

Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2006



■ Don't forget

Please inform Kuldeep Kanwal, Safeguarding Training Co-ordinator of best practices, initiatives and of items of interest.

New Arrival

The safeguarding team welcomes Sue Ball, Anti Bullying Co-ordinator who joined us in September, 2006

Support Team

Sue Kelly

Cheryl Harnett

Administrative Manager

Administrator

NEXT SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

The winter edition of the safeguarding newsletter will spotlight on anti-bullying, feedback from the Joint Area Review and a feature on partnership working on the South Area Forum.

We are based at:

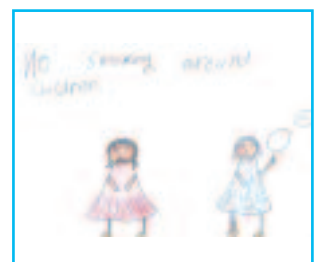
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■ Introduction

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues from partner agencies for their support and contributions to the work of the Board. We continue to develop our capacity to contribute to the improvement programme for services to children and young people.

We are advertising for a Business Co-ordinator to drive our work forward, so anyone interested in a dynamic role working for the Safeguarding Board with all the partners involved in keeping children and young people safe. Look out for our advert. Sue Ball, our adviser on anti-bullying, has now joined the safeguarding team. You will hear more from her in our next newsletter.

I am pleased to tell you that we have a busy programme of work for this autumn. I never cease to be surprised at the wide area of work safeguarding has to cover and who would have thought, for instance, that our September board would be considering research on 'Possession' and 'Witchcraft'? (for a copy of this, visit our website).

On more domestic matters, a launch event has been held by South Area Forum and North/East Area Forum will be holding theirs in November. All our sub-groups are fully engaged in delivering our implementation plan, and for details of these please, again, visit our website.

In this edition, we publish a range of the multi-disciplinary training we are able to offer following the appointment of BAAF to deliver our core programmes.

Our spotlight this autumn is on domestic violence. This is one of the Board's key themes and with our special interest in the impact of domestic violence on children we are supporting the work of the reformed Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Forum.

Paula Harding has provided our lead article. There is also a report from Sandra Rote, chair of the newly-merged North/East Area Forum, on the work of this group. She also provides information about a pan Birmingham group working on the revision of record-keeping for health visitors.

We always welcome relevant articles particularly where we can promote good practice, so any contributions would be welcome. The focus for our next edition is on the prevention of bullying. We will also share our experience of the JAR as safeguarding and multi-disciplinary working is a cornerstone of effective children's services.

Andrea Hickman
Independent Chair



■ Pupils educated to stay safe online

School children across the country will be told how to stay safe on the internet in a government-backed child protection project. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) launched its first nationwide education programme at its London office on the 21 September. Officials hope that the ThinkuKnow campaign will make children think more about who they are chatting to online.

To find out more visit <http://www.tes.co.uk/2285199>

■ What is the common assessment framework?

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a common process enabling practitioners to make an assessment and act on the result with a pre-assessment checklist to help decide if a child would benefit from a common assessment, a standard form to record the assessment and where appropriate, share with others.

The assessment covers all aspects of a child's development, from health, education and social development, through to housing and family relationships. CAF will be the shared assessment used by practitioners in all agencies across the city that deliver services to children and young people.

CAF will provide a method of assessment to support earlier intervention, improve joint working and communication between all children and young people's practitioners by helping to embed a common language of assessment and a more consistent view as to the appropriate response.

For a useful background briefing on the Common Assessment Framework visit:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/childrenservices

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Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2006

■ Safeguarding spotlight on protecting children from domestic violence

Sandra L Robinson from the NSPCC reports that the last annual review of serious cases in the West Midlands revealed that in 80 per cent of cases domestic violence was a feature of their homes.



Sandra L Robinson
Head of Children's Services,
NSPCC



Paula Harding,
DV Co-ordinator

The Safeguarding Board is committed to working closely with the reconfigured Birmingham Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Forum and will be represented on the Forum's strategic group by Paula Harding.

The initial task of the new Forum will be the development of an implementation plan to enact the Pan-Birmingham Domestic Violence Strategy, which recognises that domestic violence has a major impact upon the health, welfare and education of children and young people. The Strategy declares its commitment to ensure that children and young people exposed to domestic violence have access to the services they need and all have the skills to build relationships based on respect and equality.

