

# Newsletter

## Issue 5 ~ October 2010



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

### Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to introduce this edition of the newsletter – the first since I became Independent Chair of the Board in April this year. Having an independent chair is a new arrangement for Kirklees and I have been made very welcome indeed.

In the short time I have been involved with KSCB, I have been impressed by the strong commitment of all Board partners to improving safeguarding arrangements in Kirklees and to working collaboratively. I have found the work of the Board and its workstreams is in very good shape, despite the pressure of a heavy workload in the last two years, which is testament to the hard work put in by staff at all levels and across all organisations. I particularly want to record my thanks to Alison O'Sullivan who has provided an exceptional standard of leadership to the Board during this time – a hard act to follow!

The Board has had a busy summer handling intense media interest in the publication of the executive summary of its most recent serious case review. I want to thank all those who worked so hard on completing what was a most complex and challenging piece of work which has been acknowledged as professional and comprehensive. The lessons learned are the most important part of any serious case review, and in this case there are valuable insights into working with neglect, along with reminders about the nuts and bolts of good practice, including assessment, recording, and communication. The Board will be ensuring all the learning is packed into training programmes and special events in the months to come, and that all the recommendations for improvements in services are thoroughly carried out. A recent overview of recommendations from previous serious case reviews shows a strong track record in delivery and implementation in Kirklees.

The future for safeguarding and the capacity of the Board to maintain its momentum, looks very challenging in the climate of financial cutbacks and rapid change. Every partner agency is facing significant losses of funding and staff, which will no doubt impact on work of the Board and its workstreams. In addition, however, there is a change of priorities, culture, language and expectation coming from the coalition government in relation to children's services. The proposed radical and large scale changes impacting on PCTs and health service delivery through GP commissioning, have been considered by the Board, and we have written to the Secretary of State asking for reassurance that arrangements for safeguarding the most vulnerable children will be given due prominence in the proposed new commissioning framework. In the months ahead, the Board is committed to keeping a clear focus on safeguarding, particularly for those who are most vulnerable, and in ensuring the impressive progress of recent years is not lost in the change process. I look forward to leading the Board through the challenges ahead.

Bron Sanders  
Independent Chair

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## Working together to safeguard children



## Welcome to new Safeguarding Board members

The Board has recently welcomed new members from its partner agencies.



John Edwards, Assistant Director Learning, leads the Learning Service within the Directorate for Children and Young People, Kirklees Council. The Learning Service works with schools, colleges and early years settings to promote and secure the learning, achievements, aspirations and progression pathways of all children and young people in Kirklees. John has worked in local government for nearly 8 years, and joined Kirklees from Manchester City Council in the spring of 2010. He had previously worked for 11 years as a secondary school teacher and senior leader.

Sally McIvor has joined the Board representing the Well-Being and Communities Directorate, Kirklees Council. Through Sally the Board links with Local Authority and jointly commissioned services that work with vulnerable adults across Kirklees. Sally is a qualified nurse in general nursing and in the field of learning disability nursing. She has worked across health and social care for the last 25 years in the public sector. Since 1995 she has worked in adult social care in Kirklees as Head of Service and now Assistant Director of Wellbeing and Integrated Services offering support to often some of the most vulnerable people in Kirklees.



Andrew Pennington, Assistant Director Commissioning, joins colleagues in representing the Children and Young People Directorate, Kirklees Council. Andrew's service leads strategic planning activities to meet the priorities set out in the Kirklees Children and Young People Plan, drives service quality, provides independent review and advocacy, and manages the Safeguarding Children Board Unit. His role also involves responsibility for developing the Children's Trust in Kirklees, and membership of the KSCB will help in ensuring the right links are in place and that KSCB provides appropriate challenge to the Children's Trust. Andrew has been in Kirklees for nine years, working in the Education

Service, with responsibility for planning and performance before the creation of the Directorate for Children and Young People. He has wide ranging experience of work in the education world including responsibilities for youth and community services, school improvement and human resources.

