

# Newsletter

## Issue 2 - July 2009



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

### Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter. Safeguarding children has been an issue that has recently received national focus both by the Government and the media since the events of Baby P and the subsequent report by Lord Laming *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report*.

Additional funding has now been made available to support the Board to undertake reviews of safeguarding practice and to promote learning from serious case reviews, including additional staff to support this work. One key area of focus is learning from good practice. Our Working Together Workstream is conducting good practice reviews which will focus on cases that have been identified as having good outcomes for children. Key lessons from the first good practice review will be reported in our next newsletter.

The additional resources will also fund increased training events. Our focus will be domestic violence and the impact on children, child focused assessments and working with long term neglect. We are planning a conference in the autumn on 'Domestic Violence and the Impact on Children'. Details of all our training events will be published on our website.

The Safeguarding Children Board is also in the process of reviewing all its work over the last year, the results of which will be put into our Annual Report and published on our website.

As a result of Lord Laming's report we are expecting a revision of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* which is likely to have a significant impact on the work of the Board and anyone who works with children, parents and carers.

Please visit our website [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com) to keep updated with all new developments.

Pauline Martin—Safeguarding Board Manager

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## Working together to safeguard children



## Introducing Karen Hemsworth – Vice-Chair of KSCB

I have worked within the NHS since the mid-1970's and have a background in midwifery, children's nursing and health visiting. I have always had an interest in child protection work and undertook my MA in Child Protection and Welfare a number of years ago.

As Assistant Director for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults at NHS Kirklees, my role incorporates the designated nurse role for child protection, a statutory requirement as outlined in *Working Together 2006*.



This involves taking a strategic lead on all aspects of safeguarding across the health economy in Kirklees. My role involves providing expert advice and support to the NHS Kirklees Board on all safeguarding issues and ensuring that the organisation meets its statutory responsibilities. By providing a high standard of integrity and objectivity to the organisation and by working collaboratively with partner agencies, I work to ensure the delivery of good quality safeguarding services which are fit for purpose in order to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups.

Karen was appointed as Vice Chair of the Safeguarding Board in September 2008.

## New 'Safeguarding Officer for Schools and Learning'

As we know, 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'. It is therefore important that our schools and everyone working in the Learning Service are equipped to safeguard and promote the welfare of their students. The teachers and support staff are the people who have the most face to face contact with children and young people and who are in a key position to notice and raise concerns. The Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board has recognised the importance of supporting schools in this role and has appointed a Safeguarding Officer for Schools and Learning.

Eunice Cox took up this post in August 2008 and is responsible for designing and delivering safeguarding training, offering advice and support to schools on child protection matters, and liaising with schools and social care on any issues arising.

To date Eunice has delivered Basic Awareness training to school staff in 42 schools; provided training and consultation to pastoral and designated staff in three schools, been involved in safer recruitment training as well as having input to school governor training and ICT technicians. Eunice has also visited individual schools and assisted them in ensuring their safeguarding processes are in place and appropriate. If you or your school would like to know more about Eunice and her work, she can be contacted on tel: 01924 324718 or email: [eunice.cox@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:eunice.cox@kirklees.gov.uk)

## West Yorkshire Police Update

### Vulnerable Victims Unit

In March 2008 Kirklees Police underwent a re-structure and as a result, the new Vulnerable Victims Unit was formed.

An important requirement of the Police Force, the unit has a wide remit including responsibility for domestic violence, vulnerable adults, forced marriages, missing people, hate crime and child sex exploitation.

The inspector in charge of the unit is Andy Leonard. His team is based at Heckmondwike Police Station and comprises two sergeants, a police staff supervisor, 21 police constables and two clerical support staff .

### 'Misper' Unit

Enquiries into missing people used to be the responsibility of ten patrol inspectors who undertook the work together with their other patrol duties. Now, alongside the Vulnerable Victims Unit, a new Misper Unit has been set up to concentrate on missing person enquiries. Inspector Leonard heads up the Misper Unit and oversees every Missing person enquiry or investigation. He has a dedicated team of five missing person investigators who have built up expertise and experience in this area, giving greater knowledge of all missing people.

This new approach also allows better liaison with other agencies including safeguarding, mental health services and children's homes. It will also lead to better quality investigations into missing people.

The Misper Unit works on shifts covering 0700hrs - 2100hrs 7 days a week.

