

Medway Safeguarding Children Board

Newsletter, Issue 03

News

Welcome once again to Medway Safeguarding Children Board News. This newsletter will now be published quarterly and there is a new section entitled Focus on, giving information about the work of the Board in a particular area of interest. So there is even more to be crammed in to this edition.

Headline news is that the Board now has a permanent independent chair. Jim Leivers who previously acted as interim chair for the Board has accepted the position on a two-year contract.

The Training Strategy of the Board was agreed in April and a training programme is now underway and can be found at the back of this newsletter. Application forms can be found at our agency website on the Positive Parenting Network [Link below]. Speaking of Websites work continues on the development of a new for MSCB and more information will be available in the next newsletter.



Events

A review of The Basic Awareness and Child Protection Course was held in June and the event is working well. Delegates who have taken the course have remarked in particular about the quality of trainers and materials. The course is monthly but if you would like to attend then please apply as soon as possible. The Course is regularly oversubscribed with a three-month waiting list

currently. Also June saw Training in relation to Safeguarding and Substance Misuse and briefings were held for Named Senior Officers and Senior Managers regarding The Management of Allegations against Staff. A number of Board events are coming up in the next quarter, as well as the usual training in Basic Awareness, further courses on Advanced Sex

Offender Behaviour will be held and the first in a series of Practitioner Fora will take place for frontline staff. As always, further information can be found on Board pages at PPN or questions can be addressed to Board staff. Applications should be sent as soon as possible, all MSCB Training events are regularly oversubscribed.

National Events

Safeguarding Children – The role of LSCB

9th October 2007 ORT House Conference Centre £195 - £295 + VAT

This conference will review progress on establishing LSCBs, hear the experiences of LSCB members and consider how principles of performance management and quality assurance can be applied successfully to commissioning, managing and learning from reviews and enquiries into serious incidents

Board Membership

The Board is pleased to have further representation on The Training and Management Groups. DC Smith of Kent Police will join the training Subgroup and Simon Southworth, Acting Care Management Service Manager from Kent & Medway Substance Misuse Services has joined the Management Group. Sadly DCI Rabey has left the Board, having taken up a new position within Kent Police. The Board thanks him for his invaluable contribution and wishes him all the best for the future.

Policy

The work on the new Child Protection Policy and Procedures for Kent and Medway is continuing. The public consultation period has now ended and many responses have been received. Many thanks to all those who responded, your contributions were helpful and will inform the final Procedures which will be discussed at a special meeting of the Board in August and published in September 2007.



Focus On – Safer Recruitment

The Board is developing a Safer Recruitment Strategy in Medway. This is in response to The Bichard Inquiry, which highlighted flaws and shortcomings in the recruitment process that allowed Ian Huntley to be employed as a caretaker at Soham Community School. It is the MSCBs vision that children in Medway will be safeguarded through the commitment of partner agencies to the implementation of a set of

core safeguarding employment standards, as a part of their broader commitment to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. This vision is based upon the premise that all employers will have an explicit written recruitment and selection policy statement and procedures that comply with national and local guidance. The statement should detail all aspects of the process and should link to their child protection policy and

procedures. However, policies and procedures must be accompanied by the creation and maintenance of a safe working culture within each organization so that every worker, paid and unpaid, understands not only their duty of care but also the behaviours which constitute safe practice and those which should be avoided. Training will be rolled out in the Autumn.

Links - Safeguarding In The News

Keeping children safe at fairgrounds

Advice to parents to ensure their children can enjoy the amusements in safety.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2007/gnnne23507.htm>

Inquest jury returns accidental death verdict

A jury has returned a verdict of accidental death in the inquest of 15-year-old Gareth Myatt, who died after being restrained by three staff at Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre.

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2007/06/29/104974/gareth-myatt-inquest-jury-returns-accidental-death-verdict.html>

Child obesity 'a form of neglect'

Some doctors now believe in extreme cases overfeeding a young child should be seen as a form of abuse or neglect.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6749037.stm>

New Government Departments Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCFS)

The DCSF, headed by Ed Balls, will provide a strong lead in securing integrated children's services and educational excellence.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/aboutus/>

Reid unveils Sarah's law proposals

More sex offenders could be offered 'chemical castration' under a range of tough measures being unveiled by the Home Office today.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/crimeandpunishment/story/0,,2101788,00.html>

Local Safeguarding Children Boards - A Review of Progress

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00239/>

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/lscb/>

Staying Safe Commitment Scheme

(19/07/07)

