

Newsletter

Welcome to the third edition of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) Newsletter.

The aim of this newsletter is to provide information about safeguarding for people working with children and young people and their families in West Sussex.

The WSSCB is a multi-agency group of different organisations and agencies that work across West Sussex together as partners to ensure a united approach to looking out for the wellbeing of children in this county.

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A message from Peter Evans

Cabinet Member for Children—Start of Life, WSCC

I am delighted to have been asked to introduce the latest edition of the WSCCB newsletter.

As Cabinet Member for Children – Start of Life, the golden thread that runs through all my thinking is safeguarding those in our care.

Along with the 70 other elected members of the County Council, I am a 'corporate parent' with a responsibility to provide the support that any good parent would give their children.

I also have the responsibility of making sure that methods of safeguarding are employed to protect our children. This is so they can make the best start in life, continue to be supported through education, and enjoy greater health and well-being as they grow older.

This newsletter is a window into what is happening within the safeguarding world in our county, and details the latest initiatives and developments regarding the protection of our children. It is well worth a look.

Latest News

WSSCB Annual Report 2013/14

The [WSSCB Annual Report](#) was published in December 2014. The Annual Report outlines the activity of the Board and its sub-groups with a focus on the impact of local practice on outcomes for children and young people.

New Ofsted Framework

The Ofsted Guidance for inspecting services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and reviewing a Local Safeguarding Children Board was updated in December. Click [here](#) to view the latest guidance.

CDOP Annual Report

The [sixth annual report](#) of the West Sussex Child Death Overview Panel was published in December. The report includes data about child deaths that occurred and/or were reviewed between April 2013 and March 2014, and an overview of issues arising from the review of child deaths by the Panel. The report also has information on the response to unexpected child deaths.

Safer Internet Day—10th February 2015

In preparation for Safer Internet Day on 10th February, the UK Safer Internet Centre has produced resource packs to be used by schools and parents & carers providing lots of great ideas. Visit the [UK Safer Internet](#) website to find out more.

NHS Safeguarding Children General Resource eBook for Primary Care frontline staff

NHS England in partnership with CCG Safeguarding Designated professionals across Surrey and Sussex have designed a general resource [eBook](#) to support Primary Care frontline staff in relation to safeguarding children.

Latest News

Launch of NSPCC Awareness Campaign on Child Online Safety

The NSPCC has launched a public education campaign, 'Share Aware', to help parents keep their children safe online. The campaign is aimed at parents and carers of children aged 8-12, the age at which they start doing more online, become more independent and use a greater range of devices. The campaign aims to encourage parents and carers to understand online safety and to have conversations with their children about keeping safe. For more information, to view the campaign video or download the guide visit the ['Share Aware' webpage](#).

National Suicide Prevention Steering Group: Taking ownership of suicide on our railway

In January 2010 Samaritans and Network Rail launched a pioneering partnership to reduce the number of suicides working on the railways, working closely with other key stakeholders including train operating companies and the British Transport Police. As part of this partnership the National Suicide Prevention Steering Group have designed a [handbook](#) which contains information that will give you tips for supporting a vulnerable person, help you understand the activities and purpose of the partnership, and hopefully inspire you to learn more.

National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day—18th March 2015

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding CSE; encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children, and children forming inappropriate sexual relationships with their peers. For more information and to access free resources visit the [NWG Network website](#).

WSSCB Website

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! Click [here](#) to give feedback on the WSSCB website.

Latest News

Annual Pan Sussex Conference

More than 100 practitioners in the field of child protection met last week for the bi-annual safeguarding conference to discuss what more can be done to keep young people safe in West Sussex.

The West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board – which brings together organisations from across the county, including Sussex Police, District and Borough councils, health professionals and the voluntary sector – hosted this year's Safeguarding in Sussex bi- annual conference in Horsham.

Child Sexual Exploitation was the main focus of the conference. Presenters shared information on topics such as female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation in gangs, the work of the Missing Person and Child Sexual Exploitation Team in West Sussex and online safety and what professionals could do to raise awareness and tackle the issues.

Jimmy Doyle, Independent Chair of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board, said: "We all have a responsibility to address the dangers and risks of exploitation of children and young people and we should not assume 'it could not happen here'. All agencies and professionals must work together to keep vulnerable children and young people safe and be ready to respond appropriately".

Representatives from Children's Social Care, the probation service and UK Border Control also attended the event, held at County Hall North in Horsham on Thursday, January 22.

Shona McMinn, Board Manager, added: "the event was well attended by a cross section of agencies and a number of thought provoking issues were considered and debated".

Anyone who wants to find out more about the work of the Board is invited to its next road show in Chichester later this month.

Members of the team will be at Chichester District Council's offices on February 25, from 9.30-3.30pm. The team will also be in Horsham at County Hall North on March 4 from 9.30-3.30pm.

The road shows are an opportunity to understand the work of the Board as well as providing information and resources. Anyone who wants to find out more is invited along to the sessions to meet the team. There will also be a police officer from the Missing Person and Child Sexual Exploitation Team who will be able to talk about the role of that team.

More information about the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board can be found at www.westsussexscb.org.uk.

