

Nick Page, CEO announces the appointment of David Peplow as the new Independent Chair



I would like to thank members of Solihull LSCB and the young people who spent time with me in March on the appointment of our new LSCB independent chair, David Peplow.

David is from a police background and has considerable experience chairing LSCB's and leading and developing partnerships. David currently chairs Coventry LSCB and is completing his contract with Warwickshire LSCBs. He has also chaired Thurrock LSCB and so he comes with a wealth of safeguarding experience.

I am sure LSCB members will welcome David on board and that he will continue to improve on the achievements of LSCB members when Edwina Grant was chair.

Important information about LSCB procedures: A message from Simon Rushall, Chair of Solihull LSCB policy and procedures group

Colleagues

You may be aware of moves towards the adoption of a regional child protection and safeguarding procedures framework. Experience elsewhere, notably in London and Greater Manchester, shows that this can have significant benefits, for example when responding to concerns about children who live in one local authority area and attend school in another.



Some West Midlands LSCBs adopted new procedures from 1 April 2017.

I want to be absolutely clear that Solihull Safeguarding Children Board has not done so. We will make the switch on 1 April 2018. This gives the new procedures, operated by Phew, time to bed in and for us to provide clear briefings to all partners.

In the meantime, please continue to use our existing procedures which are provided by Tri-X.

Please contact Betty Lynch on 0121 788 4324 or via email betty.lynch@solihull.gov.uk if you have any questions or queries.

My Marriage My Choice Project

The study is exploring forced marriage of adults with learning disabilities from a safeguarding perspective with the intention of developing knowledge, policy and practice to support professionals in their work of safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

The My Marriage My Choice project will raise awareness of forced marriage in order that all of those who are involved in the education, care and support of individuals who cannot effectively consent to any such undertaking, might be empowered to recognise forced marriage as such and respond appropriately.

The Project is now seeking to bring together a varied group of 10-12 frontline professionals from social work and other agencies to take part in a focus group lasting around an hour, though with the need to explain the project and gain informed consents we are likely to be asking for around an hour and a quarter of individuals' time; all attending at a particular time on a particular day. The challenge for the project is not having the local knowledge of where it might be convenient for practitioners to meet and of groups of people who may wish to participate, so ideally if someone could also offer to host such a meeting we would be very grateful and of course we would conduct it. For example in one area a learning disability team have agreed to host the meeting at their premises and a group of social workers will join them there. This has come about by someone taking a lead in this based on their local knowledge of where we can meet and who is likely to wish to be involved.

Dr Anne Patterson hopes this doesn't sound like a tall order and added that they have obtained research approval from ADASS to approach social service practitioners as this is a requirement. Further information can be gained from <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/mymarriagemychoice/>

“Together, we can tackle child abuse”

Together, we can tackle child abuse is a Government campaign to raise awareness and encourage members of the public to report child abuse and neglect. The campaign aims to encourage the public to report their concerns in order to get help to children more quickly. The DfE aims to create a new social norm around reporting and tackle the barriers that stop people taking action.

How to spot the signs of child abuse and neglect:

To spot the signs, look for changes in ABC:

- Appearance – such as frequent unexplained injuries, cuts or bruises, or consistently poor hygiene
- Behaviour – such as demanding or aggressive behaviour, frequent lateness or absence from school, avoiding their own family, misusing drugs or alcohol, or being constantly tired
- Communication – such as sexual or aggressive language, self-harming, becoming secretive and reluctant to share information



What to do if you suspect:

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, it is important to tell someone.

- Some people prefer to talk to their partner, a family member or a friend before they make a report, and that is perfectly fine.
- Contact the Solihull Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to report your concern on 0121 788 4333. (You'll be asked for your details, but you can choose not to share them)
- Alternatively, if you are worried about a child's immediate safety, contact the police by dialing 999 call the police on 101 if you think a crime has been committed.

What happens when you report:

When you contact the Solihull MASH they will:

- Listen: Your concern will be listened to carefully and assessed.
- Gather information: From many sources as your report forms one part of a bigger picture.
- Assess: If concerns are raised about a child, a social worker will make an assessment and decide what support to provide.
- Decide: It may be that the concerns are unfounded and that no further action is necessary, although all concerns are taken seriously.

Campaign toolkit available

The DfE has produced a campaign toolkit that includes ready-to-use materials such as printable campaign leaflets and engaging digital graphics which can be shared on social media. Please share the toolkit with relevant partners who have safeguarding responsibilities or may want to raise awareness of this important issue.

For more information about the campaign and to download the toolkit go to: <https://www.dfecchildprotection-munroforster.com/> If you have any queries, or require any further information about how to support the campaign, please email dfecchildprotectioncampaign@munroforster.com or call 0207 089 6100.

Children's happiness & wellbeing - what can we do?

Many of us who care about creating a happier world recognise the vital importance of young people's wellbeing.

In fact, recent work from Action for Happiness co-founder, Richard Layard, has confirmed that a child's emotional health is a much better predictor of their lifelong wellbeing than their academic achievements. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/12/happiness-depends-on-health-and-friends-not-money-says-new-study>



We know many of you are keen to take action, so here are some useful resources to help with promoting children's mental health and happiness...