The BSCB and Area Forums will have the opportunity to link with the Domestic Violence Forum at a number of levels.

Paula Harding, Domestic Violence Co-ordinator believes that "Domestic Violence is an important indicator of child abuse and vice versa. There is a need to look for the one where the other is present so that both non-abusing parent and child can be helped to be safe".

THE HARD FACTS & FIGURES

The statistics about how domestic violence threatens children are now widely recognised:

- 90 per cent of children are in the same or next room when a violent incident occurs
- In 75 per cent of cases on the Child Protection Register domestic violence is present
- In 40-60 per cent of cases children are directly abused by the same violent parent
- Over 75 per cent of children ordered by the courts to have contact with a violent parent were abused further as a result of contact being set up
- When interviewed, children consistently ask for safety and someone to talk to
- Contrary to belief, deciding to leave an abusive partner doesn't mean that a woman and her children are safe. It's at this point that they are most at risk of serious injury or being murdered.

PAN – BIRMINGHAM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2006-2009 LAUNCHED 9 OCTOBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

Christine Mann, National Co-ordinator, Domestic Violence Department of Health spoke on 9 October at the launch of the PAN Domestic Violence Strategy 2006-2009.

Birmingham's agencies have joined forces to produce the first Pan-Birmingham Domestic Violence Strategy 2006-2009 where addressing the harm domestic violence does to children and young people is an urgent priority.

The Birmingham Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Forum is being reformed to harness the commitment of all our agencies to address domestic violence and we welcome the opportunity to work much more closely with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Area Forums.

**The Pan-Birmingham Domestic Violence Strategy will be published on www.biadvf.org and www.birmingham-csp.org
For more information contact info@biadvf.org**

See also "Vision for Services for Children & Young People Affected by Domestic Violence", a joint publication by ADSS, LGA, Women's Aid & CAF/CASS at www.lga.gov.uk.

■ Children and Domestic Violence: Responses From Local Government Association

Domestic violence is a primary indicator of child protection needs, with eight out of ten young people who suffer serious physical abuse growing up in households where domestic violence has occurred. Children will always be affected by witnessing abuse, even where they do not suffer direct violence themselves.

Supporting the non-abusing parent is usually the most effective way of reducing the risks to a child, yet there have been difficulties linking these areas of service delivery. With children's services now undergoing a period of transition, we have a unique opportunity to find innovative solutions.

The LGA believes that the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic violence must be explicitly addressed within the new structures for children's services and thus embedded within the prevention agenda for all vulnerable children. Many local authorities are taking up the challenge and developing joined-up approaches to working with children and adults.

A leaflet promoting just some of the good practice that local authorities are already undertaking in this area of work is available from

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/Documents/Publication/childrenanddomesticviolence.pdf>



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

Birmingham Magistrates Court Awarded Specialist Domestic Violence Status

The Home Office visited the West Midlands in July to assess progress by the courts in addressing domestic violence. Birmingham, the largest Magistrates Court in Western Europe, has now been identified as achieving the national standard for a Specialist Domestic Violence Court and can be 'badged' as such. The development of Birmingham Women's Safety Unit over recent months certainly helped Birmingham achieve this status.

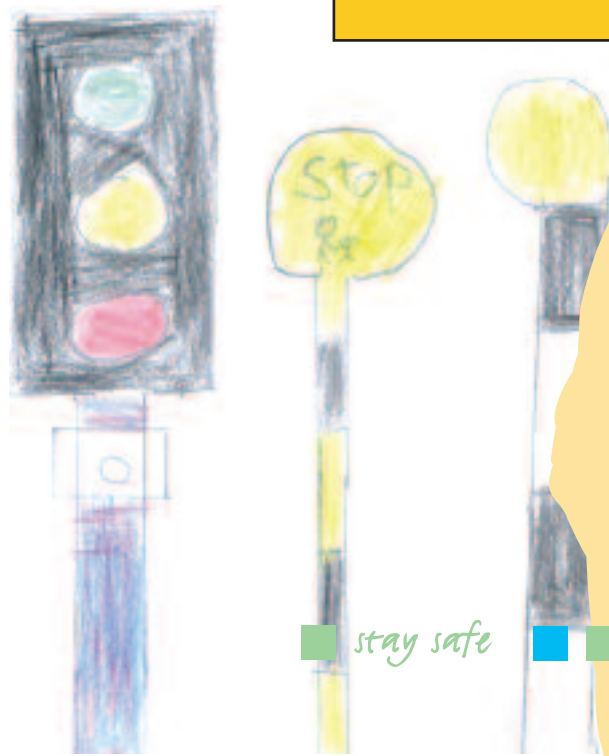
Birmingham Women's Safety Unit is a new service provided by Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid providing support to women where their abusers are being taken to court. The Unit also links into the work of the city council to take civil action against perpetrators of domestic violence where criminal action isn't possible.