WSSCB Training

The WSSCB are committed to delivering multi-agency training and are striving to look at new ways to deliver more effective training. An extensive range of FREE multi-agency training opportunities are offered to local statutory and not-for profit organisations* so that practitioners and managers can be supported in understanding how to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children & young people they work with.

Full details of our [training programme](#) can be found on our website and booked through the [Learning and Development Gateway](#). Spaces are limited so book early!

Latest courses

Bumps Along the Way: the Impact of Child Abuse on Children's Development

The aim of this course is to provide exploration of how understanding development is an important step towards being clear about what constitutes children's safety and wellbeing, and promoting and preserving wellbeing. It will look at child development and how this is affected by maltreatment.

Impact of Parental Alcohol & Substance Misuse on Children and Young People

The aim of this course is to promote effective multi-agency practice between children and adults in all agencies to improve outcomes for children where a parent/s is misusing alcohol or substances

Child Protection and Core Group Working

The aim of this course is to provide you with the opportunity to develop confidence, competence, knowledge and skills in actively contributing to child protection conferences and core groups.

*Although training is free, a non-attendance/late notice cancellation charge applies.

E-learning

E-learning is an efficient resource that offers flexibility, efficiency and personalised training. Whilst the WSSCB advocates face to face training, it recognises that this is not always possible. These courses are designed to ensure that staff have access to initial training that will enable them to gain a general overview and enhance their face to face training. This resource is particularly useful for inducting new staff and forming part of their on-going development.

Full details of our e-learning courses can be found on our [website](#) and can be completed via the [Learning and Development Gateway](#), unless otherwise stated.

Safeguarding Children

This module is for anyone who comes into contact with children or young people especially those involved in the care and education of children and young people.

Child Sexual Exploitation

The module aims to increase understanding of CSE through training by identifying what to do if you suspect a child is being groomed or sexually exploited, recognising the impact of CSE on children, young people and their families, and establishing ways agencies can work better in partnership.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Violence and Abuse is a serious social problem and human rights violation. It can affect anyone regardless of culture, ethnic or religious group, gender, sexuality, age, disability, income or lifestyle. However, with good service provision and awareness, many people affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse can lead safer and happier lives and protect their children.

FGM

The Home Office has launched a free online training package dealing with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) developed with Virtual College. It will give teachers, police, doctors, social workers and Border Force staff the training they need to help them identify and assist girls who are at risk of FGM. The training provides safeguarding professionals with an overview of FGM and their responsibilities in FGM cases. It also contains information on how to prevent FGM and helps professionals support those who have been subjected to it.

Multi-Agency Audits

The Voice of the Child

In our last newsletter we promised to provide more information about some of the Good Practices and issues that had arisen from the MAFAG on "The Voice of the Child" that took place in September 2014.

The MAFAG concluded that the Implementation of the Signs of Safety Model overall was strengthening and improving multi-agency engagement with children.

Good practice identified during this audit included:

- The use of a personal hand written note from the child, addressed to the conference. This was a moving account of what the child felt about her situation at home, the things that upset her most and changes she wanted to see in the future to make her life at home better. In a letter she was able to express her true feelings in a way that may have proved difficult delivering them in person.
- A very well written Danger Statement that explained in detail the fears and wishes of the child rather than expressing merely the concerns of practitioners about a particular situation.
- Laugh and Learn Montessori Nursery have utilised an impressive range of methods and tools to engage with a child who, due to speech difficulties, has been hard to reach for many other agencies. The nursery presented the MAFAG panel with an excellent report on their work with this particular child and the panel are keen to encourage stronger working links with Laugh and Learn so that their techniques and information can be shared across the agencies. <http://www.laughandlearn.co.uk/>

This audit showed that good progress is being made in listening to, recording and utilising the Voice of the Child within the Child Protection Processes. In the next newsletter we will summarise the findings from our latest MAFAG 'Young People who Self Harm' that was carried out at the end of November.

Child Protection Audits

These audits are carried out every 2 months and review practices and records that are kept at the key stages of the Child Protection process; Referral, Strategy Discussion, S47 enquiries, Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) and Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPC).

The findings of the August audit showed that there is still an under representation of some agencies such as Health and Education at the Strategy Discussion stage of the CP process.

This audit also identified a number of issues relating to **general record keeping**, some of which resulted in an INADEQUATE grade being given to a case audit simply because important documents were missing. Specific issues noted included:

- Key documents missing – e.g. core group records, Child Protection Plans and RCPC minutes
- Limited information given in referral records
- Limited details related to the child, making judgements difficult
- Poor linking of information and records to previous incidents
- Blank Contact Records posted on the computer record

There was a slight fall in performance noted in this audit but the overall trend for the last 5 audits remains positive. Significant improvements could be achieved in the future however if greater emphasis is placed on the keeping of accurate, timely and relevant records on the computer database (FWi) and by ensuring the involvement of key agencies at the assessment and intervention stages of the Child Protection process. Actions are being taken by key agencies to help address these issues.