Christina Quinn, Clinical and Operations Lead, represents Kirklees Community Healthcare Services. Tina graduated as a speech and language therapist (SLT) in 1980 and went on to work with both adults and children in Wakefield, Gateshead and Warrington before settling down in the Kirklees health community. Here she took on a specialist role working with children with speech, language and communication needs for whom English was an additional language. In 2002 she was promoted to the role of SLT manager for Kirklees Primary Care Trust (PCT). Following the reconfiguration of PCTs in 2006 she moved into the role of clinical and operational lead for Kirklees Community Healthcare Services, which provides local services such as district nursing, health visiting, school nursing and community dental services. She is committed to the safeguarding agenda for both children and adults and has been a member of the Safeguarding Board since October 2009.



### ....and thanks to members who have left

Cathy Rooney, Karen Worrall, Lorraine Hansom, Graham Crossley and Mary Cunningham from the Children and Young People Directorate, Kirklees Council, are no longer full Board members but they are continuing their roles as chairs and members of workstreams. The Board extends sincere thanks to these colleagues for their much valued contributions to the work of the Board.

## Changes to KSCB structure and membership

The Safeguarding Board has reviewed its structure and membership to reflect the new **Working Together** document and the **Think Family Strategy** in Kirklees. The main changes are:

The Working Together and the three themed workstreams, Parental Mental Health & Learning Disability, Substance Misuse, and Domestic Violence, have been discontinued, but focus on these important areas of work will continue through a new **Safeguarding Vulnerable Families Group** which will have a wider remit, taking into account other issues, for example, children of prisoners and street workers. The new group will not report directly to the Safeguarding Board but instead to the Kirklees Think Family Strategy Group. To ensure a direct link to the Board the safeguarding children manager will be a member of the group.

A new **Universal Safeguarding Workstream** will focus on preventative strategies around activities which potentially affect all children, for example, e-safety, bullying, safety on the streets, and gangs.

Representatives from independent schools and further education colleges will join colleagues from mainstream schools on a new **Safeguarding in Education and Learning Workstream** which will replace the previous **Headteachers Workstream**.

**Task and Finish** groups will be commissioned by the Board to undertake specific pieces of work as required. The terms of reference of all workstreams have been reviewed.

**Working Together** sets out the role of local authority elected members in improving outcomes for children and young people. Councillor Ken Smith, Lead Member on safeguarding issues within Children's Services, has joined the Board as a 'participating observer'. He will bring another important element of challenge to the Board's work.

Arrangements are underway to recruit two 'non-executive' members. These will be people from the local community who will be full Board members. Their role will relate to supporting stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and challenging the Board on the accessibility of its plans and procedures. Advertisements will appear in the local press in October.

To reflect the changes to the Board's structure the KSCB constitution will be updated, but this will not be done until more information is known about the government's plans for safeguarding children. A structure chart can be viewed on the website: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/board-structure.html#structure](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/board-structure.html#structure)

## Workstream achievements

Taking the lead on a variety of different issues the Board's workstreams undertake a significant amount of work on behalf of the Board. Over recent months this has included:

### Communication Workstream

A public awareness raising campaign involved the distribution of leaflets and posters about 'Keeping Children Safe' to children's centres, libraries, sports centres, GP surgeries and health centres. In addition wallet cards and posters showing the steps to take when there are concerns about a child have been distributed widely within statutory and voluntary organisations in Kirklees: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/contact-us](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/contact-us)  
The Communication and Consultation Strategy is now on the KSCB website: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/communication\\_strategy](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/communication_strategy)

### Evaluation and Effectiveness Workstream

The audit tool created by the workstream for undertaking Section 11 audits is to be used by other Safeguarding Boards in West Yorkshire. A process to challenge agencies about their safeguarding responsibilities is working effectively. The workstream regularly reviews performance information to monitor and challenge the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within partner agencies.

### **Learning and Development Workstream**

A multi-agency training plan informed by a training needs analysis is developed annually. The number of training places available has been increased significantly to meet demand. A considerable amount of work has been done to share learning and support those delivering single agency training, resulting in increased consistency and co-operation across agencies.

### **Serious Case Review Workstream**

Considerable expertise has been developed in managing high profile and complex cases. The time and care taken to manage the review process and media attention is a credit to the Board and has been recognised nationally. Better processes are in place for translating lessons to improvements. A system monitors progress against recommendations from reviews, and compiles evidence to demonstrate that lessons from reviews have led to improvements in quality outcomes across all areas of service.

