

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

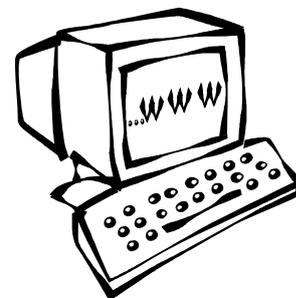
Message from the Editor

Welcome to this our first electronic newsletter, which aims to keep you up to date with all Safeguarding Board changes and developments and will be more frequent.

Why the change from the usual quarterly hard copy? In these days of electronic communications, it is much easier to keep people up to date and although our previous newsletters were well received, being quarterly there was often a significant time delay.

Do please forward to any colleagues in your agency who you feel would benefit from reading it.

Please also email judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk with any comments. It is very much a trial run!



Thanks to Hannah Campling PSCB Training Co-ordinator for putting this newsletter together for us.

Dates for your diary:

- Briefings on launch of new Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures at the John Clare Theatre on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th of January 2007. The following sessions are on offer:

25th January 2007

OR

26th January 2007

9:30am – 11:30am

10:00am – 12:00am

OR

OR

2:00pm – 4:00pm

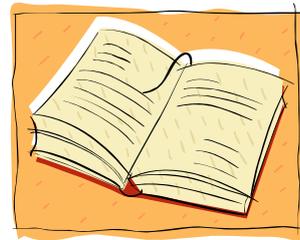
3:00pm – 5:00pm

Please email Hannah Campling to book your place at one of the sessions:
hannah.campling@peterborough.gov.uk by Thursday 18th January 2007

- Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board in conjunction with Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Children Board are holding a free joint training event. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre will provide information on child exploitation on the internet to education staff across Cambridgeshire. It is being held on the morning of Monday 26 February 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon
If you would like more information please contact Hannah Campling on 01733 74821 or email hannah.campling@peterborough.gov.uk.



Jan 2007
New Publications



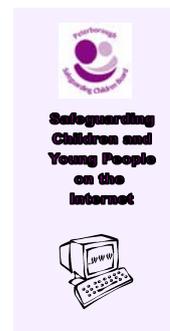
- By now many of you will have received your copy of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006' via your agency. We have copies for our voluntary sector colleagues and would be pleased to hear from you if you have not yet received a copy. Please contact Kay Mayor on 01733 746028 or email kay.mayor@peterborough.gov.uk to request a copy. The document is posted on our website, which can be found at www.peterborough.gov.uk by following the links through 'Health and Social Care', and further copies are available at a cost of £19.50 from customer.services@tsc.co.uk or TSO, (The Stationery Office), PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN
- The Government has also published a revised version of 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'. It also includes practice guidance on Information Sharing. Distribution to Safeguarding Boards, Local Authorities, Police, Probation, Health Organisations, Connexions and NSPCC will begin in January 2007. I understand further copies will be available from dfes@prolog.uk.com or 0845 602 2260. In addition they are available online at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk.

New Guidance

We will also be launching 'Guidance for Working with Sexually Active Under 18's' at the Procedures Launch at the John Clare Theatre on 25th and 26th January 2007. This has been developed locally by a multi-agency group of professionals and contains essential guidance and a very good risk assessment tool.

New Leaflets

- We have developed an Internet safety leaflet which is available by contacting Kay Mayor on 01733 746028 or email kay.mayor@peterborough.gov.uk and is shortly to be available on the website.
- We are finalising a leaflet regarding Sexual Exploitation which will also be available from Kay at the above contact, and will also be available on the website in the near future.
- A leaflet explaining the expectations of Child Protection Conference attendees is just about to go to the printers.



New Child Protection Conference Arrangements

In response to concerns raised regarding Child Protection Conferences being too long, a multi agency working group was set up which made recommendations to make conferences more effective. These recommendations were approved by Peterborough Local Safeguarding Children Board and which we are aiming to implement by Thursday 1st February 2007. The details of those recommendations should have been circulated within your agency.