Child Death Overview Panel

Local Priority: Unexpected and Sudden Infant Death

There were 38 child deaths registered in West Sussex last year, 14 of these were classed as “unexpected” child deaths and therefore required the Rapid Response process to be undertaken. For more detailed information on what you should do if you are faced with an unexpected child death please visit Pan Sussex Procedures [Unexpected Child Death](#).

There was a 100% increase this year in the number of child deaths that were deemed to have “modifiable factors” (up from 8 last year to 17 this year) and the number of Sudden Infant Deaths doubled from 4 last year to 8 in 2013-2014. Safe Sleeping remains the number one modifiable factor identified in child deaths here in West Sussex and there has been a great deal of work undertaken this year to raise awareness of how to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) including training courses being run for Health Visitor’s and Child and Family Centres in partnership with The Lullaby Trust and publishing information leaflets on safer sleeping for both professionals and parents.

Local Priority: Safer Sleeping

National Safer Sleep Week: 16th-23rd March 2015

On 17 December 2014 The Lullaby Trust along with Annette Lawrence-Owen (Specialist Nurse Safeguarding Children – Sussex Community NHS Trust) joined Louise Walters, a Mother who has recently been through the sad loss of her baby to SIDS and who is currently campaigning to promote the safer sleeping message, on BBC Sussex News and on BBC South Today. Hear Louise’s moving interview here on BBC Sussex : <https://audioboom.com/boos/2738521-sudden-infant-death-louise-walters>. Watch her story here on south today: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0WmfVNFEE30enVFUW51eVI4cjQ/view?usp=sharing>

Further information on Safer Sleeping can be found on our [website](#).

Article Written by: Maggie Pugh (WSSCB CDOP Coordinator) December 2014

Lay Members

Sarah Maddox

I have been a Lay member on the Board since July and have attended two Board meetings and the Development Day. Following a discussion at the October Board meeting, I became a member on a scrutiny panel for the Missing Person Team Pilot and have also rewritten a drugs and alcohol leaflet. My first Board meeting was quite overwhelming as I was not previously aware that so many people from so many agencies are involved in safeguarding children. My first question was how is all the good work linked together and communicated? I also questioned whether the community are aware of the work of the board. The feeling of people in 'my world' in West Sussex is that it isn't their problem and their children won't be involved. It is very worrying to hear that adults need as much educating as the children. There is a need to go back to basics, to educate the public, and make everyone more aware. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead, being involved and contributing to as much as I can as a Lay Member on the Board.

John Thompson

This has been a very interesting period. The excellent Away Day – both the Sand Story presentation and the open and frank discussion on future plans within a group that was large enough to be representative and small enough to allow a really good exchange of ideas. The s.11 audit follow up was both instructive and encouraging as all the agencies called for follow up interview not only embraced the need for improvement but had made good progress. For the highlight of my lay membership of the Board remains Membership of the Quality and Performance Group – it provides real challenge and a very interesting overview of the Board's work and progress. I am really looking forward to 2015!

Article Written by: Sarah Maddox and John Thompson (WSSCB Lay Members) December 2014

National Serious Case Reviews

Summary of December 2014

For a list of all National Serious Case Reviews published in 2014 visit the

[NSPCC national repository of case reviews.](#)

NSPCC on behalf of unnamed LSCB

Child C

This review concerns the serious sexual abuse of a 5 year old girl by her second cousin.

Issues identified include:

- Extensive and complicated family network of Child's C parents
- Impact on effectiveness of interventions and continuity of care
- Lack of apparent safeguarding oversight in the out of hours service

Learning identified includes:

- Need for agencies to be aware of the capacity of parents and to be sure that parents are able to fully understand what is being asked of them
- Need for healthy professional curiosity and challenge

Blackpool Local Safeguarding Children Board

Child BR

This review concerns the death of a 15 year old as a result of complications caused by a chronic health condition. Child BR was receiving care from a tertiary health centre, geographically remote from the family home. Parents had agreed to a bespoke residential plan to improve Child BR's access to healthcare but Child BR died before the plan could be implemented.

Learning identified includes:

- Scope for exploring joint working practices between tertiary and primary health services
- Ways to maintain successful interventions
- Prompt access to psychological services for children and young people with chronic conditions

National Serious Case Reviews Summary of December 2014

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board

Child V

This review concerns the death of a 1 year old baby girl due to a non-accidental injury.

Learning identified includes:

- Insufficient professional curiosity and lack of professional challenge
- A need for robust and clear escalation procedures where there is disagreement between agencies

Recommendations include:

- Review of arrangements for taking photographs of possible injuries to ensure medical staff have access to this service at all reasonable times

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board

'Julia'

This review concerns the disclosure of sexual abuse by a 14 year old girl.

Findings identified include:

- A pattern of local and national policy focusing on sexual health and teenage pregnancy rather than sexual abuse in cases of underage sexual activity
- A lack of clear analysis and challenge of the language used by parents and young people regarding early sexual experiences leading to adequate response or protection
- Lack of parental engagement with services taking the attention away from the needs of the young person or child
- Lack of developed understanding of adolescent neglect

Key Contacts

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board Team

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Independent Chair of the WSSCB

Jimmy can be contacted via the WSSCB Board Coordinator

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