



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Message from the Editor:

Welcome to this New Year edition of our newsletter. These are difficult times for all our partner agencies; some of our colleagues will have opted for voluntary redundancy, whilst others will be less sure of their futures. We must all work hard to protect front line services to our most vulnerable families.

It is likely that the Munro review will have some implications for the Safeguarding Board, however we can't second guess what they will be. Our next newsletter may well have some indications of changes being considered.

If you have any comments about our newsletter please email me:

Judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk

Negotiating Childhood: Age assessment in the UK Asylum system.

Following the decision in 2009 by the Supreme Court to allow the appeals of two age-disputed unaccompanied asylum seeking children, the refuge centre has written a paper to address why age assessment has become such a political issue.

The paper address' the complexity of age assessments for immigration purposes, the responsibility of social care agencies and how age assessment impacts the individual's asylum determination.

<http://.psc.ox.ac.uk/PDFs/RSCworkingpaper67.pdf>

Featured in this issue:

- NSPCC - Programme for New Dads
- Child Death Alert
- Protecting Vulnerable Children On-Line
- SW Practice Pilot for Peterborough
- Safeguarding Children - Literature Review
- Children's Social Care Contacts/Referrals
- Safeguarding Board Activity

Puppet on a string

The urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation.

Believe in children



'Puppet on a string' reveals the urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation

This report outlines what is known about the scale and nature of sexual exploitation across the UK and points to some worrying new trends identified by Barnardo's 22 specialist services. Emphasising that child sexual exploitation is a child protection issue, the report calls for the secretary of state for education to appoint a minister to take forward a national action plan to tackle this crime against children.

[Download the report Puppet on a string](#) (PDF)

Safeguarding Incidents relating to Young Offenders in the Community.

Following a Freedom of Information request to the Youth Justice Board statistics show the following in relation to 10–17 year olds:

Death in the Community (includes "accidental death" such as car incidents & drug overdoses)	7
Suicide	4
Attempted suicide	98
Victim of attempted murder	5
Victim of rape	3
Total	117

(Source YJB 1 January 2010 – 30 November 2010)

Presently Government plans are to reduce youth custody levels by providing more robust community alternatives.

New Programme for Dads from NSPCC

Caring dads: safer children is a group work programme for men, which address the impact of their violent or abusive behavior within a parenting context.

The group is suitable for:

- men who use overly controlling, physically or emotionally abusive and/or neglectful parenting strategies
- men who acknowledge that they have perpetrated domestic abuse
- men who wish to improve their fathering and family relationships.

The group is not suitable for:

- men who have perpetrated (or are at risk of perpetrating) sexual abuse/sexual violence
- men who do not have children or any contact with children
- men who have been convicted of a domestic abuse related offence and have not attended a Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme.

To ensure the safety of the women and children while men are attending the programme, the NSPCC will contact the participant's partners/ex-partners and children to gather their views on the impact of the intervention. It is therefore a condition of their attendance that men provide the NSPCC with contact details for their current or ex-partners.

Caring dads: safer children runs weekly for a period of 17 weeks. The programme has five goals:

1. to develop men's trust and motivation to engage in the process of examining fathering
2. to increase men's awareness of child-centred, non-abusive fathering through the recognition of children's needs and developmental stages
3. to increase men's awareness and responsibility for abusive behavior within the family and its impact on women and children
4. to begin to apply child-centred parenting skills and develop a positive model of an equitable adult relationship
5. to consider what is needed to rebuild trusting family relationships and plan for the future.

A written report regarding the suitability of the person you have referred will be available upon completion of an initial assessment. At the end of the programme, another report will detail his progress in meeting the programme goals.

It is important to note that neither of these reports would constitute a "risk assessment". However, as a child protection agency, safeguarding will remain the focus of the work and the NSPCC will address/refer out any issues of concern to the appropriate agency.

For more information and a referral form please contact:

NSPCC Hear2 Help
Unit 12 Flag Business Exchange
Vicarage Farm Road
Peterborough Tel: 01733 207620
PE1 5TX Fax: 01733 207645

Procedures Update

Tri-X have updated our inter agency procedures which should be live by 28 January 2011.

"The Knowledge" should be available to try by mid February 2011.

