



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Newsletter 23 – April 2012

Message from the Editor

In January I commented that the Safeguarding Board was losing several colleagues who had supported us well over the years and that message needs to be repeated as we continue to experience changes to our membership. In addition other City Council colleagues are taking voluntary redundancy or moving on. This is therefore an opportunity to say thank you to all.

We were very pleased with the response to our workshop with voluntary sector colleagues in February and there was an overwhelming request that we arrange these workshops on a regular basis consequently we intend to hold the next one on 11th June at 2pm (venue to be confirmed) with a greater focus on the innovation within the voluntary sector. Please make sure all your colleagues are aware. Invites will be sent out in April.

I hope you have been able to check our web site to keep up to date with changes to social care managers and other additions www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk

If anybody had any comments please e mail judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk

E SAFETY

Protecting Children Online: Teachers' perspectives on eSafety (February 2012) This report provides an analysis of the responses to an online teacher survey, covering e-safety, cyberbullying, pupil use of mobile phones and social networking.

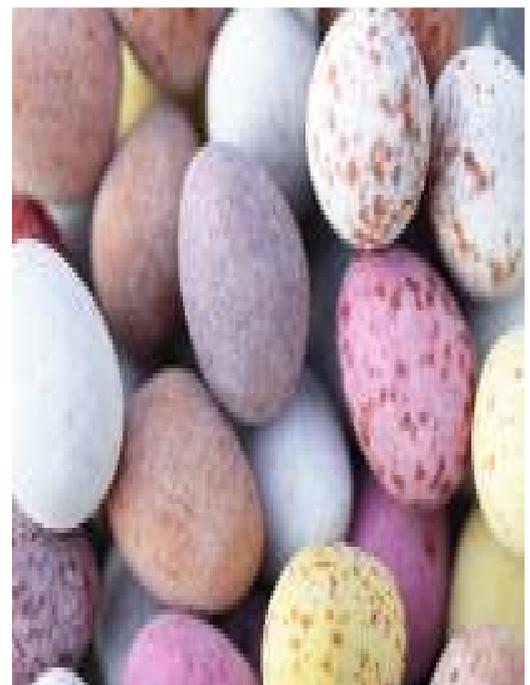
The survey found that:

- 87% of teachers feel pupils are e-safe at school, but only 58% think pupils have the knowledge and skills to stay e-safe at home
- 74% of teachers think that the prevalence of smart phones is making it easier for pupils to access inappropriate material at school, with 9 out of 10 secondary school teachers finding this difficult to manage
- 91% of secondary teachers and 52% of primary teachers say pupils have experienced cyberbullying, and that most of it is perpetrated via social networking sites.

http://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/95001/95001_home.cfm?publicationID=658&title=Protecting%20Children%20Online:%20Teachers'%20perspectives%20on%20eSafety

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DVD warns children and young people over dangers of 'sexting'

A DVD has been created to warn children and young people about the risks and implications of sending sexually explicit images online or when communicating with technology.

'Privates in Public' is a 17-minute film created by young people in association with [Bluemint Media](#). The DVD was created after the Children's Trust wrote to a group of young people in 2011 to find out about arising forms of violence. The study revealed the emerging issue of a new form of bullying, 'sexting'.

A recent survey by the [Beatbullying](#) charity suggested that one in five 11 year olds has received a sexually explicit or distressing text or email.

Amanda Dalton, Contracts Officer was responsible for co-ordinating 'Privates in Public', she said: "The sending of such explicit messages is a worrying trend. We should encourage young people to use technology but it's really important they are made aware of the irreversible consequences of their actions too. In some cases a person can face criminal charges for sending 'sexts'. In 'Privates in Public', a teenage girl commits suicide after images she sent to her boyfriend are circulated amongst peers.



"We are currently working with local schools to include the DVD as part of Personal Social Health and Economic education lessons. It is important children and young people are aware of the legal ramifications and significant social harm 'sexting' can have on their lives."