### **Voluntary Sector Workstream**

This workstream works towards ensuring the voluntary and community sector has an understanding of 'safeguarding children' and their roles and responsibilities to achieving this. Work has focused on developing a consistent process for monitoring voluntary organisations' compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act. As such, a simplified audit tool has been established to help voluntary and community agencies evaluate their compliance.

### **Headteacher Workstream**

Work has been undertaken to identify and address operational issues at the interface between schools and children's social care; and ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the contribution that schools make to safeguarding children. The workstream has made considerable progress in this area and its work will be incorporated into the new Safeguarding in Education and Learning Workstream. The Board extends thanks to the workstream members for their valuable contribution to this area of work.

## **Themed Workstreams:**

### **Working Together**

Through this workstream a process has been established for undertaking good practice reviews of cases so that learning can be shared in the same way that it is for serious case reviews.

### **Substance Misuse**

Linking findings from the national 'Hidden Harm' inquiry carried out by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs with work undertaken locally to consider responses to the needs of children of problem drug users the workstream monitored the implementation of an action plan to address the findings of these reports.

### **Domestic Violence**

A conference on domestic violence gave local professionals the chance to share knowledge and learn about the impact of domestic violence on children. A protocol has been developed to improve the identification of risk factors and information sharing between Police and the Council's Duty and Assessment Service. The Referral and notification of domestic violence incidents in Kirklees: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/procedures-guidance.html](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/procedures-guidance.html) protocol is on the website. The West Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Procedures have been revised to clearly lay out the response practitioners need to follow when dealing with domestic violence incidents, and to provide further guidance about the risk aggressive individuals may pose to children.

### **Parental Mental Health and Learning Disability**

The workstream has developed a protocol for integrated working between health and social care professionals where parental learning disability/difficulty is a factor in parenting ability. This protocol describes how to get advice and support from the Community Learning Disability Teams in Kirklees: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/procedures-guidance](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/procedures-guidance)

In the review and re-structure of the Board the themed workstreams mentioned above have been discontinued but their work is to continue through a new 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Families' group. KSCB expresses thanks and appreciation to the chairs and members of these workstreams for their expertise and valuable contributions.

## KSCB 'Think Family' conference

Supporting the Parent, Protecting the Child was the focus of a KSCB conference held in July. Key note speeches and seminars aimed to bring adult and children's services closer together and consider the needs of the whole family in an integrated approach.

The conference was chaired by Bron Sanders, the KSCB independent chair, and featured keynote speeches from Karen Worrall, assistant director for inclusion in the Directorate for Children and Young People Kirklees Council, on the Think Family approach in Kirklees, and Mike Ravey and Tony Long from the University of Salford who spoke about the inter-agency response to Think Family, how to get it right and how it can go wrong. Claire Cairns, consultant, discussed her research into 'Hidden Harm in Kirklees', widening the discussion to the challenges faced by adult agencies in recognising and addressing the needs of the children of service users.

Seminars were provided by BAAF on adoption and fostering, KIDS VIP on the impact of parental imprisonment, CHANGE on parental learning disabilities, the Fatherhood Institute on engaging fathers, the Family Intervention Project on integrated working, and the Eden Team on specialist midwifery services in North Kirklees.

Stalls run by a wide range of agencies such as Family Intervention Project, Family Nurse Partnership, Lifeline, Adults Safeguarding Board, Fatherhood Institute, CHANGE, Womencentre / EVOLVE, Citizens Advice Bureau, Gateway to Care, Young Carers, Children and Families Information Service, Insight and Parenting Service provided information on local services and free publications. This created a great environment for networking and information sharing. BAAF and In-Trac also provided bookstalls.

Over 200 delegates attended from a wide range of agencies including; CAF/CASS, Health, Lifeline, Children's Centres, Young People's Service, Probation, Adult Safeguarding, Education, Social Care, Kirklees Early Years Service, Women Centre, Barnardo's, CAMHS, Parenting Support, Women's Aid, SWEET Project, Youth Offending Team, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and Action for Children.