This is a series of questionnaire designed to help you feel more familiar with the procedures. Light hearted is not a word to use with respect to compliance with procedures but this is a **FUN** way to get to grips with them.

Front Door Arrangements

A very useful workshop was held on 01 December 2010 to consider agencies experience of using CAF, Single Agency Referral form and whether they have experienced any changes in how they are responded to by Social Care. 20 representatives from Health, Education, Schools, Social Care, Youth Offending, CAF/CASS, Integrated Youth Support and Integrated Process' debated the issues.

It was clear that there is evidence of better working relationships and better communication with Social Care since April 2010 and overall improvement in the referral and assessment service.

Next Steps

Three specific actions were identified. The LSCB will seek feedback on progress in 4 months (March 11)

Greater emphasis is needed on outcomes arising from the CAF process. Is it improving the lives of children and families? How? How often? This is also within the remit of the Integrated processes project group.

Clarity is needed from Children's Social Care about the role of social workers in tier 3 children in need/family support cases. When can other agencies expect social care to become involved? When will they become the lead professional?

Protecting the Welfare of Children when a Parent is Imprisoned

A report by the Prison Advice & Care Trust in January 2011 calls for a simple statutory system to track the whereabouts and welfare of these children.

Key Statistics

- Each year it is estimated 17,700 children are separated from their mother by imprisonment
- Just 5% of women prisoners' children remain in their own home once their mother has been sentenced
- Only 9% of children whose mothers are in prison are cared for by their father in the absence of their mother
- Around 40% of children are cared for by a grandparent or female relative
- The number of women in prison has risen by one third in the last decade
- Of the women receiving a prison sentence over half are sentenced to less than 6 months. These short term sentences still cause enormous disruption to family life
- There is evidence that some parents who arrive at prison had not been asked to make plans for their children's care and some will have hidden the fact they have children for fear they may be taken away from them

More information available from

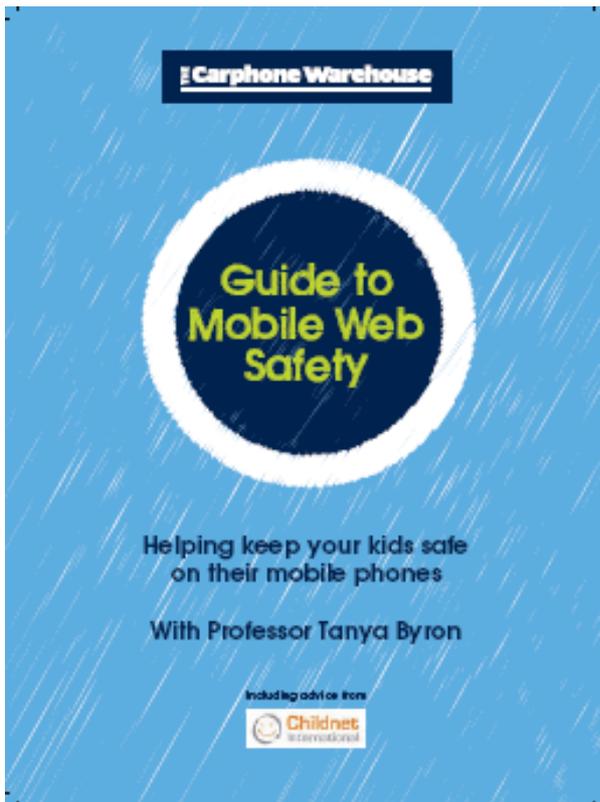
<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/files/protectingchild>

PSCB Training Courses

Please see listed below some of the forthcoming PSCB training courses that we still have spaces on

Course Date	Title
7 th March 2011	Safer Recruitment
15 March 2011	Framework for Child Protection
4 April 2011	An Introduction to Safeguarding
29 April 2011	Working Together to Safeguard Children

For a booking form, more information on any of the courses please contact Charlotte Lucas on 01733 863747 or visit our website www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk



Introduction by Professor Tanya Byron

Anyone with a child will be aware of how much the internet is a part of family life these days, often more than television. But with increasing numbers of smart phones available, more and more children and young people are accessing the internet on the go. In fact, according to The Carphone Warehouse's research, in the UK at least 75% of children aged 8–16 have their own mobile phone and 34% use it to access the internet.

