make an application?

1. Telephone Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 0345 456 456 4. A trained member of staff from our Police Service Centre will take your details in order to register your application under the Keeping Children Safe Scheme.
2. Send an e-mail to Cambridgeshire police with your name and safe contact details by going to the '[contact us](#)' section.

For further, confidential advice and information about recognising the signs of child sexual abuse, contact The Lucy Faithfull Foundation 'Stop It Now Campaign' free phone helpline on 0808 1000 900.

FAQs

Will the subject know they are being checked out, and who made the application about them?

In the event of a disclosure, the police will always strive to maintain the confidentiality of the applicant, and consult the applicant's views prior to contacting the subject person enquired about.

If a disclosure does take place the subject person may be informed that the parent/carer/guardian of the child(ren) is to receive information about their relevant criminal history. All disclosures are carefully planned by police and partner agencies, to minimise risk of harm to all concerned.

If disclosure takes place, can applicants warn family and friends about the subject's criminal history?

Information about a disclosure **must be treated as confidential**. Anyone who receives a disclosure is required to sign an undertaking prior to receiving the information, stating they will not share the information disclosed to any other person. Information is disclosed for the sole purpose of safeguarding the children named in the application.

Is the pilot Sarah's law or Megan's law?

No. Megan's Law operates in the United States and involves the automatic disclosure of sex offender details to the general public.

No. Sarah's Law is a campaign being run by a national newspaper calling for a change in the law to give parents the right to know if a child sexual offender is living in their immediate area.

What will be done to stop offenders becoming victims of vigilantism?

The police and other agencies are in regular contact with offenders and the disclosure process will be carefully managed. If anyone feels they are likely to become a victim of vigilantism or have been targeted, they should contact the police. In all cases of disclosure the risks to the offender and the community impact will be considered, however, the protection of children will be the key determining factor.

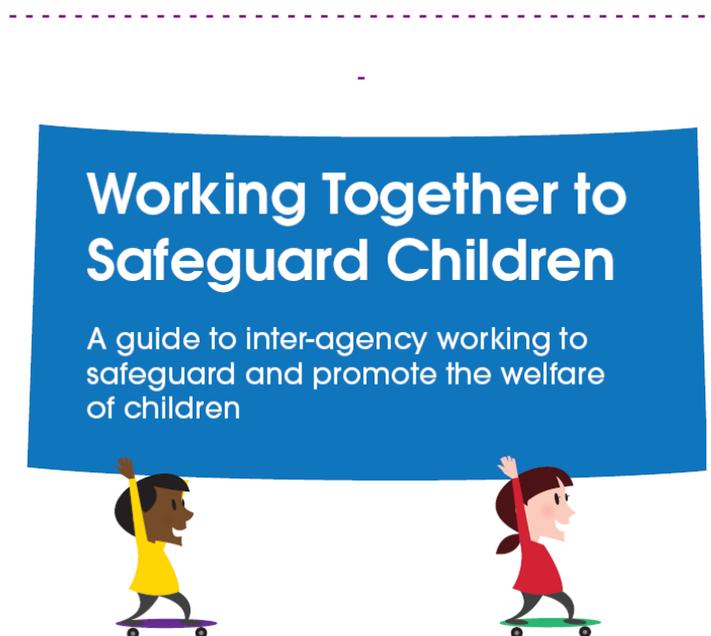
What happens if someone tries to make a false application?

Making a false declaration in an attempt to procure the disclosure of personal data to which someone does not have a lawful right of access is an offence under the Data Protection Act 1998. This offence is more commonly referred to as 'blagging' and is punishable by an unlimited fine at crown court. Therefore, anyone providing false information in registering their interest or misusing any information disclosed, for example by engaging in vigilantism or the harassment of sex offenders, would be subject to police intervention and potential prosecution.

'In a Nutshell'

"This scheme does not replace existing arrangements for the Vetting and Safeguarding Children Procedures. If you are enquiring about someone you wish to employ or already employ, then it is more appropriate you should undertake a full CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) application through the proper channels.

Refer to <http://www.crb.gov.uk/> or tel. 0870 90 90 811 for further information



Working Together 2010

If you were expecting a hard copy of Working Together 2010 I have been advised that as a result of the General Election no publications are being dispatched at the present time.

Tri x has however produced a web based version which is available from <http://www.proceduresonline/workingtogether>

We have arranged Working Together briefings for 14 June at 10.00 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. at the John Clare Theatre. Flyers have been circulated, however if you are unable to attend I can provide a handout covering the changes and additions; contact by email at judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 863745

Key principles

- Child focussed practice
- Know children as individuals

- Understand how it feels to them
- Prioritise direct communication with children
- Give children honest and accurate information
- Ensure children have access to independent advice and support

Some of the major changes are:

- **Definitions of Abuse**

The additions to the definitions are underlined

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

- Lead Social Worker replaces Key Worker (for child with Child Protection CP plan)
- Initial assessments should be completed within 10 days (however the local authority has still to report against a 7 day time scale and this will continue until March 2011)
- Referrers should be able to discuss concerns with a qualified social worker
- Referrers should be asked if they have information regarding family domestic abuse, mental illness, substance misuse and or learning difficulties
- Children should always be seen alone and communicated with by the lead social worker
- Clarity is needed with families about what is expected of them and what is expected to change as part of implementing a CP plan
- Protecting children from gang activity and trafficking are now listed in Chapter 6 (Children in Specific Circumstances)



New Young People's drug Service

For free and confidential services;
information, advice, counselling,
drop-in, telephone helpline call:

Peterborough

0800 279 2978

49 / 51 Broadway,
Peterborough PE1 1SQ