'Privates in Public' was premiered last month at a launch event at the Town Hall. Invited guests included the Mayor, Councillor Paula Thacker MBE, Malcolm Newsam, Director of Children's Services, Councillor Sheila Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor John Holdich, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University and other members of the Children's Trust.

BETTER SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO GO MISSING FROM HOME OR CARE

This is a reminder that the protocol/guidance regarding children missing from home and care is available on the web site www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk

The protocol is a joint agreement between Cambridgeshire Police and the Council's Children's Services. It updates guidance for practitioners and managers across all services that work with, or come across children and young people who are missing from home and care. It includes a summary of legal responsibilities and what the law says regarding those under 18 who run away or go missing.

It also marked the launch of a new single point of contact within the Council's 8 to 19 Service to enable earlier intervention and preventative work with young people who go missing.

This new service which went live on 1 June 2011, is informed by the police when a young person is reported missing. Once the young person is located and returns home, a Connexions Personal Adviser contacts them and their family to offer an independent visit and a listening ear. They will then establish if any further support is needed and either provide this or refer on for more specialist help where appropriate.

TRI X POLICY BRIEFINGS

TRI X have just published 4 briefings including Policy Briefing 54 'The Government's Adoption Action Plan for Tackling Delay'.

The other Policy Briefings that have been published this month are:

- Policy Brief 55 - Measuring Performance in Child Protection - A Change of Focus.
- Policy Brief 56 - Ofsted Inspections of Local Authority and Voluntary Adoption Agencies.
- Policy Brief 57-Ofsted Inspections of Local Authority Fostering Services and Independent Fostering Agencies.
- Policy Brief 58-Ofsted Inspections of Children's Homes.

You can access the [Policy briefings here](#). (If the link does not work please copy and paste it into the following address bar of your web-browser - www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/news_index.html).

CHILDLINE IN SCHOOLS

In 2011 ChildLine launched a brand new service that aims to help younger children recognise and protect themselves from all forms of abuse.

The ChildLine Schools Service is currently being rolled out to primary schools across the UK. It will particularly focus on seven to 11 year olds and aims to help children understand what abuse is, how to protect themselves and how to seek help if they need it – including through ChildLine.

The service has been developed following research by the NSPCC that shows although the majority of children who contact ChildLine for advice and support are over 11 years old, the majority of children on a child protection plan are under the age of 11 and it may be more difficult for them to speak up. By going into schools and helping younger children to recognise and protect themselves from abuse, the ChildLine Schools Service eventually hopes to start a societal change that will bring about a long term reduction in child cruelty.

In keeping with ChildLine's commitment to volunteering, the new schools service will be led by volunteers. In pairs, the volunteers will deliver the service in two stages. The first stage is a school assembly that provides definitions of abuse, places to go for help and an introduction to ChildLine. The second stage takes place one to two weeks later and is an interactive classroom-based workshop where the messages are reinforced and skills are developed. All the volunteers will be fully trained and given regular training and support.

By 2016 the service aims to visit every primary school in the UK at least once every two years. To find out more about the service, please contact your local Area Coordinator, Shelly Price, on 07976 065282 or email shelly.price@nspcc.org.uk. For more information about the service, please visit www.nspcc.org.uk/schoolsservice

TWO CHILDREN DIE FROM BLIND CORDS

A girl aged three and a boy aged 22 months have both died after being strangled in blind cords.

Since the start of 2012, two young children have been tragically killed and their families sadly bereaved.

Three-year-old Evie from Leeds and toddler Josh from Newport died in separate incidents after becoming tangled in a blind cord in their homes.

The news comes as two sets of parents launched an awareness campaign in Hertfordshire following the deaths of their children, Emily Warner and Arthur Winfield, both aged two.

The latest accidents bring the total number of deaths since 1999 to 22. Eleven of these have been since 2010 alone.

Blind cord accidents can be prevented. CAPT's advice is simple:

Tie them up and out of reach and make sure there's no furniture around that the child can climb up on, to reach the cord.

The British Blind and Shutter Association's (BBSA) make it safe website has a leaflet and video with more detail on blind cord safety.