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

As from 1st April 2008 the Government requires Local Safeguarding Boards to review the deaths of all children, up to the age of 18, in their area. The regulations are outlined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children: Chapter 7*.

The purpose of the child death review process is to collect and analyse information about each child death with a view to identifying any matters of concern affecting the health, safety, welfare or any wider public health concerns of children within an area.

Kirklees has joined up with Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board and has developed a skilled and dedicated multi-agency child death overview panel with senior representations from Public Health, West Yorkshire Police, Social Care, NHS Kirklees and the Coroner's Office.

The panel looks at aspects of each individual case, and the actions of professionals involved, ensuring a thorough investigation of how such deaths may be prevented in the future. To date the panel has met four times and has reviewed 38 deaths within the Kirklees area.

Phil Coneron, KSCB Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator, says “The child death review process is an important part of learning how and why a child died. Any child death is tragedy for all concerned but by reviewing each death as a joint agency team, we may learn valuable lessons to safeguard other children”. An annual report has been submitted to the Safeguarding Children Board and will be available as a summary on our website.

If you are involved in any way with children, young people and their families in the Kirklees area and would like more information about the panel, please contact Phil Coneron by email: [phil.coneron@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:phil.coneron@kirklees.gov.uk) or telephone: 01924 483762.

## West Yorkshire Safeguarding Procedures Update

All professionals in contact with children and their families must be aware of child abuse and neglect and of the need to maintain vigilance at all times.

The West Yorkshire Safeguarding Procedures are to be used at all times when there is concern that a child is at risk of harm. The procedures have been written by a West Yorkshire Consortium comprising Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield Safeguarding Children Boards and they are in electronic format.

Tri-X, the host of the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Procedures, have created a new look to the format of the procedures online. Some of the benefits of this are:

- Tri-X will be able to upload any urgent changes between planned updates.
- There is a new search facility making navigation easier.
- It ensures that there is only one copy of the manual available for viewing, so it can be guaranteed that the version being viewed is the most up to date version.

The procedures can be accessed through our website by going to: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com) go to “Information for Professionals” then “Procedures and Guidance” then click on ‘Safeguarding Children Procedures’.



## Common Assessment Framework

Please note that the Integrated Working and Common Assessment Framework Handbook for Practitioners is now available on the Kirklees Council website [www.kirklees.gov.uk/caf](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/caf). It is advised that copies are viewed on the website to save on cost of printing and environmental impact. A paper copy will be given to each course participant when they attend the Level 2 and Level 3 CAF Training. Copies will be given out at the Level 2 training and it is expected that participants bring their handbook back to use at the Level 3 training session. They can then keep the paper copy.

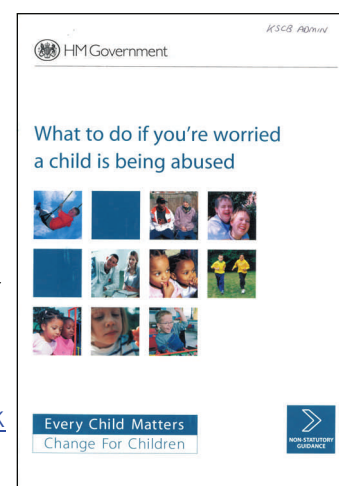
If you completed the one day CAF Training in the old Integrated Working pilot in Kirklees you may order a paper copy from the Kirklees Information Sharing Service by emailing: [caf.helpdesk@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:caf.helpdesk@kirklees.gov.uk) or telephoning: 01484 456823. Please note that copies will be restricted to one per place of work (e.g. one per Children's Centre) and will be available by collection from Oldgate House only.

## What to do if you are worried about a child

If you think a child is being harmed or neglected or is at risk of being abused **speak to your line manager or your organisation's designated safeguarding officer** for advice on what to do next.

All practitioners should be aware of the practice guidance *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused* (see right)..

This publication can be downloaded from [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)  
A useful summary version is also available.



## Make our website your favourite

For all your up-to-date safeguarding information please go to [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com)

The website contains information about all the partner agencies that make up the Safeguarding Children Board. You will also find pages specifically for children and young people, parents and carers, and guidance on what to do if you are concerned about children.

Practitioners can also find the Safeguarding Children Procedures, Government guidance and useful links to a range of safeguarding information.