Children are skilled at making the most of the convenience and flexibility that smart phones offer, but alongside these amazing possibilities are risks which we, as adults, need to understand to help empower children and young people to be competent and safe digital citizens.

They need to be able to deal with risk and threats of **content** (e.g. inappropriate or adult material), **contact** (e.g. meeting people online) and **conduct** (e.g. cyber-bullying; sexting) and as adults it's our responsibility to help them be prepared for these experiences.

While many more parents are now aware of how they can help protect their children on their home computers, the research shows that many don't realise the same risks exist when accessing the internet on a mobile.

Tanya Byron has written this guide with The Carphone Warehouse to help you empower your children to use their mobile phones safely and responsibly, and navigate the exciting and sometimes risky digital world with respect for themselves and others.

Professor Tanya Byron is a clinical psychologist and digital communications expert. She is the author of The Byron Review – Safer Children in a Digital World and is president of Cybermentors.

Find out more

To find out more about how to help keep your child safe on their mobile phone, the following sites may be useful:

Get Connected

www.getconnected.org.uk

Childnet International

www.childnet.com

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

www.ceop.org.uk

Beat Bullying Cybermentors

<http://cybermentors.org.uk>

Tanya Byron's Children in a Digital World Report

www.dcsf.gov.uk/byronreview

Children's Services Assessments 2010

Twenty councils across the country are providing excellent children's services, double the number for the previous year, according to the results of the children's services assessments 2010, published by Ofsted in December 2010.



Ofsted has a statutory duty to provide an annual assessment of local authorities' services for children and young people in England as set out in The Education and Inspections Act 2006.

This rating is based on a new approach introduced in 2009 and uses the findings of Ofsted inspection and regulation reports of a full range of services for which local authorities have some responsibility, either alone or in partnership. It draws on the direct observation of professional practice, including inspection of childcare, schools, child protection services and safeguarding, children's social care and provision in the learning and skills sector. The performance profile of each local area also takes into account selected education and social care data from the government's National Indicator Set.

All judgements are made on a four-point scale. The 20 excellent councils that are significantly exceeding minimum requirements represent all local authority types and include rural areas to metropolitan centres. In addition, 78 councils are performing well by exceeding minimum requirements. Thirty seven councils are rated as providing adequate services by meeting only minimum requirements and 14 councils are performing poorly overall and not meeting minimum requirements. The outcomes for three authorities have not been published as further inspections are due to take place.

Within each scale there will be differing standards of provision. For example, a rating of 'performs excellently' does not mean all aspects of provision are outstanding. Similarly, a rating of 'performs poorly' does not mean there are no adequate or even good aspects in the local authority's performance.

In the best performing authorities:

- the very large majority of services ensure good or outstanding outcomes for all children and young people, including the most vulnerable
- children are supported well during their early years and at each stage of schooling up until they enter further education, work or training
- standards in schools are at least as good as in similar areas and often better
- arrangements work effectively to keep children safe from harm
- children are helped to become healthy, active members of their schools and local communities
- expectations are high and all children are helped to make best use of their abilities, knowledge and skills to become successful individuals
- officers and councillors know where further improvements are needed and have clear plans to tackle any underperformance.

In authorities that perform poorly:

- there are inadequacies in the systems for keeping children and young people safe from harm
- schools – particularly secondary schools – are not performing well enough
- provision for those over the age of 16 is generally weak
- there are weaknesses in performance management systems and difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff
- serious shortcomings in children's services, particularly safeguarding, have not been tackled

Children's Social Care Contacts (previously known as Enquiries) and Referrals

There has I understand been some confusion regarding terminology which Children's Social Care is clarifying for all colleagues.