Download it, print it, photocopy it, hand it out to parents, put it up on a wall, email the link, do whatever you can to raise awareness:

- [Download the leaflet from the BBSA's make it safe website](#)

The video shows you how to make your blinds safe and you can view blinds that need no cords:

- [Watch BBSA's video](#)

Or visit RoSPA's website:

- [Read RoSPA's information on blind cord safety](#)

CONSULTATIONS

Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Consultation (23/01/12)

This consultation asks for views on the proposed children's safeguarding national performance information dataset, how the data is published and how the locally held information (published December 2011) is used.

Closing Date: 16th April 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1803&external=no&menu=1>

Draft Revised Statutory Guidance for LAs on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing (05/03/12)

The Government has confirmed that it will retain the duty on LAs set out in s507B Education 2006 to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of the wellbeing of 13 to 19 year olds, so far as is reasonably practicable. This duty also requires LAs to ascertain and take into account young people's views and to publicise information about the local offer of all available provision.

This consultation invites views on draft revised statutory guidance to which LAs must have regard in fulfilling their obligations under this duty.

Closing Date: 25th May 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1811&external=no&menu=1>

Revised Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance (05/03/12)

This consultation invites views on revised Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance for LAs, commissioners of local health services and Jobcentre Plus when exercising their functions under the Childcare Act 2006.

The revised guidance seeks to make it clearer what LAs and statutory partners must do because it is required by legislation, and what LAs and partners should do when fulfilling their statutory responsibilities.

Closing Date: 1st June 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1808&external=no&menu=1>

An Evidence Assessment of the Routes of Human Trafficking Into the UK

Occasional Paper 103 presents the findings from an evidence assessment designed to address three questions:

- By what routes and methods of entry do victims of human trafficking reach the UK?
- Are these routes the same for adults and child victims?
- What are the economic dimensions (in terms of costs and benefits) of human trafficking into the UK?

Literature and electronic searches identified 180 studies as potentially relevant; key findings from the 32 studies that met the scope of this review are presented. Data are summarised with regards to the routes of human trafficking, the number of people trafficked, the characteristics of victims and traffickers, and the drivers, costs and benefits of human trafficking.

Both adult and child victims travel through multiple transit countries en route to the UK. Evidence suggests traffickers operate according to rational economic principles.

Full Document

- [An evidence assessment of the routes of human trafficking into the UK \(PDF file - 594kb\)](#)

Tim Loughton's update on the Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan

On 23rd February this year, Tim Loughton spoke at the St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Manchester, highlighting the way forward for the Government's recently published Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan.

The Minister thanked Safe and Sound Derby amongst others for sharing their expertise during the development of the action plan, adding "my strong sense is that this country is waking up to the fact young people are being sexually exploited..... very probably in their thousands".

Focusing on the journey of young people, and how things can go wrong, the Minister identified the four key stages where better interventions are needed:

1. Raising awareness of this issue with young people, parents and professionals.
2. Taking effective multi-agency action against exploitation and helping children who are victims to get out of it.
3. Securing robust prosecutions and improving court processes to reinforce the fact this is a serious crime that demands serious punishment.
4. Helping children and families who are caught up in sexual exploitation to get their lives back on track.

After outlining how the Government is planning to work with others to implement these recommendations, the Minister acknowledged that the big challenge this year is to turn the plan into action.

Tim Loughton is a keynote speaker at the 5th Safe and Sound National Conference in London on Tuesday 15th May, where he will be speaking and answering questions on the progress of the Tackling CSE Action Plan.

Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Boards have established a Task and Finish Group sitting under the joint Policy, Practice and Procedures Group to begin to work through how to scope both the potential size of the issue locally, to look at what services are already in place and what services may need to be strengthened.

NEWS IN BRIEF

An Action Plan for Adoption: Tackling Delay

The Government has published an Action Plan to overhaul the system for prospective adopters and strengthen the performance regime for LAs.