WOMEN WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid, supported by Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, has commissioned research into the needs of women with no recourse to public funds who experience domestic violence in Birmingham.

The research explores the cost of supporting women in these circumstances, how services are accessed, how referral routes work and hope to build more effective pathways to appropriate support and provision. If you would like to contribute to the research, please make contact by e-mail:

jolinney@bartlelinney.co.uk or nasheima.sheikh@bswaid.org



Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2006

■ North / East Area Forum

Welcome to the section on the North/East Local Forum. I have recently been appointed as Chair of the newly merged forum. We have a lot of work to do within the forum. I am impressed by the commitment and hard work of members. Here are some of the key tasks which we have to do.

- Reviewing the membership of the group. It is important that individuals are able to attend regularly and feedback information to their respective organisations.
- Reviewing of the Area Implementation Plan, ensuring as a forum we deliver what the Safeguarding Board expects of us.
- Setting up small task/finish groups to plan our training events for the year.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

At a recent meeting we received an excellent presentation from Helen Edwards, NSPCC about the NSPCC toolkit. The toolkit is designed to enable small voluntary groups to ensure that they have appropriate safeguarding policies /procedures in place. We look forward to the launch of the toolkit in 2007.

HEALTH VISITING RECORD KEEPING

Eastern and North PCT is currently working closely with other Birmingham PCTs and the central Safeguarding Children Unit on the issue of record keeping. Numerous, recent serious case reviews have highlighted how poor record keeping practices in health visiting and school nursing have contributed to inadequate assessment of need and risk, poor care planning and service delivery for many children and families.

A PAN BIRMINGHAM GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED TO:-

- * Re-draft the record keeping guidelines
- * Establish a team of record keeping trainers
- * Oversee the development of a record-keeping training package for all health visiting/school nursing staff with the delivery of this training in Autumn 2006
- * A rolling programme of record keeping training is available to new starters within PCTs
- * Staff can access updates on record keeping.
- * Review record-keeping guidance regularly, at six monthly intervals.

The group is considering carefully the implications of serious case review recommendations as well as findings from national inquiries and local record keeping audits. Due to the commitment of all involved, the group is making rapid progress with its objectives.

Sandra Rote, Chair of North/ Eastern Area Forum

■ “Stay Safe” Safeguarding News in Brief

On Friday 14 July, Major James Welsh from the Army Welfare Services gave an excellent presentation at the BSCB Board Meeting. He talked about the role and work of the AWS, focusing on child protection, the Army confidentiality code, training and support services.

Did you know? 23 per cent of recruits for the Army were from the Birmingham area, which has the largest Territorial Army. Also the forces Medical Corps are based at Selly Oak Hospital.

To find out more contact HQ Army Welfare Service, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 0AG Tel: 01722-334424

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■ Key Training Priorities

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board key training priorities for 2006/2007 are as follows: -

- * Multi-disciplinary child protection training.
- * Working together with drugs teams i.e. (joint training for substance misuse practitioners, health professionals and professionals from Children, Young People & Families Directorate).
- * Anti-bullying and domestic violence training.

I am also pleased to inform organisations/staff that BAAF (British Association For Adoption & Fostering) achieved the highest overall price/quality score in the tendering process for providing multi-disciplinary training.

There is now a binding contract for BAAF to deliver multi-agency child protection and working together with drugs teams training from September until July 2007.

Listed below are training dates/events scheduled between November and July 2007

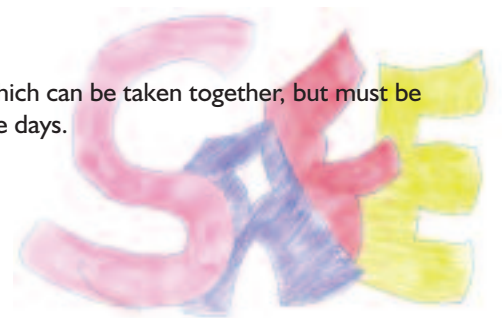
MULTI-AGENCY CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING DATES

Multi-agency child protection training has commenced and covers three modules, which can be taken together, but must be taken in order one to three. Modules one and two are offered over two consecutive days.