We always appreciate feedback on our website. If you feel there is something you would like to see added or any changes to improve any part of the website, please get in touch with Diana Flooks: [diana.flooks@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:diana.flooks@kirklees.gov.uk)

## Voluntary Sector - Working with Children Conference

A specially tailored conference has provided community and voluntary groups with vital information for working safely and successfully with children.

The conference, held in December 2008, gave people running youth clubs, playgroups, tenants and residents associations, and other groups working with children and young people, the chance to find out about the changes to the law they need to get to grips with to ensure that young people are as safe as possible.

“The response to the conference was overwhelming,” said Helen Crabtree from Voluntary Action Kirklees, one of the organisers of the event. “People who run activities for children and young people are keen to understand the policies and procedures that need to be in place to protect their organisations as well as safeguard the young people. Generally they know that changes have been made to the law, but are unsure how to find out what they need to do, how they should do it, and what will happen to them if they don’t, so that’s where we come in.”

Changes in the law mean that from Autumn 2009, anyone intending to work or volunteer with children and young people will have to register with the new Vetting and Barring scheme run by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). “This is going to be a significant challenge to smaller community and sports groups, who struggle to get enough volunteers to run activities and rely on parents to step in at a moment’s notice to help out,” said Bob Mortimer, Chair of Kirklees Sports Council.

## Multi-agency Training

To meet demand for places the Board is running additional multi-agency Foundation Level training sessions in 2009 – 2010. These are extremely popular courses which are held at SureStart Children’s Centres throughout Kirklees. Foundation Level courses are:

- Awareness of Child Abuse & Neglect
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Preparing for and Attending Case Conferences
- Making a Positive Contribution to Core Groups

To book a place or for further details please go to [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com) – all our courses are listed under ‘Information for Professionals’.



The online version of the ‘Awareness of Child Abuse & Neglect’ course will be available again soon after undergoing major redevelopment. You can apply now and you will be notified when the E Learning course is up and running.

You can also find details of courses on the following subjects on the website:

- Neglect
- Assessment
- Domestic Violence
- and many more.

For more details about any courses run by the Board and to apply for any of our courses please go to [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com)

## Domestic Violence Awareness Conference

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board is holding a conference in October this year to highlight the effects domestic violence can have on children.

Domestic violence of any type can have a long lasting and far reaching impact on children of all ages and the conference will bring together specialist speakers and practitioners to look at multi-agency responses to children living with domestic violence. Details of this conference will be on our website soon.

## E-Safety Events

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 was Child Safety Week. In acknowledgement of this the Safeguarding Board, represented by Eunice Cox, Safeguarding Officer, hosted two e-safety events for parents and carers. The purpose of the two hour interactive/multi-media sessions was to equip adults caring for children and young people with some of the key safety issues in relation to the technological world.

Eileen Torr, Kirklees Council Learning Service, began with a look at all the different ways that the internet can be accessed and the opportunities that are available through this medium. This was followed by some of the potential risks associated with not having security settings in place; sharing personal information; not knowing your information provider and accessing inappropriate sites.



Val Flintoff, also from the Learning Service, then presented a refreshing look at risk, by considering that over protection does not provide the opportunity for developing mechanisms for identifying and dealing with risky situations. She looked at how to communicate with children and young people about these issues and becoming involved in their world. A key message from this was that children and young people may have advanced technological knowledge but it is adults that can help them develop the necessary accompanying wisdom.

Martin Reynolds, the Safeguarding Board's nominated E-Safety Officer led a question and answer session. The e-safety messages were delivered to 65 people, the feedback was very positive and requests have been received for the sessions to be repeated to other groups of people.

## The Safeguarding Board Staff Team

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Adam Bell	Admin Assistant <a href="mailto:adam.bell@kirklees.gov.uk">adam.bell@kirklees.gov.uk</a>	01924 482161

## Departures

We have been sorry to say goodbye to two valued members of the team, Jane McGill and Adele Gladman, who were our Learning & Development Officers (job share). We would like to say a very big thank you to Jane and Adele for their expertise and input to the role.

## Welcome

Lynrose Kirby is our new Learning & Development Officer. Lynrose is on secondment from her post as the Adoption Team Manager for Kirklees, a post she has held for nearly eight years. Prior to that Lynrose worked for the voluntary sector with both NCH Action for Children and Barnardos. Lynrose has been involved in training carers and social workers for most of her social work career and is currently completing a teaching qualification.