The current system is too bureaucratic and takes too long for both potential adopters and children who need a stable, loving home. The numbers of children adopted from care has been decreasing in recent years. Just 3,050 children found new homes through adoption last year, the lowest since 01. A recent survey showed that one third of adopters were not satisfied with their experience of the adoption system. Research has shown that with every year that a child waits their chances of being adopted decreased by 20%.

The action plan will include proposals for:

- New adoption scorecards, to hold LAs to account.
- A revised approval process for new adopters, cutting it to 6 months.
- A national gateway for adoption, providing a first point of contact for anyone interested in adoption.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00205135/action-plan-sets-out-radical-overhaul-of-adoption-system>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/a00205069/action-plan-for-adoption-tackling-delay>

New Ofsted Inspection Safeguarding Guidance

As you are aware Ofsted introduced a new evaluation schedule as from January 2012 and a new safeguarding specific guidance document is now available on the ofsted website

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/briefings-and-information-for-use-during-inspections-of-maintained-schools-and-academies-january-201>

New Allegations Guidance for Education Settings

The government has also introduced some new allegation guidance which only applies to education settings

The guidance which changes the definition of an allegation **from**
“behaves towards a child or children in a way that indicates he/she is unsuitable to work with children”

to

*“ behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates **that he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children”***

The guidance also does not permit information about malicious, unfounded or unsubstantiated allegations even when repeated to be included in references

This has prompted some concern and there have been a number of suggestions on how to avoid appointing unsuitable people without receiving complete information. Peterborough City Council HR department have agreed that the previous reference request form does not need amendment and employers are still able to ask about previous disciplinary procedures and also about the level of supervision and monitoring a member of staff requires.

The full guidance can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/publications ref DfE-00061-2011

The North Somerset Serious Case Review

This recent case review has now been published and the executive summary may be found at

<http://www.northsomersetlscb.org.uk/uploads/files/282.pdf>

The case involves a teacher Nigel Leat, 51 who was jailed indefinitely for abusing children at Hillside First School. He admitted 36 sexual offences. The charges included one count of attempted rape, 22 of sexually abusing a child under 13 and eight of assault by penetration. Police also found 30,000 indecent photographs on memory sticks.

Colleagues advised the teacher of the inappropriateness of his behaviour and pointed out to him the risk that he could be accused of professional misconduct. Incidents included Leat taking photographs of children on his mobile phone, and kissing and cuddling them. One teacher saw him in his underpants and a t shirt while getting changed in his classroom. Staff noticed that he had favourite pupils within his class who were invariably girls, who were often given tasks which were viewed as privileges as well as being given greater personal attention by the teacher. Pupils were allowed to be over familiar with the teacher who was known to speak to his pupils and joke in a manner which was inappropriately adult. The situation was common knowledge amongst school staff.

The case has prompted many local authorities to examine their own procedures and training to ascertain the potential risk of such a case happening in their areas. The key recommendations are

- All staff to have knowledge of the Safe Working Practice Guidelines. Schools are strongly recommended to give each member of staff a copy and ask them to sign a paper to indicate their compliance. This will ensure that all staff are fully aware of what is and what is not acceptable behaviour
- All staff need to be fully aware of their whistle blowing responsibilities and that all staff should be confident that any concerns will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

School Safeguarding Audits

So far some 35 Peterborough schools have been audited and the feedback has been, that this has been a helpful and supportive process, not because there has been any shortfall in safeguarding practice but the audit emphasises the need for that practice to be evidenced.

Please contact me if you would like to take the opportunity for an audit which generally takes 90 minutes and can involve the head, designated teachers, office staff and/or governors

Jenny Parris
Education Safeguarding Lead

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police pilot 'right to ask' about domestic violence

The Home Secretary has announced that 4 police forces will run a 12-month trial of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, which will help victims or potential victims of domestic violence by disclosing information about previous violent offending by their partner.

Sarah's law: the child sex offender disclosure scheme - Commons Library Standard Note

This note summarises the child sex offender disclosure scheme, also known as Sarah's law, under which members of the public can ask the police whether an individual (e.g. a neighbour or family friend) is a convicted sex offender.

