

Newsletter

Issue 6 ~ March 2011



Kirklees **Safeguarding Children** Board

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the 6th edition of the KSCB newsletter. The Board and its partners continue to work hard to ensure safeguarding children remains high on the agenda and the commitment from partners and collaborative working continues to grow.

Despite the pace of change in health and social care, and within other public and voluntary sector organisations, partners continue to rise to the challenge of ensuring children in Kirklees are safe and that the services we all provide are the best they can be.

KSCB has worked hard to achieve its business objectives and will continue to strive forward to ensure the progress it is making is maintained. KSCB workstreams have continued to work effectively to improve services and embed learning and change into practice, despite pressures of busy workloads, and this has to be commended. All agencies have shown a real commitment.

Work has been undertaken to work more closely with the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board to maximise the benefits for families and a new joint workstream 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and their Children' has been established. Another new workstream, 'Safeguarding in Education and Learning', is now meeting regularly enabling a clear channel of communication with all schools, seeking views on issues and feeding back to the Board.

We are pleased to welcome a new lay member to the Board and we all look forward to his contributions in the future.

Safeguarding training continues to be well received and has included specific events and workshops on neglect which have been positively received and evaluated well. There has been significant work undertaken with schools to enhance their learning and support them with safeguarding responsibilities.

Whilst all organisations both large and small are facing their own challenges, the Board continues to work hard to ensure it maintains a clear focus on safeguarding children, particularly for those who are most vulnerable and in ensuring we continue to drive the safeguarding agenda forward. During these times of change and uncertainty it is essential that we continue to work together and share information to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and keep them safe from harm. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work and commitment to this important work.

Karen Hemsworth

Assistant Director for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, NHS Kirklees
Vice Chair Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

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Working together to safeguard children



Welcome to new KSCB Board Members

Mick Frost was appointed as non executive member in November 2011. Mick retired in 2008 after 32 years in international sales and marketing management at a major engineering company in Huddersfield, having previously qualified as a chartered engineer. Mick lives in Meltham with his wife of 43 years, they have two children and four grandchildren.



As the first non-executive member of the Safeguarding Children Board, Mick brings a fresh approach and has made an enthusiastic start as chair of the Communication and Community Engagement Workstream.



Thelma Walker has joined the Board representing schools. Thelma has been head teacher at Overthorpe C of E (C) J, I & N School for just over five years. She was previously head at Flockton First School.

Overthorpe School serves a community which faces many challenges and over 80% of the local children suffer high social deprivation. Thelma works closely with safeguarding colleagues valuing their support and advice when working with families.

Thelma is currently chair of the Kirklees Primary Heads group and will bring, wherever possible, head teachers' perspectives and views with regard to ensuring all children in Kirklees are safe and cared for.

KSCB Annual Report 2009-10



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board
Annual Report 2009-10

The report covers the period from April 2009 until December 2010, and complies with the new guidance for annual reports set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010*. Key areas of progress over the period include:

- All business objectives for the period 2007-2010 achieved
- Increased expertise in managing serious case reviews and embedding lessons from them
- Independent chair appointed
- Non executive (lay) member appointed
- Significant work undertaken to enhance safeguarding work in schools made possible by the funding of an additional learning and schools safeguarding officer
- Increased capacity to focus on training and serious case reviews made possible by a significant additional grant from the Primary Care Trust in 2009
- Robust Section 11 audit process in place including a process of challenging partner agencies with regard to their safeguarding work
- Participation in a commission which scrutinised the council's safeguarding processes, and involvement in progressing and implementing actions arising.



The full report is on the KSCB website at http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/annual_report.html

New KSCB Workstream – Safeguarding in Education and Learning

This new workstream first met in November 2010. The group comprises head teachers, staff from the Learning Service, staff from human resources, and the KSCB unit. Its purpose is to support educational establishments within Kirklees in delivering their responsibilities under sections 175 and 157 of the *Education Act 2002*, *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2006* guidance, and the *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010* guidance.

The workstream will support educational establishments with their safeguarding responsibilities including:

- ensuring that schools and colleges make provision for delivery of appropriate safeguarding training to their staff
- having policies and procedures in place that are embedded in practice and regularly reviewed
- ensuring that support and advice is available to schools and colleges to assist them in meeting their requirements and enabling them to participate fully in working together with other agencies in safeguarding the children in their care.