Feedback showed that participants found the day to be very informative overall with a good mix of presentations and opportunities for networking. Some comments that were received:

*"The stalls were a great idea – I have taken loads of interesting reading away with me"*

*"Really enjoyable, informative"*

*"Good clear messages about working in a Think Family approach".*

Our thanks to all who attended and contributed to this conference – we look forward to seeing positive results of Think Family work in Kirklees as services strive to deliver an integrated approach.

**Lynrose Kirby & Rebecca Williams**  
Learning and Development Officers

## The 'Think Family' approach in Kirklees

The 'Think Family' approach is about improving the support offered to vulnerable children and adults within the same family. 'Think Family' aims to secure better outcomes for children, young people and families with additional needs by co-ordinating the support they receive from children, adult, and family services. This means services work together to:

- identify families at risk of poor outcomes to provide support at the earliest opportunity
- meet the full range of needs within each family they are supporting or working with
- develop services which can respond effectively to the most challenging families, and
- strengthen the ability of family members to provide care and support to each other.

The Think Family Strategy Group in Kirklees is a multi agency senior level commitment to ensure that adult social care services support whole families as well as individuals. Evidence from research tells us that adult

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services and children's social care services need to work together to meet the needs of families. Barriers to effective joint working, including legislation, policy and procedures, will be addressed by the strategy group to ensure vulnerable families are able to access the services they need. It will encourage the development of services that:

- offer an open door into a system of joined up support at every point of entry
- look at the whole family and co ordinate support that is tailored to need
- build on family strengths.

Carole Pickburn  
Integrated Children's Services Manager

## Safeguarding in education - new responsibilities

The new **Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children** was published in March 2010. This guidance is more explicit about the role of school and college staff in their duties to safeguard children and young people.

Firstly and most obviously it echoes the Education Act 2002 in stating that school staff should create and maintain a safe learning environment for children and young people and it emphasises their duty to identify where there are child welfare concerns and that appropriate action is taken.

The importance of sharing safeguarding messages with children and young people through the curriculum is stated recognising the role school staff have in equipping children with messages on how to keep themselves safe and how to respond if they feel at risk or unsafe including providing information of where they can access advice and support. This includes issues such as bullying which includes cyberbullying specifically.

The guidance makes very clear the responsibility of local safeguarding children boards to monitor and evaluate the functions of other agencies to ensure they are fulfilling their statutory obligations under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and more specifically for schools under section 175 or 157 of the Education Act 2002. For the last two years schools have been sent a safeguarding audit which provides information on how they fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. This information enables the Safeguarding Board to monitor their compliance. The audit for 2010/11 has been sent out and all schools are expected to return completed forms by October 2010.

One final change is to membership of safeguarding children boards. Statutory membership will now include representation from schools and colleges, including independent schools. This will require an efficient and effective means of communication between schools and their representative so their views can be heard and information fed back.

Eunice Cox  
Safeguarding Officer Schools and Learning

## Lessons from Serious Case Reviews

### History – the best predictor of future behaviour

A recent serious case review in Kirklees has highlighted that work with families can sometimes proceed without considering the history of the family and their previous engagement with services. Such work, which is often short-term and reactive, is less likely to produce the long term changes needed in families to protect children from the harmful impact of abuse and/or neglect.

Instead, work with families should consider the social history of the parents and/or carers and the lessons that might be learned from the history of professional intervention. Practitioners may benefit from asking themselves: what can the history of this family tell us about potential risks to children; and what can the history of this case tell us about this family's capacity to change?

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## What can history of a family tell us about potential risks to children?

Research tells us that there is a relationship between child maltreatment and certain characteristics of parents. In some cases, parental mental ill-health, domestic violence, alcohol and drugs misuse and parents' own experience of poor parenting may affect carers and the way they understand and interpret the needs and behaviour of their children.

Assessments and interventions should consider how a child experiences family life in the context of these characteristics. Practitioners should understand the importance of parents' and carers' social histories and know where to access further information about the impact of, for example, domestic violence, substance misuse or learning disability on children.

## What can the history of a case tell us about a family's capacity to change?

Serious case reviews allow agencies the opportunity to consider their long term involvement with a particular family and whether a different course of action may have changed outcomes for children.