In August 2010 the Home Secretary announced that the scheme would be rolled out across all police force areas in England and Wales, following a successful pilot.
<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN01692>

WORKING TOGETHER AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

It seems as though the government are working towards a consultation on these documents around May with revised documents expected in the Autumn.

CONFIRMED PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATOR FOR CHILD ACCIDENTS

Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in under 18s have been confirmed as one of the public health indicators as part of the new Public Health Outcomes Framework for England, 2013 – 2016.

This is an important step for those working in child injury prevention across England as the indicator will provide a lever for professionals to plan and deliver programmes that prevent serious accidents to children.

CRB CHECKS

CRB checks have prevented more than 130,000 unsuitable people from working with children or vulnerable groups.

The Association of School and College Leaders says the number of offenders who apply to teach is "very small".

It also said it is extremely encouraging that the system is picking up people with convictions.

Last year more than 263,000 people who applied to become teachers had Criminal Records Bureau checks.

This led to just over 1.5% of them being turned down on the grounds of their previous behaviour.

Those who were rejected had almost 9,500 previous offences between them, including 50 sex offences, 11 for arson and two for making threats to kill.

Separate figures also show that sex offenders and hundreds of violent criminals applied to work in nurseries last year.



Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to all of you who attended the recent launch of our new Drink and DrugSense service for children and young people and families in Peterborough. The event was a huge success and we look forward to continuing to work with you all in the delivery of this service.

The following leaflets and referral forms for the Drink and DrugSense service are available.

DDS Leaflet – One to One Support
DDS Leaflet – What Happens if your Parents Drink
DDS Leaflet – What Happens if your Parents use Drugs
DDS Leaflet for Parents and Professionals – Family Support
DDS Referral Form – Family Support Service
DDS Referral Form – Young People Treatment and Support

To make a referral to the service please fax a completed referral form to 01733 555531 or post to Drink and DrugSense, 79a Eastfield Road, Peterborough, PE1 4AS

If you would like to discuss a referral or speak about the Drink and DrugSense Service further please call the Drink and DrugSense Young People's team on 01733 567998.

TEENAGE RAPE PREVENTION

The teenage rape prevention campaign, launched on 5 March 2012, aims to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse. It encourages teenagers to re-think their views of rape, sexual assault, violence and abuse, and direct them to places for help and advice.

The campaign targets 13-18 year old boys and girls and aims to:

- raise awareness of the issue of rape and sexual violence
- improve understanding of what constitutes rape, sexual assault and consent
- empower young people to avoid, challenge and report sexually violent behaviour

The campaign website 'This is Abuse' gives teenagers the chance to discuss the issues with their peers and get access to third party support and advice

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/teenage-rape-prevention/>

<http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>

Teenage girls staying quiet about sexual abuse from boys

Thousands of teenage girls who are sexually assaulted by boys suffer in silence because they often accept the abuse as part of a relationship or don't know how to stop it, the NSPCC warns. Adolescents are responsible for around a third of all sex offences committed against children and in 3 out of 4 of these cases the victim will know the offender. However, fewer than 20% of these incidents are revealed by the young person being abused unlike assaults carried out by an adult which will be reported in the majority of cases.

Research undertaken by the NSPCC with young adults shows as many as 280,000 young girls in the UK could be affected at some point if the figures were extrapolated out. In an effort to reduce incidents of teenage sexual abuse the NSPCC is calling for:

- Education programmes to promote consenting, respectful relationships and dispel the perception girls are just sex objects.
- Young people to seek help, through ChildLine, teachers or parents if they are being forced, pressured or coerced into carrying out sex acts.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/media-centre/press-releases/2012/12-02-29-sexual-abuse-launch/teenage-girls-stay-quiet-about-sexual-abuse_wdn87886.html

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Thirteen men have been arrested in Oxford by police investigating child exploitation offences.

Police said the men, aged between 21 and 37, were arrested following an investigation into exploitation of 24 girls aged between 11 and 16.

They have been arrested on suspicion of prostitution of females under the age of 18, trafficking, grooming and rape.