The NSPCC is calling on parents to make sure that children's summer activity organisers are doing all they can to keep children safe. It is promoting advice leaflets for community-based groups as well as its Staying Safe Commitment Scheme.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/takeaction/safeguarding_wda47409.html

New convention to protect children against sexual exploitation and abuse

(13/07/07)

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has adopted the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=14023>

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Del/Dec\(2007\)](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Del/Dec(2007)1002/10.1&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=annexe13&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackC)

[1002/10.1&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=annexe13&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackC](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Del/Dec(2007)1002/10.1&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=annexe13&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackC)

Every child has the right to feel safe and to have someone to turn to for advice, guidance or help when they need it

(16/07/07)

The NSPCC has launched a new game - What if...? - for practitioners engaged in therapeutic work with children and young people from 7 - 12 years. The electronic board game is designed to enable children to recognise when a situation may be unsafe, and to help them learn how to handle safely situations that are risky or make them feel uncertain.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/TrainingAndConsultancy/Training/TrainingPacks/WhatIf_ifna47436.html



Links - Policy and Guidance

Guidance for fostering providers

(05/07/07) Please find below guidance for fostering providers to clarify eligibility for disclosure checks among those involved in fostering. The guidance also outlines the Government's expectation of when checks should be requested, in circumstances when it is possible – but not mandatory – to do so.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/lookedafterchildren/fostercare/>

Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked

This draft practice guidance aims to provide the most up to date best practice in safeguarding children who may have been trafficked. It is supplementary to the Government's statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMG 2006). Deadline 16th August 2007

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1497>

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0129

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=299157&NewsAreaID=2>

CONSULTATION

Staying Safe (18/07/07)

This consultation aims to raise awareness of issues around children's safety, including how to strike a balance between keeping children safe and allowing them to grow, explore and enjoy their childhoods. Deadline 31st October 2007

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1500>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0132

Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for LAs and PCTs on Effective Delivery of Local Strategies (July 06)

The guidance sets out what we know about effective delivery of local teenage pregnancy strategies.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00145/>

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/teenagepregnancy

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Training Programme 2007-8				
Proposed / Confirmed Date	Course Title	Level (WT Ch 4)	Venue	Financial Status
16 th August 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Civic Suite, Civic Centre	FREE
11 th Sept	Training For Trainers in Child Protection	4	Municipal Buildings	FREE
13 th Sept	Practitioner Fora	All	Compass Centre	FREE
20 th Sept 2007	Safer Recruitment Training for Schools	4	Aylesford Priory	Charge - £75
26 th Sept 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Civic Suite, Civic Centre	FREE
21 st Sept 2007	Introduction to Sex Offending Behaviours (1 day)	2	Compass Centre	FREE
1 st – 2 nd October 2007	Advanced Child Protection and Substance Misusing Parents (2 days)	3	Aylesford Priory	FREE
12 th Oct 2007	Child Protection and Parental Mental Health (Conference on PND)	2	Aylesford Priory	Cost to be confirmed
16 th Oct	Safer Recruitment for School	4	TBC	Charge - £75
30 th Oct 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Compass Centre	FREE
20 th Nov	Domestic Violence	2	Woodlands Centre	FREE
November 2007	Internet Safety	3	TBC	FREE
15 th Nov 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Compass Centre	FREE
17 th Dec 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Presentation Suite, Civic Centre	FREE
January 2008	Intermediate course on Child Protection	3		FREE
9 th – 10 th January	Advanced Course on Sex Offending Behaviours (2 days)	3	Compass Centre	FREE
14 th Jan 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Compass Centre	FREE
6 th February 2008	Intermediate course on Child Protection	3	Compass Centre	FREE
21 st Feb 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Presentation Suite, Civic Centre	FREE
21 st Mar 2007	Basic Child Protection/Safeguarding	1	Presentation Suite, Civic Centre	FREE
Quarterly	Practitioner fora	All		FREE
	Risk Management	4		TBC
Annually (April)	MSCB Annual Conference	5		TBC

The Board is interested to hear your comments and views on The work it is doing and this newsletter. If there is an article you would wish to place in this newsletter, or if you have any comments please contact me by email before the 28th September.

The next edition of the newsletter will be circulated on 5th October.

The Board can be contacted in the following ways:



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☎: 01634 336 329

💻: http://medwayppn.org/agencies/agency_intro.asp?agency_id=384

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