Firstly, there are lots of wonderful organisations working in this area - this page shows some of our favourites: www.actionforhappiness.org/happiness-in-schools Here at Action for Happiness we have a 'Keys to Happier Living' toolkit for primary schools, which has been awarded the PSHE Association Quality Mark and is getting fantastic feedback from teachers: www.actionforhappiness.org/toolkit We also have a great new set of Happiness posters for use with children which are freely available to download here: www.actionforhappiness.org/posters-for-children

In terms of encouraging a greater focus on these ideas in schools, please support this great "Wise Up to Wellbeing" campaign from Young Minds: <https://act.youngminds.org.uk/wise-up>

Changes to Working Together to Safeguard Children, March 2015 (amended 2016)



In February 2017 the government released an updated version of Working Together 2015 containing the new definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). At the same time new CSE guidance was issued which was produced by the University of Bedfordshire (UOB) and Research In Practice (RIP) for the Department for Education. UOB & RIP have released a full document of the government guidance –

All of these documents are available on the LSCB website <http://www.solihullscb.co.uk/practitioner-volunteers/child-sexual-exploitation-23.php> A summary paper of the practice considerations can be found [here](#).

CSE is defined as:-

“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

The full Working Together to Safeguard Children can be accessed [here](#)

Regional CSE Newsletter

Phillipa Cresswell, CSE Regional Strategic Co-ordinator (PVVP), is delighted to share with you the Regional CSE newsletter for March 2017. This edition includes information around the CSE campaign and Week of Action which took place in February 2017. The newsletter also contains important national updates.



Please feel free to widely circulate the [newsletter](#). If you wanted any further information around the regional work please contact do not hesitate to contact Phillipa on Phillipa.cresswell@solihull.gov.uk

NWG Evaluation of Services



TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

NWG are in the process of their annual evaluating of services and to assist them with their funding reports they would appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to complete a short anonymous survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NWGServices2017>

The NWG would be grateful if you could complete this survey and return to them by the deadline of 19th May 2017.

Nationals updates from Tri-x

Tri-x have kindly produced a circular for professionals to access national updates.

The circular includes information about:-

- Government launches major new drive on internet safety
- Information and Tools for Children and Families, Parents and Carers
- Ofsted new inspection framework from April 2017

You can access the circular [here](#), we hope you find this useful.



Newly Opened Young Women's Refuge



Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid has opened a new Young Women's refuge specifically aimed at supporting young women.

If you, or someone you know can benefit from this service, please contact BSWA's helpline for more information: 0808 800 0028.

To view the poster, please click [here](#)

Understanding Coercive Control – Redressing the Balance Key Messages



west midlands
office of the police
and crime commissioner

The West Midlands Specialist Domestic Abuse Consortium have produced Some key messages from the event which was held on 14th March.

To access these key messages please click [here](#)



Black Country
Women's Aid
we listen, we support, we care

Coventry
Haven



Birmingham & Solihull
Women's Aid

New resources from i-HOP, Barnardo's information hub



Supporting children and families
affected by a family member's offending
– A Practitioner's Guide

Lindsay Nicholson and Phil Wingo
January 2019



i-HOP: Assisting professionals to
support the children and families of
Foreign National Prisoners



Find out how to support offenders'
children and their families

Visit our professionals' website

www.i-hop.org.uk



i-HOP, Barnardo's information hub supports all professionals to work with the children and families of offenders. i-HOP have contacted the LSCB to highlight two new free resources for practitioners working in the community. (Please click on the bold text to download the resources.)

The first is the new **Practitioner's Guide to supporting children and families affected by a family member's offending**. This invaluable resource pulls together tried and tested practical tools, the experiences of offenders' families as well as information and organisations to sign post families to. It has a clear section on the specific safeguarding concerns for this group. It has already received excellent feedback from practitioners.

The Practitioner's Guide compliments **practice based training** which Barnardo's currently offers in Midlands and South West.

The second resource is a short **briefing for practitioners who are supporting children and families of foreign national prisoners**. These families can experience a great amount of uncertainty when a loved one commits an offence as criminal justice procedures can be very confusing plus there is the added risk that their family member will be deported. This handy document can be circulated amongst colleagues and provide insight into how to support these children and their families.

And finally.....

Betty Lynch, the LSCB Manager and her team welcome views and comments about this newsletter or any other aspect of the LSCB business.

If you would like to submit an article please do contact us via lscb@solihull.gov.uk or 0121 788 4325.

LSCB Training Courses: May 2017 - July 2017

Course	Aimed at	Date and Time	Venue
Module 2- Child Protection: An introduction to multi-agency working	Those who identify child protection concerns and make child protection referrals.	20 th June 2017 9.30am – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 3 – Child Protection: The challenges of multi-agency working	Those who also regularly attend child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do, or lead organisations that does.	Next date October 9.30am – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 4 – Child Protection: Analysis, judgement and leadership in partnership working	Those who may provide evidence in criminal or civil proceedings and those who lead or contribute to serious case reviews and those involved in the LSCB including sub-groups.	18 th July 2017 9.30am – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 5A – Child Sexual Exploitation awareness	Those who with young people and who are responsible to identify and respond to child sexual exploitation.	19 th June 2017 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 5B – CSE: Skills for working with vulnerable young people	Those who work directly with vulnerable young people in relation to child sexual exploitation. Applicants <u>must</u> have completed LSCB module 5a CSE awareness training or equivalent in-house/other CSE awareness training	23 rd May 2017 9.30am – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 6 – Neglect: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	25 th May 2017 12 th June 2017 9.30am – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 6b- Neglect Domestic Abuse	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do	Next date November 9.30am-4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 6c Neglect- the graded care profile	Participants should have completed Module 6 Neglect before booking this course	5 th June 2017 9.30am -4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 7 – Physical Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferenced and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	18 th May 2017 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 8 – Emotional Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferenced and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	18 th May 2017 9.30am – 1.30pm	Sans Souci
Module 9 – Sexual Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferenced and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	6 th June 2017 9.30am – 4.30pm	Sans Souci
Managing Allegations against Staff	Those with supervisory responsibilities for staff undertaking safeguarding work; managers and strategic leads in multi-agency organisations.	5 th July 2017 5pm – 8pm	Civic Suite