Thames Valley Police said they believed the offences had taken place over a six-year period.

The suspects are also being questioned on suspicion of administering drugs for the purpose of rape.

Police believe gang members targeted British children living in care or who had run away from home and transported them around Britain.

TRAINING

Induction for new Board members

An induction workshop is now available for new Board members. The first workshop was scheduled for March 29th at the meadows St Ives from 10.00 to 12.00 and a further session on July 23rd 10.00 to 12.00 in the presentation room on the first floor in Bayard place.

Domestic Abuse Training for chairs of strategy meetings, first line managers and child protection supervisors

This training was identified as a need in our current serious case review and dates have been set for 2nd, 13th and 16th of April and will be mandatory.

Serious Case Review Briefing

The first briefing of the current serious case review took place on March 23rd at 12.30 at the Courtyard. Further dates will follow.

Multi-agency practice forum

PSCB will be holding monthly multi-agency practice forums for trained professionals with the aim of promoting a greater understanding about roles and responsibilities. The first session is booked for April 27th 12.30 to 14.00 at the Courtyard and is entitled: **Infants who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.**

Helen Herron, Training and development Manager will present some recent research and it is expected then that a discussion will follow sighting cases that professionals have worked with.

POLICY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

This joint Peterborough and Cambridgeshire group as noted elsewhere is establishing a task and finish group to look more closely at the area of **sexual exploitation**.

The group has recently reviewed internal safeguarding policies for the **Fire and Rescue Service and Youth Offending Service** and is looking to develop a sort of "kite mark" to state that such policies have been developed in consultation with the Board.

At present guidance on **bruising on non mobile babies and a cross border protocol** are under discussion.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The group are working on a **new multi agency data set** to reflect the child's journey and to include data required as a result of the improvement plan, recent government consultation on the national data set and including indicators which other local authorities and partners have agreed are useful indicators of a healthy safeguarding system.

An audit of **strategy meetings and unborn baby assessments** has also been undertaken with mixed results.

A performance framework will be revised and further developed for 2012-13

A more in depth look at various **S11 standards** has been undertaken which shows how difficult it can be to provide the evidence of particular activity. The group will need to focus more on outcome measures and to that end it has been suggested the group be renamed as **QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS GROUP**

SERIOUS CASE REVIEW

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board is considering reviewing the case of a child using the **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT LEARNING PROCESS (SILP)** model developed by Paul Tudor.

The key principle of the SILP approach is the engagement of frontline staff and first line managers in conjunction with members of LSCB SCR Subcommittees, Designated and Specialist Safeguarding staff, etc. The involvement of frontline staff and first line managers gives a much greater degree of ownership and therefore a much greater commitment to learning and dissemination.

The SILP is a collaborative and analytical process. The main focus is to extract learning from the detailed study of a set of circumstances. From a worker's point of view it takes account of:

- your view of what was going on in and around this case
- how you understood your role or the part you were playing
- your perspective on what aspects of the whole system influenced you as a worker
- the tools you were using

By taking account of these things, the process focuses on understanding why someone acted in a certain way. It highlights what factors in the system contributed to their actions making sense to them at the time. This process is NOT about blame or any potential disciplinary action, but about an open and transparent learning from practice, in order to improve inter-agency working. Importantly, it also highlights what is working well and patterns of good practice.

E SAFETY

This is another joint group with Cambs and seeks to promote awareness of the dangers of all digital technologies. Rather than add to the already considerable body of materials around the group seeks to direct children, young people, carers and professionals to what is **good practice**.

The group noted the recent **SCR** following the conviction of the school teacher in North Somerset contained a section on the use of technology in schools. See page 6

See also "Handling Disclosures" information

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

This group is now joining with **adults** as it was recognised that many issues cross over children's and adults and we could therefore combine resources to be smarter in our communications.

We have looked at working on a **calendar of events** which could include local and national events where we would look to have safeguarding publicity.

The group may consider reproducing some **positive parenting guides**

SAFER EMPLOYMENT

This is again a joint group with Cambs and seeks to keep safe employment practices high on the agenda for all agencies.