Contact

- Request for advice or information from an individual practitioner, parent, carer, young person or member of the public

For example another agency requires information to deliver a service to a child or young person

- Provision of information about the circumstances or change in circumstances of a child, young person, significant individual from an individual practitioner, parent, carer, young person or member of the public

For example another agency is taking action in relation to a child or young person who previously received services from children's social care services

Contact information and any information supplied to a third party may be recorded against that child's historical or existing records

Referral

- Provision of information about the circumstances or change in circumstances of a child, young person, significant individual from an individual practitioner, parent, carer, young person or member of the public

For example a child or young person may be at risk of significant harm due to parental behaviours

- Request for a children's social care service in relation to a child or young person

For example a child or young person's needs are not being met based on a CAF and initially assessed against PCC vulnerability matrix threshold

Referrals leading to required actions will produce an Initial and if required Core Assessment as part of a planned social work intervention

Due to the operating processes of RAISE some referrals may be designated by the Team Manager as contacts as part of the screening/triage process within R&A

Safeguarding Children - Literature Review

The National Foundation for Educational Research was commissioned to undertake a study on behalf of the Local Government Association in 2010.

The purpose of this study was to identify any evidence of changes and improvements in safeguarding practice since the Laming review. It distils current learning about the challenges and identifies factors which are supporting improvements in safeguarding work. This literature review builds on learning from an initial scoping study carried out by the NFER for the LG Association earlier in 2010, which set out relevant literature on safeguarding practice published since the Laming review in 2009 (Atkinson, 2010). It should be noted that this review provides an indication of some of the developments in safeguarding practice rather than a comprehensive research evaluation of progress in safe guarding activity per se.

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Evidence of changes and improvements in safeguarding practice after the Laming review

A reasonable amount of evidence of changes and improvements in safeguarding practice is identified in this review. However, given the relatively short amount of time since the Laming review (approximately 18 months), it is perhaps unsurprising that published literature setting out specific developments in safeguarding practice, as a result of Laming's recommendations, is fairly limited.

A further issue in exploring changes and improvements in safeguarding practice since the Laming review is that it is very likely that many of the shifts in local authority practice are documented in internal (unpublished) plans and procedures. Others may be less tangible, such as cultural changes, and, therefore, are more difficult to record. Similarly, any formal evaluation of changes in safeguarding practice at a local level is likely to be currently ongoing and yet to be published.

Evidence of challenges and supporting factors in making Improvements in safeguarding practice

The evidence reviewed here highlights the many challenges that remain in implementing Laming's recommendations. These findings will be used to inform the research framework for the next study in this series of reports on safeguarding children to be conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) for the LG Association. It will evidence key learning from five English local authorities that have improved their performance in safeguarding children, according to recent inspections. This work is due to be published in spring 2011.

The study is available to download from www.nfer.ac.uk

Review of Child Protection: Professor Eileen Munro

Professor Munro: 'I want to hear from professionals about their views of the child protection system'

In June this year, the Secretary of State for Education asked Professor Munro to conduct a review of child protection in England. Since that time, people with experience of the child protection system, including professionals and children and families, have shared frank views about why it does not work as well as it should. These views helped to inform the first report *The Munro Review of Child Protection, Part One: A Systems Analysis*.

Since publishing this report, she has continued to research the child protection system in detail, working with experts in local areas to see what needs to change and the best ways to go about this. In her second report, to be submitted to ministers in the New Year, she intends to outline some potential areas for reform. This will mark an important step towards the final recommendations due in April 2011.

As part of this research, she put some specific questions to a larger group of professionals. The first two questions related to one of the Government's top priorities – getting rid of the unnecessary bureaucracy that can obstruct those working with children, young people and families.

The next set of questions was about the environment in which child protection professionals operate, how their performance is monitored and the ways they are held accountable, both publicly and within their organisations.

The final questions consider how professionals can provide early help and support for families quickly and efficiently, how to improve understanding of the capacity of universal services to support children, young people and families, and the principles that underpin a safe and effective contact and referral system.

Although the date for responses has past I thought it useful for readers to see the direction her work is taking.



The Needs of Children and Young People in Peterborough, and the Voluntary and Community Organisations that support them

When considering the number of playgroups, nurseries, children's centres, after school homework clubs, sports and activities clubs, religious youth organisations, boy scouts, girl guides, and community groups offering children's activities, events, family support projects, youth clubs, and services that support children and young people with particular needs (ranging from drugs and alcohol to mental health to housing to unemployment to active civic participation), then it is hard to think of any child or young person who has not been touched by the voluntary and community sector in some way during their childhood.

