

Newsletter

Issue 3 - March 2010



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

Foreword by KSCB Chair

Welcome to the third edition of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board newsletter. Since our last publication, the Board has met on six occasions and continues to be supported by the various workstreams to progress our work.



The work of the Board covers a wide area of safeguarding issues for children, from child protection to accident prevention. The KSCB has considered a report on the review of 'Hidden Harm' an inquiry by the Drugs Advisory Council on the misuse of drugs and the impact on children. This work was commissioned to gain an understanding of what is happening in Kirklees and made a number of recommendations to improve practice within this work. The KSCB will be monitoring the implementation of these recommendations.

The KSCB has discussed a report on road safety presented by the Highways department. They gave an overview of the work in place to prevent accidents, serious incidents and deaths on the roads. Closer links have since been established with Kirklees Accident Prevention Forum.

An 'unannounced inspection' of the council's Duty and Assessment Service in Safeguarding & Specialist Provision was carried out in October 2009 by OfSTED. The work of the KSCB and multi-agency working were highlighted as strengths. This reflects effective communication and the impact of successful multi-agency working in Kirklees.

This newsletter has a particular focus on domestic violence, as the KSCB recognises that this affects many children and has been highlighted in both national and local serious case reviews. Following on from the successful conference in October 2009 the KSCB is committed to maintaining a strong focus in this area. The KSCB is taking a lead on objective five of the council wide Domestic Violence Strategy: - improve services to and preventative work with children and young people. We hope you find useful information within this issue regarding the work and initiatives many agencies and the KSCB are involved with.

Alison O'Sullivan

Chair, Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

Contents of this issue:

Commissioning & Contracts Manager	2	New Publications	6
KSCB Domestic Violence Conference feedback	3	Section 11 Audit	7
Kirklees Domestic Violence Strategy	4	Good Practice Reviews	7
Kirklees Domestic Violence Protocols	4	Private Fostering	8
Local Midwifery Services and their roles	5	What to do if you have concerns about a child	8
MARAC Conference	6	KSCB website	8
WY Safeguarding Children Procedures	6	KSCB Contacts & Welcomes	9

Working together to safeguard children





Introducing Graham Crossley - Commissioning and Contracts Manager, Kirklees Council, Children and Young People Service

I have been a member of the KSCB for about four years, representing Connexions services in Kirklees. My early involvement was as area manager for Connexions West Yorkshire and more recently as commissioning and contracts manager with the local authority following the transference of Connexions services in April 2008.

The Connexions Service provides services in accordance with statutory provisions to deliver a range of services to young people aged 13-19. The services are delivered by both subcontracted organisations and by the local authority itself. I am also involved in broader commissioning and procurement of services for children and young people. The focus of my representation is therefore to ensure Connexions and other subcontracted partners meet statutory guidance requirements on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of The Children Act 2004.

Contracts include specified requirements for all subcontracted delivery organisations to ensure safeguarding requirements are met covering for example, requirements under the Vetting and Barring Scheme under the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Compliance is monitored through Section 11 Children Act audits and via routine contract management arrangements.

I am involved in the KSCB workstreams. I am a member of the Serious Case Review workstream and, as the commissioner of the young people substance misuse services providing targeted and treatment support to young people involved in the problematic use of alcohol or drugs, I recently took responsibility for chairing the Substance Misuse workstream. This workstream focuses on the problems that arise for children and young people through parental substance misuse, often referred to as the "Hidden Harm" agenda.

I enjoy being a member of the KSCB and the challenging role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and look forward to new developments with the Kirklees Children's Trust, related commissioning arrangements and meeting the needs of children and young people in Kirklees.

KSCB Domestic Violence Conference October 2009



Did you know that every week in Kirklees there are on average 80 – 100 domestic violence incidents reported to the Police where children are present?

Local professionals had a chance to learn about the impact of domestic violence on children at a conference called *Domestic Violence: Bringing the Child into Focus*.

The conference was organised by Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board and was run in partnership with The University of Huddersfield. The conference was chaired by Dr Bernard Gallagher, lecturer and researcher at the university, who has a special interest in child protection work. Alison O'Sullivan, chair of Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board and director of Kirklees Council's Children & Young People Service, made opening remarks recognising the significance of the impact of domestic violence on children and emphasising that there have been children both nationally and in Kirklees who have been subjects of serious case reviews as a result of issues of domestic violence.

Councillor Ken Smith, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for Children and Families, made opening remarks which recounted his personal experience of dealing with domestic violence cases as a police officer and stated "domestic violence is not just a problem for today; it has serious effects on the children who will be tomorrow's parents. Today's adults must take their duties as role models seriously to avoid damage to their own children and future generations."

