

Welcome to West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) Newsletter

In our newsletter we provide the latest safeguarding news, learning and guidance for everyone working with children and young people and their families in West Sussex

You can contact us at:

lscb@westsussex.gov.uk

or visit our website at

www.westsussexscb.org.uk

What is the WSSCB?

The WSSCB brings together all the main organisations who work with children and families in West Sussex, with the aim of ensuring that they work together effectively to keep children safe

This includes:

- Reviewing the way we all work together and sharing learning across the workforce to make improvements
- Providing you with policies, procedures and guidance to support your work
- Delivering multi-agency safeguarding training



New WSSCB Business Manager

My name is Helen Donelan. As Business Manager it's my role to manage the business functions of the Board and lead the LSCB team. For example I oversee the business planning process, manage the delivery of Serious Case Reviews, and promote and coordinate joint planning between LSCB partners.

My background is in teaching. More recently I worked within Early Help in East Sussex. Prior to coming to West Sussex I was Business Manager for the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board. I live with my family and dog in Worthing.

I'm really keen to hear from you about how we can improve the effectiveness of the WSSCB in keeping children safe and improving their outcomes. I'm also keen to meet with your teams to talk about the work of the Board and the key messages from our learning. Please get in touch with me at lscb@westsussex.gov.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Tools, resources and guidance to support your work

Protecting Children from Radicalisation: The Prevent Duty

The Department of Education has issued advice and social media guidance to schools and childcare providers to help them keep children safe from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

The advice and guidance can be found on the [WSSCB website](#). Further information about radicalisation of children and young people can be found at page 6.

Children who harm others

Recent multi agency Child Protection audits and a themed audit on "Peer on Peer Sexual Exploitation" identified practices and missing information from records that implied that the procedure for "Children who harm others" is not always being appropriately implemented. The procedure for handling these complex cases can be found [here](#).

Focus Groups

The LSCB will be running a series of focus groups to strengthen its work with frontline practitioners and within the community. If you have any ideas for topics to run a focus group or any events within the community that the LSCB could attend then please let us know! You can email us at lscb@westsussex.gov.uk

Missing tools, advice and guidance?

The full range of our tools, advice and guidance can be found on our website at www.westsussexscb.org.uk However if you think there's a gap please let us know. Wherever possible we will either find it or, if necessary, create it!

Latest News

Advocacy for children and young people

The West Sussex Advocacy Service provides support for children and young people to help secure rights, represent interest, find things out and get them support. The advocacy service can be contacted via advocacyservice@westsussex.gov.uk or 0330 222 8686. More information can be found on the advocacy pages of our [website](#).

Public Health England: Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy— Advice for people working with children, young people and families

Public Health England has published two new public safety updates on reducing infant mortality to raise awareness of the common risk factors and preventative measures to educate parents, carers and health professionals on how to reduced unexpected infant death. The updates can be viewed on the [WSSCB website](#).

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order

FGM Protection Orders offer the means of protecting actual or potential victims from FGM under civil law. More information can be found on the FGM pages of our [website](#).

Risks associated with the misuse of disposable BBQ's

The recent death of a West Sussex child from carbon monoxide poisoning has alerted us to the significant risks to life associated with the misuse of disposable BBQs within confined spaces. Even when a disposable BBQ has gone out and is cooling down it is still emitting deadly Carbon Monoxide fumes and is therefore dangerous if placed into a confined space where children or adults are sleeping or residing. For more information visit the safety pages of the Camping and Caravanning Club [website](#).

WSSCB Training

The WSSCB deliver a range of training and e-learning to support you in your work with children, young people and their families. Full details of our [training programme](#) and [e-learning](#) courses can be found on our website and booked through the [Learning and Development Gateway](#). Spaces are limited so book early!

Latest Courses

Neglect

This course focuses on child neglect and how the multi-agency network should respond to it, providing you with the opportunity to discuss and consider the key factors involved when identifying and assessing families where children may be suffering from neglect.

Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups

The aim of this course is to help you understand the workings of safeguarding meetings, including the expectations upon you in terms of your attendance and contribution.

Preventing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

The aim of this workshop is to provide you with awareness of the factors that can lead to extremism by exploring the link between vulnerability and radicalisation. The session will introduce CONTEST, the governments counter-terrorism strategy. The training will also provide local context regarding risks and threats in Sussex and highlight sources of support.

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness

This course is for all those working with young people and their carers. It looks in depth at what CSE is, how it can be recognised and what effect it has on the service you provide.