SAFER PARENTING HANDBOOK

It is taking a long time but we are gradually getting the handbook translated. It will look different as we cannot reproduce the pictures but the text is the important bit. So far we have it in Portuguese, so if any of you want a copy we can e mail it out. Just contact Kay or Judy.

Of particular importance to the success of these changes is that you fulfil your responsibility to share your report with parents and the Chair, in advance of the conference. This gives parents the opportunity to prepare their response for the conference. You should take an interpreter with you when you share your report, if a parent or carer has need for the report to be translated.

Agency members will no longer be expected to summarize their report, as everyone who is involved in the conference will have had the chance to read the reports. Instead you will be invited to comment, question or challenge what has been reported. This will leave more time and thought to the Analysis, Assessment of Risk discussion and Planning part of the conference.

This new process will apply to both initial and review Child Protection Conferences and will be under continuous review.

New People

We welcome **Mandy Barker:**

“I enter into my new post with much enthusiasm, knowing that there is a lot to do and much to achieve. It is my belief that we can and will accomplish the tasks set for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding in partnership with our multi-agency colleagues to bring about change. On a much lighter note, I have been warmly welcomed into Peterborough City Council and particularly Specialist Services with various parties, cakes and presents, however I soon realised that this was because of Christmas and certainly not my arrival!

I look forward to working with you all.”

Mandy Barker
Service Manager Quality Assurance & Safeguarding.

Hannah Campling

Joins us for a year as PSCB Training Co-ordinator while Charlotte Lucas is on maternity leave:

“I have joined Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board straight from University and am very keen to develop my skills and learn more about my future career progression. I have already learnt a lot and the team are all very friendly and have helped me to settle in.”

Hannah Campling, PSCB Training Co-ordinator

Fiona Taylor: New PSCB Inter-agency Trainer Post

Fiona will hopefully be joining us in early February 2007. The post she will be taking up will be a dedicated Child Protection Trainer, who will be able to offer Safeguarding Board Child Protection Training to multi-agency groups. She will also be able to provide single-agency training on request. She is a qualified teacher and was a Police Trainer where she delivered training to probationary police officers on a range of subjects including Child Protection. We look forward to her joining our team.



A New Independent Chair

Jan 2007

An advertisement will be placed in The Guardian during January 2007 for the vacant position of PSCB Chair. It will not be open to current employees of member organisations or colleagues who have left their employment with member organisations within the last two years.

Maternity Cover

We will also be advertising for a Training and Development Manager for 2 days per week to cover Jo Bramwell's maternity leave from April 2007.

Thanks

To Marc Smith and Mohammed Mustafa who delivered Safeguarding Board Child Protection Training to 2 local Mosques. They have plans to roll this out to other Mosques in the area.

Important Information:

You will wish to be aware that plans have been made to implement sections 1 and 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 on 1st July 2007. This confirms the commitment made by the Prime Minister on 6th December 2006.

Section 1 will make a breach of a civil order made under the Family Law Act 1996 a criminal offence and punishable by up to five years imprisonment. The Family Law Act 1996 provides victims with the non-molestation order and the occupation order. The non-molestation order forbids the use or threat of violence and/or harassment, pestering and intimidating of the victim. The occupational order enforces their entitlement to remain in occupation of the home, forces the respondent to leave the home or regulates the occupation of both parties.

Section 12 extends the powers on restraining orders under the Protection from Harassment Act 1977 to cover all violent offences. It also provides the power to the courts to make an order where someone is charged, pending trial or the court considers it necessary to make an order to protect the victim. The benefit of this is that a court can make an order where a defendant has been acquitted of other charges but the court feels it is necessary to protect a person from harassment.

Both of these measures will significantly strengthen the suite of measures already available to the courts. Existing measures include:

- Amendment of the Family Law Act in order for same sex relationships to be treated in the same way and to offer the same level of protection for people in relationships but not living together.
- And making common assault an arrestable offence, so that a police Officer may arrest without a warrant under section 24 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1994. This was updated by section 10 of Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

Additional information can be obtained from Sue Chapman, Domestic Violence Forum Co-ordinator at sue.chapman@peterborough.gov.uk.