The key note speakers were Fiona Dwyer, the children and young people's officer of Women's Aid, and Gwynne Rayns, manager of the NSPCC Domestic Violence Service for Yorkshire. West Yorkshire Police, Children's Social Care, Kirklees Safer Stronger Communities, NHS Kirklees and WomenCentre all led seminars. Dr Sue Peckover presented the latest research in relation to the impact of domestic violence on children.

Solicitors from Parker Bird Gardner provided the legal perspective on domestic violence and explained how solicitors are able to quickly assist victims of domestic violence and their families through applications to the court.

Over 200 delegates were drawn from local services in Children's Social Care, Education, Kirklees Early Years Service, Health, Children & Young People Service, Police, Probation, CAFCASS, Careers, Housing, Lifeline, Surestart, and the Youth Offending Team.

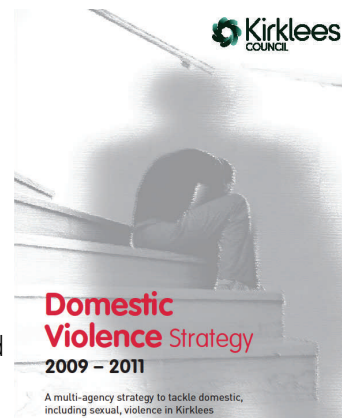
Kirklees Domestic Violence Strategy

The Domestic Violence Strategy has been produced and agreed by all agencies across Kirklees that deliver services to those who experience domestic violence. Kirklees has long recognised the merits of partnership working and the strategy co-ordinates the response of all agencies.

The strategy contains six objectives, the first four mirror national objectives and the remainder deal with specific issues within Kirklees. The objectives are to:

- improve the early identification of and intervention with victims
- build the capacity of the domestic violence sector
- improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence
- support victims through the criminal justice system and manage perpetrators
- improve services to, and preventative work with children and young people
- develop effective and responsive partnerships and governance arrangements.

The strategy was launched in September 2009. Copies are available from:
Thelma Singleton, Strategic Domestic Violence Co-ordinator
email: thelma.singleton@kirklees.gov.uk or phone 01484 223221
<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/care-support/keepingsafe/keepingsafe.shtml>



Kirklees Domestic Violence Protocols

It is well known that children and young people can suffer as a result of witnessing or having been involved in domestic violence despite the best efforts of a parent to protect them. Through the close working of Children's Social Care, the Police Vulnerable Victims Unit and Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board a unique process to help protect these children from further harm has been successfully developed.

The aim is to improve the safety and well being of young people living in a house where domestic violence incidents have been reported to the police by assessing all children within that household allowing the identification of any risk factors.

Andy Leonard from the Police Vulnerable Victims Unit said "Not only does this system ensure children are assessed in every domestic violence incident we attend, it has also improved the efficiency of communication between the police and Children's Social Care".

Children's Social Care are informed whenever the police attend a household domestic violence incident and there is a child present. This means that further checks can be carried out allowing a more comprehensive assessment of risk on the child using information that may be already held.

Phil Coneron, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Board, says "It is important for children to be recognised and seen within domestic violence incidents. They are often the unseen victims of domestic abuse and their protection is paramount".

Local Midwifery and Healthcare Services and their Role in Working with Domestic Abuse

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust has been active in addressing issues around domestic abuse for many years, and very pro-active with domestic abuse relating to pregnancy and its effects on the unborn. Screening and risk assessment is undertaken on all pregnant women which allows care to be tailored specifically around individual needs.

The service has developed an exciting approach to delivering such tailored care with the advent of a new team of specialist midwives called the *Eden Team* who work specifically with vulnerable women and families. They have expertise in areas of domestic abuse, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, homelessness and mental health.

Nancy Cartwright, named midwife for safeguarding, links with the Eden Team and through Nancy the Trust are looking to develop closer links with other agencies to promote information sharing in order to safeguard vulnerable children from birth. Referrals can be made to the Eden Team or named midwife at any time, and the midwives can also be contacted for advice and information.

The Eden Team can be contacted on 07500952929

Nancy Cartwright, Named Midwife for Safeguarding 01422 224957 or mobile 07766905619

The NHS Kirklees Safeguarding Team are a team of three named nurses for child protection and two named nurses for vulnerable adults.

The named nurses for child protection, Jean Selbie, Paula Adams and Gill Poyser Young, offer telephone advice regarding safeguarding and child protection issues. Gill takes the lead roll on issues surrounding domestic abuse, forced marriage and child sexual exploitation.