*Although training is free, a non-attendance/late notice cancellation fee applies. Visit the WSSCB website for full [charging and cancellation policy](#).

Learning and Improvement

Learning from Case Reviews

The two recent WSSCB reviews, [Serious Case Review John](#) and [Learning Review Harry](#), identified common areas of learning for everyone working with children and their families, across all agencies and educational settings.

We need to get better at identifying and supporting children who are being abused by their peers, and children who are abusing others

For guidance and information on peer to peer abuse see the Sussex Safeguarding procedures on **children who harm others** and **sexual exploitation**

When we identify that a child is at risk of abuse, we are often less confident in what to do if the possible abuser is external to the family or an alleged perpetrator of abuse, than if they are a family member

See the Sussex Safeguarding procedures for more information on the **Recognition and Referral of Abuse**

We are better able to make good decisions about a child when we have a full picture of their lives and circumstances.

We need to make sure that our assessments are holistic, and that we are gathering information from all the services who know the child and their family, otherwise we might be missing something important.

This is the case for both **Early Help Plans** and **Child & Family Assessments**

For a list of [local](#) and [national](#) Serious Case Reviews please visit the Serious Case Review page on the WSSCB website.

Preventing Radicalisation

What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

There is no obvious profile of anyone likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas.

The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame.

How can we prevent it?

Prevent is designed to stop people from supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists themselves. Through our **Prevent** work we aim to identify those susceptible to violent extremism and provide access to appropriate interventions. Prevent addresses radicalisation to all forms of terrorism, including the extreme right-wing, for example, and the non-violent, which can popularise views that terrorists exploit.

Visit the [Prevent](#) page on our website to find out more

What do I do if I am concerned someone is at risk of radicalisation?

Visit the [Channel](#) page on our website to find out more about who to contact and the support available



Signs of Safety



What is Signs of Safety?

Signs of Safety is a strengths –based and safety-focused approach to child protection work, grounded in partnership collaboration. It focuses on stabilising and strengthening the child and family’s situation, and included assessing both the strengths and the risks.

Who uses it?

We are currently undertaking a ‘whole system implementation’ Signs of Safety across children’s service. All children’s social care staff have been trained, and training is also offered to Think Family Keyworkers, Young People’s Service keyworkers, and staff from the Early Childhood Service.

Do I need Signs of Safety training?

Signs of Safety has been introduced into Early Help plans and anyone who is lead professional for children who have an early help plan can access a one day ‘Signs of Safety and Wellbeing’ course to introduce them to the principles and practice of this approach to working with children and families. Details of this course and how to book can be found on the Learning and Development Gateway.

Half-day briefings for partner agencies about the Signs of Safety approach are now available to book via the WSSCB. If you are someone who may need to make a referral to children’s social care, attend a child protection conference or other meeting about a child where there are safeguarding issues or a child is ‘in need’, then book onto one of these sessions. Details can be found under the training section of this newsletter and booked via the Learning and Development Gateway.

A Leading Authority

West Sussex are part of the England Innovations Project with Andrew Turnell, co-creator of the Signs of Safety model, and professor Eileen Munro. This has given us some additional resource along with the backing of our senior leaders to continue to implement the approach across our system. This might mean that in every meeting you go to you will hear ‘what’s working well?’, ‘what are we worried about?’, ‘what needs to happen?’ and ‘where would you scale your worries/safety from 0-10?’

We are very proud to be one of the leading authorities on the approach in the UK and will continue on our implementation journey to support the safety and wellbeing of the children we work with.

Article Written by: Louise Fox (Service Development Lead for Professional Practice, WSSCC) July 2015

Key Contacts

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board Team

0330 222 5296

lscb@westsussex.gov.uk

Specialist Children's Services County Duty Team

If you have concerns about a
child or young person

Children's Access Point

cap@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

01403 229 900

Emergency Out of Hours

5pm-8am weekdays

cap@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk
subject marked ALERT FOR EDT

Local Area Designated Officers

For allegations against a
member of staff or volunteer
who works with children and
young people

Lindsey Tunbridge-Adams

LADO and Safeguarding in
Education Manager

0330 222 3339

Lindsey.Tunbridge-
Adams@westsussex.gov.uk

Claire Coles

Children's Safeguarding Advisor

0330 222 3339

Claire.coles@westsussex.gov.uk

Sussex Police Missing Person Unit

101 Ext. 586352 or 586461

ws.missingpersonteam@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Quote 'Operation Kite' for incidents involving Child Sexual Exploitation

If your organisation would like to contribute to future issues please contact
WSSCB at lscb@westsussex.gov.uk