Thelma Walker, head teacher representative from this workstream, sits on the Board and has responsibility for providing an efficient and effective means of communication with all schools in seeking their views on issues and feeding information back.

New KSCB Workstream - Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and their Children

On 4 March 2011 the first meeting of this jointly managed workstream between Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board and Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board took place. Its purpose is to improve the coordination of work and communication between both Boards providing direction for a range of activities to implement policies and strategic actions, including those arising out of serious case reviews, in the areas of domestic abuse, mental health, learning disability and substance misuse, where the focus will be on vulnerable adults as parents. This workstream has streamlined the work of previous 'themed' workstreams which have been discontinued.

The group comprises representatives from organisations that provide services for adults and children and is chaired by the safeguarding manager for each Board, alternating on an annual basis.

The terms of reference are to:

- promote and support effective relationships between agencies that work with vulnerable adults who may be parents
- ensure that safeguarding children is embedded within the practice of all agencies working with vulnerable adults who may be parents
- identify safeguarding training requirements and communicate these to the learning and development workstreams of both Boards
- undertake practice development initiatives, in particular any issues that might arise out of serious case reviews where the focus is vulnerable adults as parents.

The workstream will meet quarterly and provide reports to both Boards.

Neglect Workshops

As part of work to meet a recommendation from a serious case review to 'undertake a multi agency review of the identification and management of neglectful parenting with a view to informing specific guidance to agencies and professionals to shape training and service development' KSCB commissioned two events in October 2010 to hear how practitioners and managers have worked with cases of neglect, sharing what helped to engage resistant families and what frustrated efforts to find solutions. The events provided participants with the opportunity to:

- recognise their own experience of addressing neglect with resistant families, whilst acknowledging and reinforcing the insight which has grown from this past experience;
- reflect on the characteristics and behaviour of families and professionals who are engaged in a 'resistant' relationship;
- explore strategies for maintaining a child centred approach to practice with neglectful parenting, whilst addressing resistance from families;
- reinforce the role of reflective supervision for frontline practitioners;
- acknowledge the personal impact child protection practice has on professionals.

Sue Woolmore, consultant and trainer, provided a visual representation of multi-agency service provision, followed by a group discussion about the issues which this raised for the participants. This enabled participants to identify the key indicators of a 'resistant' family and the challenges this poses for them in seeking to address child neglect.

Key issues raised and suggestions for practice were:

Multi-agency working - improve multi-agency working including better information sharing through joint IT systems; better information about available services; co-location of teams; fully integrated specialist teams; multi-agency training; shadowing opportunities.

Capacity and capability – increase capacity and capability by employing more practitioners; provide crèche facilities to enable parents to access services; use face to face interpreting services.

Supervision – use supervision to look at emotional impact on staff and reflect on practice as well as discussing targets that need to be met.

Early intervention and thresholds - early intervention is best practice; increase universal services like Surestart to work with older children; see neglect as a cause for concern because of its consequences, not wait for an 'incident' to trigger an assessment.

The KSCB unit analysed the information from the events and has suggested a number of initiatives that could help support practitioners and managers:

- **Work shadowing between agencies** to enhance the working together relationship, ultimately with a view to improving communication links between professionals.
- **A buddying scheme** for professionals between agencies to improve understanding of others' roles and responsibilities.
- **Undertake work on supervision** and expectations for KSCB agencies, focusing on commonalities and an opportunity to reflect on elements of supporting practitioners in child protection work.
- **Improve the quality of referrals** by offering assistance to agencies.
- **Establish a consultation/virtual team** who can provide the expertise of the agency they represent.

It is hoped that some of these initiatives will be implemented in coming months.

Embedding Learning from Serious Case Reviews: Audit of Pre-birth Assessments in Kirklees

Following lessons identified through serious case reviews in Kirklees regarding multi-agency working around pre-birth assessments an audit has been undertaken to examine whether improvements to practice have been sustained over time and if they have led to improved outcomes for children.