Young Lives sent out a survey to collect sector intelligence to inform:

- 1) Current and future support needs for children and young people in Peterborough
- 2) Current and future support needs for the local voluntary sector
Current and future workforce development needs for the voluntary
- 3) Current and future workforce development needs for the voluntary sector branch of the local children's workforce

The results are briefly summarised below.

1) Current and future support needs for children and young people in Peterborough

- **Which children should be prioritised for support?**
 - Those living with parents with poor parenting skills
 - Those who are homeless or young runaways
 - Refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals
 - Those living in a household where there is domestic violence
- **Which issues should be prioritised when working with children, young people and families?**
 - The emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
 - Making services more accessible and friendly
 - Crime (young people as victims or perpetrators)
 - Child poverty
 - Citizenship and contributing to society
- **Which types of service should be prioritised?**
 - Support services for families
 - Information, advice and guidance services
 - Health and life skills education
 - Parental education

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2) Current and future support needs for the local voluntary sector

- Continuing to provide regular information bulletins/e-newsletters to the sector
- More one-to-one support for organisations on engaging with the Children's trust and representation
- Information Workshops for the sector based on need
- Networking resources such as service directories would help professionals to work better together
- A local trusted Quality Mark which can be used when bidding for contracts
- More information and support with funding advice and consortium bids
- Events for services to showcase their work to each other and funders

3) Current and future workforce development needs for the voluntary sector branch of the local children's workforce

- **Training demand** for becoming a trainer, ICT, safeguarding and child development.
- **Resources demand** for managing a voluntary organisation and managing money, Children's Trust and Safeguarding Board information, common induction standards for the Children's Workforce and better networking.

Based on a survey commissioned by Peterborough City Council Children's Services for the Children's Trust

Report written by David Parker-Radford, Young Lives

With survey results collated by David Parker-Radford and Ricky Hill, Future Jobs Fund

For the full survey contact: David Parker-Radford [david@young-lives.org.uk]

Government offers £118m fund for voluntary organisations

The Department for Education (DfE) is offering voluntary and community organisations £118m of transitional funding to help them adjust to new funding arrangements in the wake of government cuts over the next two years.

Organisations have until 31 January to bid for some of the funding. If successful, they will be informed on 25 February and funding will commence from April.

"We are investing £59m each year over the next two years to fund the voluntary and community sector to help deliver key national priorities for children, young people and families," said a DfE spokesman. "This is a significant investment in a tough financial climate. However, the voluntary and community sector cannot be immune from reductions in public expenditure because the scale of the challenge to reduce the national debt is so great."

Escalation Policy

We are keen to know how well the escalation procedure is working and have been asking members to advise as and when they have used it with examples.

Publications Availability

I still have 60 copies of Working Together 2010. If you would like a copy please contact me at Judy.Jones@peterborough.gov.uk or 01733 863745.

In addition I still have copies of the Safer Parenting Guide for distribution.

Please note the translated guides are available to download in the following languages:

Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak

www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk

We also have a variety of leaflets

CHILD DEATH ALERT

ISSUE

A small number of deaths in young babies have occurred in the South of Tyne and Wear area in the past few months where babies have been left in car seats to sleep for long periods. There have also been a number of similar cases around the country.

RESEARCH

Research has been carried out in New Zealand in relation to babies experiencing breathing problems after being left sleeping in a car seat & concluded that the position the babies were sleeping in - with their head falling forward may have restricted their breathing.

The other significant factor was that the mothers of half the babies were smokers.

Research in America has also found that new-born and particularly premature babies can develop breathing problems from sitting for too long in car seats

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths advises parents that the safest way for a baby to sleep is flat on their back and in their own cot or crib, preferably in the same room as a parent or other responsible carer.

However if a young baby is being transported in a car, he or she should be carried in a properly designed and fitted car seat, carried backwards and be observable by a competent adult.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

- **Every** opportunity should be taken by **ALL** health staff to reinforce with parents and carers of young babies to continue to use correctly fitted car seats for car journeys.
- To restrict for young babies the number and length of car journeys in particular.
- To not leave babies sleeping in their car seats once a journey is over, but rather place to sleep in their cot.

