

Special Edition Newsletter

Issue 4 ~ May 2010



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

Appointment of independent chair

The Safeguarding Children Board is very pleased to announce that Bron Sanders, Consultant, has been appointed as the new Independent Chair of the Board. Bron formally took up the post on 16 April.

Bron has a wealth of experience in safeguarding and child protection gained through holding a range of posts with local authorities and through consultation work on a variety of related issues. She has worked with Bradford, East Riding of Yorkshire, Doncaster, Leeds, Sheffield, the London Borough of Southwark and Kirklees and she is recognised as an expert of national repute.

She has led on many areas of important and sensitive work, including fostering and adoption, residential care, leaving care, social work case management, disabilities, youth justice and youth offending.



Since its conception on 1 April 2006 the Board has been chaired by Alison O'Sullivan, Director for Children & Young People within Kirklees Council. Under Alison's chairmanship the Board has grown and developed in response to several changes in legislation and associated guidance, and Board partners have shown their firm commitment in implementing their safeguarding responsibilities. Board partners are giving Bron their full support and look forward to building on the good multi-agency working ethos which already exists across agencies in Kirklees.

Under the new chairing arrangement Bron and Alison will meet regularly. Alison continues to have designated responsibility and is accountable for the well-being of vulnerable children who receive services from the Local Authority in Kirklees. Regular meetings will enable effective communication and clear identification of requirements and responsibilities on safeguarding issues to further improve outcomes for vulnerable children.

In appointing Bron the Board welcomes the stronger independent elements that will be inherent with the role. The Board has a responsibility to look at the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding work in the local area, to challenge organisations as necessary, and to speak with an independent voice.

Cont'd over

Contents of this issue:

Revised guide—Working together to Safeguard Children	2/3/4	'Think family' Conference	4
KSCB forthcoming events	4		

Working together to safeguard children



As an independent consultant Bron will further ensure that the Board speaks with an independent voice in representing the collective views of all partner agencies.

Bron joins the Board at the time when Children's Trust arrangements are being finalised within Kirklees. In addition to many other responsibilities Bron will be leading the way to ensure that there are strong links between the work of the Safeguarding Children Board and the Children's Trust and that this is reflected in the Children and Young People Plan for Kirklees.

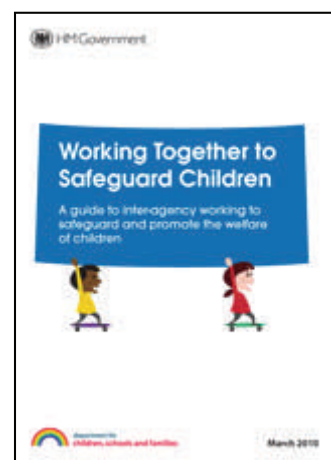
The Board extends a warm welcome to Bron and at the same time sincere thanks to Alison for her dedicated, positive and productive work over the last four years.

Pauline Martin
Safeguarding Board Manager

Revised guidance

Working Together to Safeguard Children A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (DCSF, March 2010)

Taking account of the recommendations made by Lord Laming in his report, **The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report (March 2009)**, and other developments in legislation, policy and practice, the **Working Together** guidance document has been updated and reissued.



The document can be accessed from the homepage of the KSCB website: <http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk> or it can be found on the DCSF website at: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/workingtogether/workingtogethertotosafeguardchildren>

The document retains its previous format: Part 1, chapters 1 to 8, are issued as statutory guidance; Part 2, chapters 9 to 12, are non-statutory practice guidance.

At the beginning of the document an **Executive Summary** provides an overview of the contents of each chapter and the main changes that have been made. **The key changes are summarised as follows:**

Chapter 3 – Local Safeguarding Children Boards

- LSCBs to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.
- The appointment of two representatives of the local community to each LSCB.
- Statutory representation on the LSCB of schools and, subject to the passage of the Children Schools and Families Bill, a provision to ensure appropriate information is disclosed to the LSCB in order to assist it in the exercise of its functions.
- Further clarity over the complementary roles of the LSCB and the Children's Trust Board.
- Clarity that the Chair of the LSCB should be someone independent of the local agencies.