Work with victims of domestic violence within Kirklees has become an integral part of the work of health visitors and school nurses within Kirklees Community Healthcare Services who now receive notifications from the Police Safeguarding Unit of domestic abuse incidents where children are present. The work can also inform liaison with the Children & Young People Service, and referrals to agencies that may be able to support the victims of this abuse.

Gill Poyser Young, Named Nurse Child Protection, 07904653331

The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust provides a range of initiatives focused on supporting staff to support victims of abuse and safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The named midwife for safeguarding children is Angela South. Angela works within the Trust's safeguarding team and is lead for domestic abuse.

It is routine practice within the Trust that every pregnant woman is asked about their relationship and domestic abuse at some point in their pregnancy and women are made aware that the midwives are there to support them if they wish to disclose abuse.

When a woman discloses abuse Angela's role is to support the midwife and to provide specialist advice to her so she can continue to support the woman appropriately. Referrals also come from the Police Safeguarding Unit and these are passed on to the midwives to ensure the women have the support they need.

Training within the Trust highlights the prevalence of domestic abuse and gives practitioners an understanding of the effects of domestic abuse on children. Staff can also access information and advice on supporting victims of domestic violence on the Trust's intranet site.

Angela South, Named Midwife for Safeguarding Children, 07958342066

MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MARAC has been operational in Kirklees for three years. It is run by the Safer Stronger Communities (SSC) Service to reduce the risk to individuals and families of domestic violence (DV). MARAC meetings are held every four weeks.

Any agency that has concerns regarding a client can make a MARAC referral to SSC. Once a referral has been accepted wider information is gathered in advance of submission to a MARAC meeting. Referral agencies include Council Services, Police, Probation, Health and third sector, and MARAC meetings comprise representatives from these agencies.

MARAC considers the complete picture of the family at risk including a historical profile of the abuse and plans drawn up to alleviate the impact of the abuse are subject to a strict review process. MARAC can only deal with high risk DV cases as it does not have the capacity to assist low to medium risk incidents. These, however, are supported through the SSC DV team and other agencies. More information is available from the DV team 01484 223221 or domestic.violence@kirklees.gov.uk either to discuss a particular case or for information about making a referral.

Thelma Singleton
MARAC Chair & Strategic Domestic Violence Co-Ordinator
Kirklees Safer Communities Partnership

Procedures Updates

The five Local Safeguarding Children Boards within West Yorkshire together with Government Office support have given the **domestic violence procedures** a major update. They clearly lay out the response practitioners need to follow when dealing with domestic violence incidents.

Procedures for **families that move across boundaries** have also been updated. The procedure clarifies roles and responsibilities in relation to children and families who move across local authority boundaries, either on a temporary or permanent basis, where there is contact with the family by the statutory agencies and some degree of concern for the child. The same principles also apply where a child moves within a local authority area.

The full safeguarding children procedures can be found at www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com.

New Publications

New statutory guidance—Working Together to Safeguard Children

Following last year's consultation a revised **Working Together to Safeguard Children** has been published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). **Working Together (2010)** replaces the previous (2006) version and it replaces the guidance on Serious Case Reviews which was published by the DCSF in December 2009.

See link from the KSCB website or download from the DCSF website at:

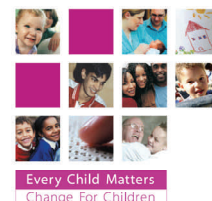
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/workingtogether/workingtogethertosafeguardchildren>

'Safeguarding Children – Guidance for Madressahs and Supplementary Schools'

There are about 50 madressahs and supplementary schools in Kirklees with approximately 8,000 children in their care. Of particular interest to staff in schools, health and social care, this new document promotes effective behaviour management of pupils, provides guidance for the protection of children and young people, and talks about methods of ensuring the health and safety of staff and pupils. Copies (price £10 inc postage) can be purchased from : Kirklees Council, Children & Young People Service, Planning, Performance & Commissioning, Civic Centre 1, Huddersfield HD1 2NF Tel: 01484 225385 Email: ChYPS.community@kirklees.gov.uk

 HM Government

Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004



Section 11 Audit

Section 11 of the Children Act places a statutory duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In 2009 the Safeguarding Children Board, through the Evaluation and Effectiveness workstream, successfully audited all the key organisations on their Section 11 responsibilities and then set a day aside to further challenge the responses from the audit.

It was clear from the audit the hard work and commitment that organisations in Kirklees have put into ensuring that they are meeting their safeguarding responsibilities. The challenge session was also a chance for organisations to ask questions and put forward suggestions on the process.