Marietta Evans
Director of Public Health / Chair of SOTW
Child Death Overview Panel

Protecting vulnerable children online:

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has launched online safety resources for young deaf people and those with special educational needs.

The resources have been created in the recognition that vulnerable young people and those with additional needs and learning difficulties can be more susceptible to abuse*, making the provision of online safety messages in a variety of formats especially important.

Specialist child protection agencies and organisations who work with children with additional needs, learning difficulties and deaf young people, including the NSPCC, Mencap, the National Deaf Children's Society and Triangle, have worked with the CEOP Centre to create two new films – 'Know Your Friends with Josh and Sue' - for young people with special educational needs and learning disabilities and 'Sam's Real Friends' - for young deaf people. Although previous CEOP educational films have been subtitled, this is the first time such resources have been created specifically relating to online safety for children with additional needs.

'Know Your Friends with Josh and Sue' is a five minute- long animated film depicting two friends who are the victims of cyberbullying and inappropriate contact online. Three versions of the animation have been created to cater for children of all needs and these include mild to moderate, moderate to severe and audio only.

'Sam's Real Friends' is a longer film and concentrates on a young boy who experiences the same issues of cyberbullying and inappropriate contact online. All actors use British Sign Language and there are also two versions of the film available, subtitled and non-subtitled. Accompanying lesson plans and suggested activity sheets are also available for each resource, allowing teachers and parents to work through the films with children in their care.

** Children with any type of disability are 3.4 times more likely to suffer some type of abuse compared to children without disabilities, Sullivan and Knutson, 2000*

New Sexual Assault Resource Centre in Peterborough

The OASIS @ Rivergate was opened on 11th January 2010. It is a dedicated centre providing a comprehensive service to men, women, young people and children who have been raped or sexually assaulted recently or in the past.

The Oasis @ Rivergate

- *is committed to providing a caring, sensitive and dedicated service which meets the needs of victims through partnership between the health service, police and Rape Crisis.*
- *offer a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment, which focuses on the needs of the individual. and a range of services to give you the best care possible:*

These include forensic medical examination, emergency contraception, advice and screening for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing, ongoing and long term support

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors offer ongoing practical and emotional support to anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted, recently or in the past. They can help those affected come to terms with what has happened and explain the options available. If required they can refer to different agencies, for example, counselling, sexual health, mental health, substance misuse and housing.

If the police are involved they can liaise with them for regular case updates, accompany and support individuals through any police interviews and throughout the court process.

Peterborough Rape Crisis Counselling Group are located within The OASIS @ Rivergate and will offer independent support regardless of the services offered by the Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Their role is to support and empower female survivors of rape and sexual abuse, through the provision of a free and confidential help line, face to face support service and other appropriate support mechanisms.

PRCCG have Survivor Supporters who are trained to help you deal with all the issues of sexual abuse and violence. This includes: rape, past childhood abuse, flashbacks, self harm etc.

For further details visit www.oasiscentre.org

Social Work Practice Pilots for Peterborough

The Social Work Practices Pilot programme has enabled the creation of independent, social-worker led organisations to deliver services for looked-after children and young people. Social workers have moved out of public sector employment to form their own employee-owned social enterprise. The pilots are testing out whether social work practices can provide a better experience and better outcomes for looked-after children, effective and innovative ways of working and increased job satisfaction for social workers. An independent evaluation of the first five pilots is being carried out.

Social Work Practice Pilots (SWPs) - additional pilots

Local authorities who have been selected to run additional social work practice pilots in 2011 are:

- Bristol City Council
- North Tyneside Council in partnership with Northumberland County Council
- Peterborough City Council (2)
- South Tyneside Council
- Wakefield Council
- Warwickshire County Council in partnership with Coventry City Council

Michelle O'Connor can provide more info on michelle.oconner@peterborough.gov.uk

Exploratory review of the regulation of child performance

The 1968 regulations and guidance that cover child performances were established under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963. Their aim was to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children taking part in performances. In March 2010, Sarah Thane CBE published a report outlining the findings and recommendations of her review of the 40-year-old rules governing child performances.

The report set out proposals to reform and rebalance the system for licensing child performance, including the rules around working hours, medicals, education, children under 14, and proposals about the inspection arrangements. It also included proposals in relation to chaperones and in respect of the amateur sector. You can download the full report from the associated resources section on the right-hand side of this page.