The group continues to be concerned at the changes to guidance for schools regarding **allegations** (referred to elsewhere) but understands that this has been discussed with head teachers.

There appears not to be any refresher **safe recruitment training** on offer as the government is keener to develop a national on line training pack.

Recently biometric permits have been introduced which should make it easier for employers to check the status of job applicants.

Consultation on Peterborough Threshold Document

Peterborough Children's Services have been working on producing a new Threshold Document to replace the existing Vulnerability Matrix. They are keen to seek partner's views on thresholds and are seeking your assistance in refining and improving this document as a multi-agency tool. Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board considered this draft document at its full Board meeting on 22 March 2012 and endorsed its circulation for the consultation to run in parallel with a number of planned briefings/workshops.

Sessions are being held to:

- Explore the use of the new Threshold Document
- Consider differences in professional perspectives around decision-making
- Encourage the development of a common language with respect to assessment of needs
- Promote shared accountability for work with children at different levels of need
- Provide feedback on the document and contribute to its improvement

It is hoped that staff from a wide range of child-centred services will be able to have the opportunity to become familiar with and help shape this guidance, which will have a significant impact on day to day practice. With this in mind 6 multi-agency half-day workshop sessions in April and May are being held. These workshops will be held at The Courtyard, Reeves Way, Peterborough and the dates

are:

Tuesday 24 April 9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-4.30pm

Wednesday 25 April 9.30am-12.30pm

Thursday 3 May 9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-4.30pm

Friday 4 May 9-30am-12.30pm

To book a place please contact Saiqa.iqbal@peterborough.gov.uk by Weds 18 April

Less than 10 per cent of child sex offences result in conviction

Around 400 sexual offences against children are reported to police each week but less than one in ten results in a conviction, according to figures obtained by the NSPCC.

A fifth of reported child sexual offences were against children aged under 11.

The children's charity gathered statistics related to sex crimes from all 43 English and Welsh police forces and found one in three were committed against children.

Of the 23,097 child victims of reported sexual offences recorded during 2010/11, a fifth were under 11 and 1,500 were five or younger. The majority of child victims (19,790) were girls.

The figures show 426 child victims had previously been victims of reported sexual offences, but these figures are likely to be much higher as only a third of forces were able to supply this information.

This is the fourth year that the NSPCC has collected figures on sexual offences against children. Over that time the number of convictions has risen by a quarter but the number of reported offences has remained at a similar level.

The head of the NSPCC's sexual abuse programme, called for more detailed research into the low level of convictions among reported perpetrators of sexual offences against children.

He said: "The police are doing their best to bring prosecutions but we need to understand why there is such a huge disparity between the two figures. The fact there is repeat offences against some of the children also shows not all are just one-off incidents."

He added that the NSPCC is using information and statistics from the police to tailor its treatment services to children of different ages.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE CERTAIN NSPCC AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN

The NSPCC launched on Friday 23 March. *Don't wait until you're certain* is a digital advertising campaign, the aim of which is to encourage adults to take action immediately if they have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child. If people have concerns they can contact the NSPCC, social services, or the police. The campaign will be promoted through social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) as well as via relevant websites and blogs. We are also partnering with Netmums who will be promoting the campaign.

From Friday 23 March you can view the campaign film on the NSPCC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nspcc).

As part of the campaign, we will be publishing *Helpline Highlight: a year in review*. This is an analysis of contacts with the NSPCC helpline. It found that in 2011, 56 per cent of people whose call to the NSPCC resulted in a referral to an external agency - social services or police - said they had been concerned about the child for at least a month before taking action. The report also found that contacts to the NSPCC had increased by 29% on the previous year, with a doubling of calls about abuse.

You can read a copy of *Helpline Highlight: A year in review* at www.nspcc.org.uk/helplinehighlights. We would be interested to receive any comments or feedback that you have on this report.