Module 1: Child Protection Awareness

Module 2: Roles & Responsibilities in the Protection of Children from Abuse

Module 3: Implementing Child Protection Plans



NORTH /EASTERN AREA FORUM	SOUTH AREA FORUM	HEART OF BIRMINGHAM AREA FORUM
Venue: Holyfields Centre Club Ltd, Woodacre Road, Erdington, Birmingham.	Venue: Uffculme Centre, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham.	Venue: Dolphin House, 54 Coventry Road, Birmingham.
Module 1 7 Nov 2006 15 Mar 2007 10 May 2007 16 July 2007	Module 1 11 Dec 2006 8 Jan 2007 7 Mar 2007 7 June 2007	Module 1 14 Dec 2006 5 Jan 2007 16 April 07 14 June 2007
Module 2 8 Nov 2006 16 Mar 2007 11 May 2007 17 July 2007	Module 2 12 Dec 2006 9 Jan 2007 8 Mar 2007 8 June 2007	Module 2 15 Dec 2006 6 Jan 2007 17 April 2007 15 June 2007
Module 3 9 November 2006	Module 3 12 Jan 2007	Module 3 18 April 2007

Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2006

JOINT TRAINING FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE PRACTITIONERS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS & PROFESSIONALS FROM CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES DIRECTORATE

There is also a separate two-day training programme on working together with drugs teams, which offers joint training for frontline staff from Children, Young People & Families Directorate, frontline practitioners within health together with drug workers.

HEART OF BIRMINGHAM AREA FORUM

21 - 22 November 2006 and 17 - 18 May 2007

Venue: BAAF, Dolphin House, 54 Coventry Road, Birmingham

SOUTH AREA FORUM

24 - 25 April 2007 and 4 - 5 July 2007

Venue: Uffculme Centre, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham

NORTH/EASTERN AREA FORUM

29 - 30 January 2007 and 20 - 21 June 2007

Venue: Holyfields Centre Club, Woodacre Road, Erdington, Birmingham

COURSE BOOKINGS/NOMINATIONS

To obtain further information and a course nomination form, please contact:

Chris Benfield, Administrator

British Association for Adoption & Fostering

Dolphin House, 54 Coventry Road

Birmingham B10 0RX

Tel: 0121-753-7795 Fax: 0121-753-7799

All course dates, venues, booking instructions will also be advertised on the Iscb website.

Visit: www.iscbbirmingham.org.uk

No Smoking around
Children...



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■ Serious Case Reviews

WHAT IS A SERIOUS CASE REVIEW?

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for carrying out serious case reviews where a child has died and abuse or neglect has been confirmed or suspected. In certain circumstances, a serious case review may also take place when a child/young person has been very seriously harmed.

When the serious case review is completed, an executive summary is published outlining the key findings, with recommendations and agency action plans circulated to chief executives. Quality assurance and audit sub-group ensure that all agencies learn the lessons from these tragic cases.

Listed below are a series of half-day training sessions planned for lessons learnt from serious case reviews:

SERIOUS CASE TRAINING DATES & VENUES

Thursday 14 December 9.30 am – 1.00 pm
Venue: Tally Ho Sports & Conference Centre
Dates for serious cases training 2007 will follow shortly

To book a course place contact Cheryl.A.Harnett on 0121-464-2612 or email cheryl.a.harnett@birmingham.gov.uk

■ Forthcoming Events & Diary Dates

Heart of Birmingham Area Forum

Multi-Agency Domestic Violence, 27 November 2006
Venue: Tally Ho Sports & Conference Centre, Edgbaston 9.15 am – 4.00 pm

North/East Area Forum

Multi-Agency Domestic Violence/Anti-Bullying Training Event, Wednesday 13 December

South Area Forum

Multi-Agency Domestic Violence Training Event, 30 January 2007, (AM & PM Sessions)

LOOK OUT FOR ANTI-BULLYING WEEK !

Anti-Bullying Week: 20 – 24 November 2006
Event for practitioners at The Council House on Tuesday 21 November.
Contact sue.ball@blueyonder.co.uk for information or visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/stopbullying

Kuldeep Kanwal
Safeguarding Partnership Training Co-ordinator