The areas examined in the audit were: professional understanding of risk as it relates to unborn children, the timeliness and quality of referrals to Children's Social Care, sharing of information, multi-agency risk assessments, and decision making.

The audit found no concerns about the effectiveness of multi-agency working in relation to pre-birth assessments and no lessons requiring further improvements to practice. The audit did show up two particular areas of good practice which are recommended for all professionals to follow:

- The quality of birth plans – good birth plans were clear and succinct, with bullet points detailing contact arrangements and the reasons why such arrangements were in place. Needing to be available in busy delivery suites, birth plans need to be concise, yet provide enough background evidence to ensure absolute clarity about contact arrangements.
- Provision of a birth plan in instances where the pre-birth assessment results in no further action from Children's Social Care. Where this is the case a birth plan ensures that practitioners are clear about the outcome of the assessment, and ensures that, on delivery, everyone knows what arrangements are to be made.

The audit showed examples of some very good referrals, robust assessments, and detailed and structured plans for further work with families that were clear about how progress would be measured. A full report is available on the KSCB website at:

<http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/kirklees-case-reviews.html>

For further information contact Chani Mortimer, safeguarding children co-ordinator, 01484 225019, Chani.Mortimer@kirklees.gov.uk

Learning from Serious Case Reviews - Head Teacher Briefings

In October 2010 five briefings were held for head teachers to share information on the lessons to be learned following serious case reviews with particular reference to issues for schools and education settings. Bron Sanders, KSCB chair, and Carol Smith, independent trainer and consultant, presented the outcomes from both local and national reviews.

During the briefings issues raised by schools were noted as well as good practice that could be shared to improve processes and services for children. Information gathered was published on Ednet and was fed back to the Safeguarding Board. An action plan has been drawn up on how issues raised will be addressed and by whom and this information will be communicated through head teacher groups.

Support for the Voluntary Sector

The Safeguarding Board recognises this is a difficult time for the voluntary and community sector (VCS). Voluntary Action Kirklees' capacity to provide support and training has been drastically reduced. This is all at a time when voluntary and community groups are providing more support than ever to the vulnerable children and families of Kirklees. KSCB is continuing and increasing the support it provides to the VCS in the following ways:

Voluntary Sector Workstream - this aims to:

- support the VCS in completing a specially designed safeguarding checklist to assess and improve safeguarding children practice
- identify the training needs of the VCS and ensure they are met
- organise an annual safeguarding children event for the VCS
- cascade safeguarding children information, including local and national developments, and feedback any concerns to the KSCB.

Training - KSCB recognises the large number of people who work in the sector and initially the Board is focussing on providing training to meet the specific needs of the sector. KSCB is running courses on safer recruitment and is considering running a classroom based level 1 Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect course specifically for VCS.

Website - A special area for the VCS is being created on the KSCB website. There will be guidance on policies and procedures including the designated safeguarding officer role, safer recruitment, managing allegations, codes of conduct, whistleblowing, health and safety, CRBs and more.

Safeguarding checklist – an audit tool has been designed for VCS organisations to gauge how well they are doing in relation to safeguarding responsibilities including an action plan to address areas that could be improved. Use of the audit tool is optional but feedback from groups that have used it has been very positive and KSCB encourages its use.

For further information contact Rebecca Williams, KSCB Learning & Development Officer, Interim Chair – Voluntary Sector Workstream, 01484 225151, Rebecca.Williams@kirklees.gov.uk



Vetting and Barring

The government has unveiled a new scaled back employment vetting scheme and a fundamental reform of criminal records checks, but the safeguarding regulations introduced in October 2009 continue to apply. Full details can be found on the Home Office website at

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/vetting-barring-scheme/>

Protecting Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

There has been an increased awareness of the risk to children through CSE as a result of police enquiries such as Operation Retriever, a major enquiry in Derby in 2010 that involved more than 100 officers, 27 victims and 9 perpetrators of CSE related offences. The Derby investigation triggered a series of multi-agency reviews which commended the way agencies had worked together to tackle CSE, but also identified a series of missed opportunities to prevent the abuse and “a need for agencies across the country to learn from this case”.