Case reviews often highlight that work with families can be reactive and driven by crises. This approach can make it very difficult to make clear judgements – family disruption and inadequate parenting can be interspersed with periods of adequate parenting; loving relationships are not always translated into the practical requirements of good parenting; and it can be difficult to prioritise work in complex, chaotic families with multiple needs.

Taking the time to reflect on the history of the case will allow practitioners to consider how families have previously engaged with services, whether previous interventions have been successful, and why and if progress has been made or there is evidence of a consistent decline in the quality of parenting.

**Chani Mortimer**  
Safeguarding Officer Practice Review and Standards

## KSCB Multi-agency training

### Upcoming events

Our multi-agency training events continue to be popular and book up quickly. These upcoming events have some places available:

- Engaging Fathers - 1st November
- Lunchtime Briefing - Insight Team - Early Intervention in Psychosis - 2nd November
- Preparing for and attending case conferences – 21st October and 9th November
- Making a positive contribution to core groups - 21st October and 9th November
- Impact of parental substance misuse - 22nd November
- Sex offenders and abusive images - 24th November

Please book online: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/course-brochure](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/course-brochure)

### Changes to catering arrangements

Due to financial reasons, we will no longer be able to offer lunch at our full day training courses. Tea and coffee will be provided for morning breaks on all our courses, but other refreshments will have to be purchased, or learners can choose to bring their own. We will always use venues where lunch can be purchased on full day events or where shops are close by. Those attending our courses at The Deighton Centre will find new restaurant facilities from autumn this year.

### Increased number of training places

There has been a considerable increase in the number of training places taken up. In 2009-2010, 2440 places were taken up, representing an increase of 135% from 2008-09. In addition 54 places were provided to individual agencies for the Level 1 Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect course. We are on track for increasing numbers again in 2010-11.

**Lynrose Kirby & Rebecca Williams**  
Learning & Development Officers

## Protocols on the website

Multi-agency protocols that have been developed to complement procedures and working practices of partner agencies are now being published on the KSCB website: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/procedures-guidance](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/procedures-guidance). The following are available:

- Sharing information when children go missing (West Yorkshire Police, Children's Social Care, Barnardo's Missing Service)
- Integrated working where parental learning disability/difficulty is a factor in parenting ability (Children's Social Care and Health)
- The referral and notification of domestic violence incidents in Kirklees (West Yorkshire Police, Children's Social Care, and Health)

## Minutes of Safeguarding Children Board meetings - going public

Minutes of Board meetings are soon to be published on the KSCB website. These minutes will reflect all Board discussions except those that relate to particular children and their families. The publication of minutes is in line with the Board's Communication Strategy to share information about the work of the Board, disseminate safeguarding messages, and help to keep people up to date with key changes in safeguarding both nationally and locally.

## KSCB Business Plan

The Safeguarding Board Business Plan for 2010 – 2013 is available on the website: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/business\\_plan.html](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/business_plan.html). It sets out how the Board aims to meet six key objectives:

- to strengthen and develop the partnership approach to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- to minimize the incidence of child abuse and neglect
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and Safeguarding Children Board partners
- communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and promote the work of the KSCB
- review and investigate all serious incidents against children in Kirklees.

## ContactPoint

Professionals may already be aware that ContactPoint, the national database designed to help practitioners find out who else is working with vulnerable children, has been decommissioned by the Department for Education. The database was switched off on 6 August and statutory obligations ceased at that time.

The government still support the idea in principle and are considering a different approach that should support the broader aims of Eileen Munro's review of child protection. The Board is monitoring developments and will provide further advice as it becomes available.

## New KSCB office address

Pauline Martin, Safeguarding Children Manager, and Safeguarding Children Board staff team are now based at: Civic Centre I, Ground Floor South, High Street, Huddersfield HD1 2NF

### Quick reference guide to telephone numbers:

Training – 01484 225161

Child death overview panel – 01484 2255450

Serious case reviews – 01484 225019

KSCB manager and administrative support – 01484 225218

All general enquiries – 01484 225450, 01484 225161, 01484 225019

Full contact details are on the website: [www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/contact-details](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/contact-details)