The review followed the Department's informal discussions with a wide range of partners, including children's organisations, broadcasters, producers, representatives of theatres and local productions and local authorities that found that the existing regulations were outdated for today's settings.

The Government is working with partners to consider what changes are required to this legislation in order to ensure that robust protections are in place to safeguard children while making sure these measures are proportionate and can facilitate opportunities for children to perform.

If you are a parent or production company and wish to make an enquiry about a licence for a performance, you need to contact your local authority. Further information can be found in the 'child employment' pages of the Directgov website.

Information for local authorities and amateur groups

The Government has provided guidance to local authorities and amateur performance groups on how to make greater use of Body of Persons (BOP) approvals. These approvals can be given to amateur groups in order to reduce the administrative requirements involved in licensing children for performances. The **guidance** is available to download from <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/b/bop%20guidance.pdf>

Safeguarding Board Activity

CDOP

We have arranged a meeting to consider how to keep the CDOP arrangements viable as the funding is no longer ring fenced. Thanks must go to Jackie Day who has been the independent chair and who is now stepping down. Helen Cornwell has also moved on from her role as co-ordinator due to the uncertainty. Presently Sylvia Fuller is covering the co-ordinators role and can be contacted on Sylvia.fuller@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

PPP

The newly formed joint Peterborough and Cambridgeshire group is meeting on 25 January 2011 chaired by Ian Baillie from the Police. At this early stage of development membership has to be agreed as a priority to ensure effective joint work can be undertaken.

QA

The group has recently completed an unborn baby audit which is due to be considered by the board on 27 January 2011 and Chair Lynn Chesterton has developed a performance management framework for the board. This is by way of sharpening up our process' which had been criticised by Ofsted in the inspection in 2010.

Business Plan

We are holding a Business Planning workshop on 10 February 2011 to ensure all the board members are fully engaged with the work plan for next year.

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Communication and Information Group

This group is now chaired by Jenny Parris, Education Safeguarding Lead and in an effort to be more proactive have developed a communication strategy in conjunction with the Children's Trust. We also have a new voluntary sector representative, John Mabhegedo who has communications experience and who we hope will be able to liaise with young people and the wider community.

Serious Case Review Sub Committee

Derby recently held a serious case review as a result of the sexual abuse of two young women who were looked after by the local authority. A number of young people in the area were being sexually exploited and the Police set up a ground breaking investigation which led to the successful prosecution of alleged perpetrators. Subsequently there has been a great deal of media attention focussing on the sexual exploitation and grooming of young women and more recently Barnardo's have published their report 'Puppet on a string'. The SCR committee will review these and consider the possible implications for Peterborough.

Safeguarding in Education

This group didn't meet last term as a result of various logistical issues but dates for the rest of the year have now been set and two of those meetings will follow on from Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) meetings so as to minimise the time, members of both groups will be out of school

CPIN meetings will now take place at The Courtyard – previously Hereward Community College from 1.30 -3. 30 on 16th Feb and May 5th. As usual we are hoping for multi agency representation. Please let me (Chair Jenny Parris) know of any specific topic you would like covered

I have developed a schools safeguarding audit tool and have been visiting school using this as a basis for discussion. Feedback on this process has been very positive.

Safe Employment Operations Group

The group has continued to be busy reviewing and updating various policies which although Peterborough City Council originated are available for other agencies to adopt or amend as they wish. The latest policy adopted by PCC is the Self Disclosure Policy which requires staff to notify their organisation if there has been a change in circumstances which could impact on their ability to safeguard children - to include any criminal charge or health problem. Further details on insite or from Jenny Parris

We await a government decision on the future of the Independent Safeguarding Authority but in the interim we have continued to emphasise the existing requirements - for example

- consultation with the two lists of those barred from working with children or vulnerable adults
- the duty to refer someone whose services have been ended because of unsuitability to the ISA

We have compiled a list of multi agency colleagues who are Warner interview trained and who would be able to help other agencies in this aspect of recruitment. There is an expectation that this would be a reciprocal process and so this will hopefully be of benefit to all those involved.