Here in Kirklees, there has been significant work over a number of years to identify and protect children who are at possible risk. A multi-agency group – including managers from West Yorkshire Police, Children’s Social Care, the Learning Service, Youth Offending Team, Young People’s Service and Barnardo’s Missing Service - supports strategic responses to children at risk of CSE and children who go missing.

The strategic group recognised that there needed to be a process in place for sharing information about individual children who were believed to be at risk. Hence a separate operational group was formed to undertake shared assessment work. This group considers referrals of children who could be at risk, identifies possible perpetrators, and takes action to help potential prosecutions and disrupt harmful activities. The group first met in November 2009 and, in just over a year, has taken action with regard to 58 children (53 girls and 5 boys).

Kirklees is considering how to improve work around CSE including potential for the police and children’s social care to undertake more joint work. It is envisaged that two social workers will be co-located with the police safeguarding team from June this year to support joint responses to children at risk through CSE but also children who go missing and those harmed through domestic violence.

Kirklees is involved in research currently being undertaken by the University of Bedfordshire looking into how Safeguarding Boards and authorities are responding to CSE. The research which is due to be completed later this year has identified that:

- there are 29 sexual exploitation co-ordinators in posts across the country – representing fewer than a quarter of all Safeguarding Boards
- there are current protocols in operation in less than a quarter of all Safeguarding Boards
- there are sub groups addressing sexual exploitation in just over a quarter of Safeguarding Boards
- there is a specialist project in a quarter of Safeguarding Board areas
- ten years on from the introduction of a dual strategy of protecting young people and proactively investigating their abusers, a third of the country has no plans for the delivery of such a strategy.

The local CSE protocol is in the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Procedures manual at: http://www.proceduresonline.com/westyorkscb/chapters/p_ca_sex_exp.html

To refer a case of CSE use the referral form available on the KSCB website at: <http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/procedures-guidance.html>

For further information contact Phil Holmes, LADO and safeguarding improvement officer, 01484 226748, Phil.Holmes@kirklees.gov.uk

Road Safety Mosque Broadcast

As winter approached last year the Noor ul Islam Mosque in Batley used its 'receiver' system in an innovative way to deliver important road safety messages to children and their parents. Normally used to broadcast calls to prayers and special announcements it was a powerful way to broadcast the safety messages and respond to phone-in queries from the congregation.

At the event Mark Ramsden, section manager for highway safety, spoke about the impact road accidents have on health and wellbeing and how they affect families and whole communities. Jill Hall, road safety officer, explained that road accidents involving children tend to happen around junctions, bends or the brow of a hill, and where visibility is poor, such as near parked cars or overhanging bushes.

Over 300 children and young people were injured on Kirklees roads in 2010. Traffic incidents cause half of all accidental deaths to children, but parents can do simple things to help – finding the safest places to cross roads, using child car seats, dressing children in something bright, or simply holding a child's hand. These messages are also important for older children who walk with siblings.

By explaining the rules of the road and giving children the opportunity to plan routes to school or to the shops with parents and carers, they can learn where the safest places are. Parents can also make it fun for young children by playing looking and listening games.

Shakeel Hafez, safeguarding and community engagement officer, is looking at promoting this inspiring broadcast method with other local mosques and is working with mosque teachers and management committee members to ensure a collective effort to improve safety. A further possibility is to encourage adult volunteers to become 'mosque marshals' to help raise awareness and keep the children safe.

For further information contact Shakeel Hafez, 07980 749478, Shakeel.Hafez@kirklees.gov.uk

Young People Road Safety Champions

This is a joint venture where West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYF&RS), British Transport Police, West Yorkshire Police; Kirklees Streetscene and Yorkshire Ambulance Service are working alongside the Kirklees Voice and Influence Team in developing a robust training package to educate and train 14 young people on road safety issues.

After successful partnership work with the WYF&RS last year on a young people's personal safety event, the service approached Kirklees Youth Council and asked if they would be interested in supporting and developing a project around road safety for young people.

