



Medway Safeguarding Children Board

Medway Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Issue 2, April 2007

News

Medway Safeguarding Children Board has ratified its three-year strategic plan, Business Plan 07-08 and constitution. These documents can be found on our website at:

http://medwayppn.org/agencies/agency_resource_all.asp?f=7&agency_id=384

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Basic Awareness course is continuing monthly and is for any person or group of people who is in regular contact with children and young people and with adults who are parents or carers. Details regarding this course can be found at on our website. This course is always oversubscribed and those interested in taking part should contact the Board as soon as possible.

Work on Medway Safeguarding Children Board's website hosted by Positive Parenting Network is ongoing with new information being added on a regular basis and comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Events

Links to future events of interest to safeguarding officers are listed below. If you would wish to advertise an event, which may be of interest to safeguarding professionals here, please contact the board via email.

Child Neglect - The most neglected abuse

www.conferencesandtraining.com/neglect

Safeguarding Children and Young People - Effective Vetting and Barring

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/Police/Safeguarding+Children.htm>

Board Membership

Hugh Hawkins from Youth Offending team at Medway Council has joined the Policy and Procedures Subgroup and Kevin Jones of Kings School in Rochester has joined the Management Group. A warm welcome to our new members.



Policy

The procedures in relation to Serious Case Reviews have now been agreed and will be implemented when a review is considered or takes place. The procedures will also act as guidance for cases which do meet the criteria for Serious Case Reviews but where an internal review is undertaken.



Links - Safeguarding in the news

Bullying: calls for national inquiry (27/03/07)

A national inquiry into the scale of bullying should be undertaken by ministers because of fears that the problem is being downplayed by schools seeking to protect their reputations, a report demands today. New guidance is also needed to ensure that victims who dare to fight back are not suspended or expelled.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/children/story/0,,2043759,00.html>



Judge speaks out over parents wrongly labeled child abusers (26/03/07)

A high court judge has revealed how the innocent parents of a baby boy suffered the "nightmare" of a court finding that they had deliberately harmed him, in a cautionary tale about the devastating consequences that can follow when courts and expert witnesses get it wrong.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/children/story/0,,2042710,00.html>



Links - Regular Updates

Issue 3 of Exchange. NSPCC publication enabling Local Safeguarding Board's to exchange information.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/NewsAndEvents/InformNews/NewsExchange_ifna31136.html



The 46th Every Child Matters Information Sharing And Assessment Update is now available.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/integratedworking/update/>



Links - National Policy and Practice

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/vetting&barring

Tools for Assessing Children and Families in the Safeguarding Context

Referrals, assessments and children and young people on child protection registers, England: year ending 31 March 2006 (final)

This annual Statistical First Release contains national figures on referrals, assessments and children and young people on the child protection register for year ending 31 March 2006

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000692/index.shtml>.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000692/SFR45-2006V1.pdf>



Looked after in England: How children living away from home rate England's care (20/03/07)

This report from the Children's Rights Director for England gives children's views on living away from home or getting help from children's social care. It also looks at their views on the rights of all children as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

http://www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/publications/looked_after_in_england_how_c.aspx



ECM - Every Parent Matters (15/03/07)

The importance of parental influence on children is unequivocal. Parents need to engage as partners in their children's learning and development, from the earliest age, during the school years and into youth. This document explains current and emerging activity which enables parents to help their children learn, enjoy and achieve - whether those parents are cohabiting, married, living with their children or not. It highlights a number of gaps in what has been available, sets out how the system might best respond, and how this area could develop.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/everyparentmatters>



Child Protection: DfES finally confirms Ofsted will lead on safeguarding reviews (21/03/07)

The DfES has finally announced that Ofsted will be the body that must be informed of any safeguarding reviews. There had been confusion over who would take over the role when the responsibility for the inspection of children's social services is switched from the Commission for Social Care Inspection to Ofsted on 1 April.

<http://www.childrennow.co.uk/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=details&UID=2b30c107-9efc-4b39-b76b-bccf15e99bf8>



LSCBs ignore guidance on children under 13 (16/03/07)

One-third of LSCBs are departing from government guidance and reporting all cases of sexual activity among children under 13 to the police or social services, according to a survey by young people's sexual health charity Brook

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2007/03/16/103831/local-safeguarding-childrens-boards-ignore-guidance-on-children-under.html>



If there is something you would wish to place in this newsletter, please contact me by email before the 24th April. The next edition of this newsletter will be circulated during the first week in May.

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