The Evaluation and Effectiveness workstream responded to suggestions made and has re-designed the audit tool to enhance ease of use. It has now been adopted by neighbouring Local Safeguarding Children Boards and has become the West Yorkshire audit tool.

Following on from this another audit tool was developed by the Voluntary Sector workstream for use by voluntary and community organisations in Kirklees. Using a different design of audit tool to the one used by statutory organisations, it is anticipated that voluntary and community groups can use it to help them evaluate the position they are in and develop action plans to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and families that use their services. This audit tool is currently being piloted with a number of voluntary organisations for feedback and analysis.

Good Practice Reviews

The Safeguarding Children Board has begun the task of reviewing some of the excellent work that happens within Kirklees.

Good practice reviews analyse the contact organisations have had with a child and family, and they look at multi-agency working and decision making to try and gain an understanding of the elements that resulted in a positive outcome for the child and family so that this learning can be shared among professionals.

A lot of media attention is focused around serious case reviews and these tend to overshadow all the good work that professionals in different organisations are involved in every day. Our first good practice review was of a case where there were mental health issues – it can be found on the KSCB website under information for professionals.

Private Fostering

Following the launch of the Kirklees Private Fostering campaign in February 2010 professionals in Education, Health and Social Care have a shared responsibility to notify the council of any private fostering arrangements to help safeguard children and young people.

Private fostering describes a situation in which a child or young person resides with someone who is not a close relative for more than 28 days. A close relative is defined as grandparent, brother, sister, step parent, uncle or aunt.



There is also a free on-line e-learning course. This course is for everyone, including members of the public, who would like to have a basic awareness of private fostering. The course explains what a private fostering arrangement is, the regulations, and the responsibility to inform the local council about children who are looked after by someone else in a private fostering arrangement. The course is and can be accessed at: <http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/f-learning-course.html>

More information including posters and leaflets to print and display are available at: <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/health-care/foster-adopt/fosterfaqs.shtml>

For general enquiries you can also e-mail private.fostering@kirklees.gov.uk

What to do if you have concerns about a child

Posters and wallet cards showing the process you should follow if you have concerns about a child have been redesigned and are being distributed to agencies. These updated versions provide all staff, managers and volunteers with clear steps that should be followed, and who to report to, if there are concerns regarding children and young people in Kirklees. If you would like some for your organisation then please get in touch with Adam Bell or Caryn Hansom on 01924 482161 or email KSCB.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk

KSCB Website: www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board website is a comprehensive resource for anyone working with children, young people and families. Practitioners will find the Safeguarding Children Procedures, Government guidance and useful links to a range of safeguarding information. There are also pages specifically for children and young people, and parents and carers.

We strive to make continuous improvements and to up date information. We always value feedback from anybody using the site so if you feel there is anything missing or something you would like to see then please email KSCB.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk or telephone 01484 225161.

The Safeguarding Children Board Staff Team

Pauline Martin, Safeguarding Board Manager pauline.martin@kirklees.gov.uk	01484 225218
Diana Flooks, Admin and Information Officer diana.flooks@kirklees.gov.uk	01484 225161
Eunice Cox, Safeguarding Officer Schools & Learning eunice.cox@kirklees.gov.uk	01924 324718
Phil Coneron, Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator phil.coneron@kirklees.gov.uk	01484 225450
Chani Mortimer, Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator chani.mortimer@kirklees.gov.uk	01484 225450
Lynrose Kirby, Learning and Development Officer lynrose.kirby@kirklees.gov.uk	01924 483757
Becki Williams, Learning and Development Officer rebecca.williams@kirklees.gov.uk	01924 483762
Caryn Hansom, Business Support Officer caryn.hansom@kirklees.gov.uk	01924 482161
Adam Bell, Business Support Officer adam.bell@kirklees.gov.uk	01924 482161
Dan Smith, Business Support Officer danielb.smith@kirklees.gov.uk	01484 225162

Welcome

Becki Williams joined the team as a Learning and Development Officer in October 2009 on a 12 month temporary contract. Becki has joined us from West Yorkshire Probation where she worked as a Probation Service Officer for six years. In addition to training her colleagues in Kirklees Becki has also had experience teaching English in a Young Offenders Institution in Peru!

Chani Mortimer has recently taken up a Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator post, focussing on serious case reviews and the implementation of new safeguarding requirements. Chani joins us from the Children's Workforce Development Council, where she worked with the social work team on implementing new pathways to initial social worker training.

Dan Smith has started as Business Support Officer on a two year contract and is providing administrative support to the Board and workstreams.