This digital campaign is the first of its kind for the NSPCC, and by responding to changes in audience we hope to reach more people and, ultimately, help protect more children. We appreciate that a number of cases will be dealt with by partner agencies and, as always, we value this partnership. However, because this is a digital campaign, and not a television advertisement, we anticipate that the response will be less extensive in comparison with TV campaigns that we have run in the past. We will evaluate the campaign closely and provide feedback.

For more information on our campaign, from Friday, visit the NSPCC website (www.nspcc.org.uk). If you have any queries about this campaign or would like to comment upon it, please do not hesitate to contact info@nspcc.org.uk (or phone 0207 825 2775).

WEB SITE STATS

We continue to monitor the hits on our web site

Summary over the last year include:

Number of site visits – 4363
Number of Page Views – 15,303
Number of Pages per visit – 3.51
Bounce Rate 37.86% (possibly visiting in error)
Average Time Spent on Site 2 minutes 27 seconds
Percentage of New Visits 72.5%





SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING HELD 26TH JANUARY 2012

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. | <u>Serious Case Review</u> Felicity Schofield asked members to thank staff for all the hard work regarding the last SCR which has an Action Plan judged as “outstanding” by the Ofsted Inspector who said “ <i>it was one of the best I have ever seen and the executive summary tells a good story</i> ”. | Felicity Schofield
01733 863745 |
| 2. | <u>Development Day</u> A proposal from Alan Simpson who has previously worked with Malcolm Newsam and has a good reputation with the Department for Education to carry out a review of the board, to ensure it is fit for purpose when it takes over the responsibility for the monitoring of improvement. | Felicity Schofield
01733 863745 |
| 3. | <u>Children’s Services Improvement Plan</u> A team from Sanctuary has recently started to help clear the backlog. The new Integrated Case Management Systems “Liguidlogic” will go live on 1 st April. | Malcolm Newsam
863606 |
| 4. | <u>Children Missing from Home and Care.</u> Laura-Jayne Cozens receives data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary monthly with names of children missing from home or care. 355 cases involving 221 children over a period of 21 months. 1 in 4 children repeatedly go missing but the number of incidents is lower than the previous year. | Laura-Jayne
Cozens
863994 |
| 5. | <u>Safeguarding Report</u> The report showed that the numbers of children with a child protection plan are continuing to go up which is suggesting that children are staying on CP plans for longer. | Karen Osborne
863654 |
| 6. | <u>Strengthening Families.</u> The Signs of Safety document explains the new way for organising child protection conferences. These include how the coordinators manage the meeting and making the conference more user friendly for parents. | Karen Osborne
863654 |
| 7. | <u>MARAC.</u> Partnership arrangements have become difficult with the reduction in budgets to services. Work has started on finding links to MAPPA, SARC and MARAC to help with efficiencies. | Mark Hopkins
01480 42 2205 |
| 8. | <u>Proposal for Munro Funding</u> It was suggested that the funding should be used for training that overlaps the improvement plan in an appropriate way and is based on a competency approach | Helen Herron
863746 |
| 9. | <u>PSCB Training</u> The report shows who attended PSCB training and from which agencies. The Training Impact Tool is now available on the website and is being sent to course participants. | Helen Herron
863746 |
| 10. | <u>PPP Sub-group.</u> The group was the first to be joined with Cambs LSCB and is chaired by Ian Baillie from Cambs Constabulary. | Ian Baillie
0345 456 4564 |
| 11. | <u>Attendance Report.</u> The attendance has been generally good and there have been a consistency in the deputies used. The review of the Strategic Board may change the membership. | Judy Jones
863745 |
| 12. | <u>CQC Submission.</u> The report showed that although there were some serious concerns highlighted by the inspection, the CPFT are compliant in the area of safeguarding but are undergoing restructuring. | Paula South
758419 |
| 13. | <u>Any Other Business</u> Cafcass has had to reorganise and restructure with unqualified social workers at risk and many to be made redundant. | Issy Atkinson
0844 353 3868 |
| 14. | <u>Date of next meeting:</u> 22 nd March 2012, Viersen & Bourges Rooms, Town Hall, 2.00 – 4.30 | |