Section 11 audit returns will be reviewed to determine any safe employment shortfall.

Safe employment training continues with another face to face day on March 7th. Please enrol via Charlotte Lucas if you would like to attend. To date education staff have predominated however safe employment practices are a requirement across the children workforce

Finally we will be exploring the possibility of having a joint safe employment group with Cambs.

Executive summary



Safeguarding Young People: Responding to young people aged 11 to 17 who are maltreated

Key findings

- There are differences in response between and within different Children's Social Care Services to young people aged 11-17 who have been maltreated.
- The child protection system was not always seen by staff in Children's Social Care Services as the most effective way to meet the needs of young people. This was due to them having different maltreatment experiences, being exposed to a wider range of risks outside the home and having typically different competencies and needs to younger children.
- As young people get older they are less likely to receive a child protection response from Children's Social Care Services. A variety of other responses were being used to meet young people's needs, such as Child in Need or the Common Assessment Framework. Little is known about which approach works best for young people.
- Young people are often perceived by professionals as more resilient, more able to cope with the effects of abuse, more able to remove themselves from abusive situations and more likely to disclose abuse than younger children. This perception was not supported by young people who participated in this research or by previous research on the long term impact of maltreatment.
- Whilst age does not affect professionals' decisions to make referrals of young people aged 11-17 when they believe them to be at risk of significant harm, it does seem likely to affect their perceptions of risk.
- Resource and system constraints affect social workers' ability to build and maintain a consistent relationship with young people who have been maltreated. This affects whether young people disclose maltreatment or feel safe after they disclose.
- A key barrier to professionals making a referral of young people who have been maltreated to Children's Social Care Services was the perception that thresholds and resource constraints would mean they were unable to respond.
- There is a lack of services to meet the needs of young people (especially those aged 14-17) who have been maltreated.

The **Safeguarding Young People** research study focuses on the under-researched issue of the maltreatment – the neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse – of young people aged 11 to 17 in England.



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**PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEETING HELD
25 NOVEMBER 2010**

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 **Schools Ofsted Inspection** .A comprehensive list of the schools inspections carried out under the new framework with respect to Safeguarding.36% judged to be outstanding; 48% good; 12% satisfactory; 4% inadequate. Mel Collins
86330
- 2 **Children's Trust Update.** Flick highlighted the new approach to working with families which is being progressed by CSC.A small group has progressed the work on a safeguarding strategy for Peterborough with 3 main themes being proposed Flick Schofield
863745
- 3 **CAF.** Statistics regarding the number of CAF's completed with ages and locality was shared. Members were keen to have more qualitative data and to begin to unpick if the process has delivered positive outcomes for families. Quality Assurance processes are being developed. Lisa Waller
864031
- 4 **The Munro Review.** It would appear that early indications support the continuing role for LSCB's. Her final report is due by April 2011and is anticipated to recommend changes to the way serious case reviews are held. Flick Schofield
863745
- 5 **Budgets.** All funding partners will see a reduction in their contributions' in 2011 by 12.5% in recognition of the Comprehensive Spending Review. It was proposed that the under spend is carried forward to fund any future SCR's Judy Jones
863745
- 6 **LADO Report.** A 6 monthly report of allegations dealt with under the LADO process was presented. The LADO is more confident that agencies are aware of the process and she does therefore not expect a "nil" return in the future to indicate a lack of understanding. It was suggested that the LADO process be incorporated into the CSC audit plan Karen Osborne
863654
- 7 **CP Statistics.** A 6 monthly report of CP statistics was presented which revealed an increase in the number of children with a CP plan and a second or subsequent plan. Reasons for these rises were discussed Lynn Chesterton
863748
- 8 **CDOP Report.** This discussion paper outlined a variety of options post 1 April 2011 when the ring fenced funding will have ended. A task group will be set up to cost a way forward Jackie Day
01353 699269
- 9 **Updates from Chairs.** Each of the Chairs updated on the progress of their group All Chairs
- 10 **Effects of the Comprehensive Spending Review.** All members were given the opportunity to describe the likely effects on their service All
- 11 Date of next meeting **27 January 2011 at 2pm** .Presentation Room Floor 1 Bayard Place followed by a presentation by Young People at the John Clare Theatre.