Two members of the Youth Council were recruited to champion the work and, in turn, they were involved in recruiting another 12 young people to join them. The young people range from 11 to 18 years old and they are from youth clubs, schools and colleges across Kirklees. This group will become 'peer educators' who will educate other young people on road safety issues, things like the distraction of using mobile phones, i-pods and listening to music, not paying attention to crossing roads safely, congregating on roads in groups, the impact of alcohol and drugs on drivers, passengers and pedestrians, driving too fast, and not wearing seatbelts. continued



The peer educators will work in conjunction with Streetscene and the emergency services who will provide information on accident hot spots and near misses. Where these have been identified in a particular locality some of the champions will go to local youth groups, schools and colleges to talk to other young people and pass on road safety messages. Whilst doing this the champions will also gather views from young people relating to key areas of safety.

For further information contact Sinead Boyle, senior voice and influence worker, 01484 223375, Sinead.Boyle@kirklees.gov.uk

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)

The FNP is a licensed, evidence-based, structured, preventive, intensive home visiting programme offered to first-time young mothers aged 19 or younger to reduce child maltreatment. Following proven success in America, NHS Kirklees has been taking part in a UK trial for the last 18 months.

Clients are visited by family nurses from as early in pregnancy as possible, until the child is two years old. Family nurses are experienced community nurses who have extensive training in the family nurse partnership programme, as well as health visiting, school nursing or midwifery experience. Whilst participating in the programme clients still have a midwife but the family nurses deliver all elements of the healthy child programme so participating families do not require separate health visiting services.

The programme aims to:

- improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in preventive health practices
- improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care
- improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future; plan future pregnancies; continue their education and find work.

The programme works with the strengths of clients and encourages them to fulfil their aspirations for their baby and themselves. Nurses use materials and practical activities to work with the mother, father and wider family on understanding their baby, making changes to their behaviour, developing emotionally and building positive relationships.

A team of five nurses and one supervisor will work with approximately 150 families throughout the period of the trial. Referrals are accepted from anybody, providing the client is in early pregnancy, preferably prior to 16 weeks and no later than 25 weeks.

For further information contact Lindsay Andrews, Family Nurse Partnership Supervisor, 01484 223083, Lindsay.Andrews@kirkleesch.nhs.uk

KSCB Website www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com

Please go to the website for information on:

- West Yorkshire Consortium Safeguarding Children Procedures Manual – all professionals should familiarise themselves with these procedures
- What to do if you are worried about a child
- Safeguarding in Education
- E Learning course - *An Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect*
- E Learning course - *Private Fostering – An Overview*
- Multi-agency training
- and much more.

Dangers of Window Blind Cords to Young Children

Kirklees Child Death Overview Panel has become aware of a number of children in the UK who have died as a result of strangulation caused by blind cords. With the growing popularity of venetian blinds, the window cord has become a major contributor to accidental strangulation of infants and toddlers.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust is urging parents to take time for child safety. They say: “Just 10 minutes can prevent your young child being strangled by getting tangled in a blind cord. Fit a cleat hook to keep cords out of reach of climbing children, and make it a habit to tie the blind cord back every time.”

To reduce risks cords can be cut so they don't form a loop or, better still, replaced with blinds that have cord-free operation. Moving all furniture and beds away from any potential risk can also help.

It is essential that when professionals visit houses where young children live or visit parents are informed of the very real dangers that looped cords can cause. Further information and advice can be found on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents website at:

<http://www.rospa.com/about/currentcampaigns/blindcords/>

or the Child Accident Prevention website:

<http://www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice/keeping-your-child-safe-strangulation>

New KSCB Training Course Management System

An electronic Training Course Management System has been developed for professionals to use when applying for KSCB training courses. The new system has enhanced the way the Board administers all training applications, which last year was in excess of 3000, and most importantly means that we will be able to provide better management information to all our partner agencies. Teething problems are being sorted out and we hope that everyone will benefit from the easy to use system. KSCB training records going back to 2003 have been transferred to the system so people can easily see their training history and print certificates.

Details of all forthcoming multi-agency training courses as well as sessions for designated professionals in schools are now available. Click on the link on the website to access the system.



Email KSCB.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk or ring 01484 225161 if you have any queries.

Contact us

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Training enquiries – 01484 225161

Child death overview panel – 01484 225450

Serious case reviews – 01484 225019

All general enquiries – 01484 225161

More information on the KSCB website: www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com