Cont'd over ...

Chapter 5 – Managing individual cases where there are concerns about a child’s safety and welfare

- Emphasis on the importance of keeping the focus on the child and his or her safety and welfare, understanding the daily life experience of the child, seeing the child alone where appropriate and using information about the family’s history and functioning to inform decision making.
- Emphasis on the importance of analysing the inter-relationships between strengths and protective factors and vulnerabilities and risk factors when deciding whether a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.
- Emphasis on the accurate recording of actions.
- Clarification of the relationship between the common assessment, referral to children’s social care and an initial assessment.
- Inclusion that a referrer should be able to discuss their concerns with a qualified social worker.
- The timescale for the completion of an initial assessment is extended from seven to ten working days with effect from 1 April 2010.
- The planning and reviewing processes for looked after children who are also the subject of a child protection plan should be integrated into one process during the coming year. This change is also reflected in the **Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010** and accompanying statutory guidance **Putting Care into Practice**.

Chapter 6 – Supplementary guidance on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

This chapter provides summaries of supplementary guidance to **Working Together**. Documents summarised in this chapter are:

- Sexually exploited children
- Children affected by gang activity
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Investigating complex (organised or multiple) abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced marriage and honour-based violence
- Allegations of abuse made against a person who works with children
- Abuse of disabled children
- Child abuse linked to belief in ‘spirit possession’
- Child victims of trafficking

Chapter 7 – Child death review process

- Revised definitions of preventable child deaths and unexpected deaths.
- Clarity on the roles of coroners and registrars.
- Clarity on how to respond appropriately to the deaths of children with life limiting illnesses.
- A new section on parents and family members which clarifies the level of involvement parents and family members should have and the type of support they will need.

Chapter 8 – Serious case reviews

- A revised version of chapter 8 was published by the DCSF in December 2009 but this has been superseded.
- The timescale for completing an SCR is extended from four to six months.
- The requirements in relation to executive summaries have been strengthened and a template for executive summaries is included.
- The chair of the SCR panel should be independent.

Cont’d over ...

- A flow chart provides an overview of the SCR process.
- Progress updates on the actions that have been taken in response to current and recent SCRs to be included in the LSCB annual report.

Working Together is quite a lengthy document and to help practitioners and managers use the document effectively we draw your attention to the **Preface** where you will find a table showing which chapters are essential reading.

The DCSF is looking at different ways of presenting the information in **Working Together**, for example a web-based version with hyperlinks to relevant supporting guidance, and a short practitioner guide. The Safeguarding Board will keep partners updated about any such developments.

KSCB forthcoming events:

Lunchtime briefings:

The KSCB has been running safeguarding briefings since last December and they are proving to be a real success. Covering a wide variety of issues the briefings give a short burst of safeguarding information and also provide a valuable opportunity for professionals to network and find out more about services provided across Kirklees. Briefings are open to all and there is no charge.

Topics covered so far have been: Police and Domestic Violence; The Impact of Domestic Violence on Unborn and Newborn Children; The Sweet Project – 10 Years On; The Impact of Parental Substance Misuse on Unborn and Newborn Children; Lifeline – More than just Prescribing. The KSCB warmly thanks all those who have contributed their time and expertise in preparing and presenting briefings.

Topics planned for the year ahead:

- Female Sex Offenders - 14th May
- Not Just Our Daughters – Sexual Exploitation of Boys and Young Men - 25th June
- Youth Offending Team - 22nd July
- Barnardo's Missing Service - 9th August
- Parental Mental Health - 13th September
- Integrated Working to Safeguard Children, where Learning Disability or Difficulty is a factor for Parents - 8th October
- Early Intervention in Psychosis - 2nd November

Apply for a place at these upcoming briefings on-line at: www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com

If you would like to provide a safeguarding briefing for the KSCB please contact Becki Williams at Rebecca.williams@kirklees.gov.uk or call 01924 483762/01484 225162

'Think Family' Conference

A conference is being planned for 6 July this year to address and publicise the Government's 'Think Family' approach to services. Further information will be distributed soon and details will be on the Board's website: www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com