



Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter December 2017

Welcome to the December edition of the LSCB newsletter. Do contact us if you have any queries.

NEW YEAR NEW START

New Multi-Agency Referral Process for Childrens Services

In May this year the LSCB started a consultation process about the multi-agency referral into Childrens Services. In September we presented ideas based on earlier suggestions received to show what the new referral may look like. We are now pleased to say that Childrens Services will be launching the new multi-agency referral in January; this will enable multi-agency practitioners to make referrals into Engage, Childrens Social Care and the Youth Offending Service from one place. Practitioners will still be expected to use their professional judgement and the [Threshold guidance](#) to select the appropriate agency they wish to refer to. Contact details are available to seek advice and guidance from the teams:

The MASH Team 0121 788 4333

The Engage Duty Desk 0121 709 7103

The Youth Offending Service 0121 709 7000

Emergency Duty Team (EDT – **Emergency** out of hours) 0121 605 6060

The link for the new form will be the same as the current form:

<https://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/ChildrensSocialWorkServiceReferral/>

We would like to extend our thanks to all multi-agency practitioners who took part in the consultation process.

Information Sharing

Poor information sharing between multi-agency partnerships has been identified as a compounding factor that can lead to the serious harm, abuse or death of a child. This has been well documented through Serious Case Reviews and national policy, which state that there is a clear need for effective multi-agency working and information sharing in order to secure improved safeguarding outcomes.

(Information sharing to protect vulnerable children and families; a report from the Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing July 2016). The new Working Together 2018 guidance currently out for [consultation](#) provides some myth busting guidance which we have combined with a flow chart below to aid multi-agency practitioners when thinking about information sharing

Information Sharing and Consent

Working Together 2018- Myth Busting Guide to Information Sharing

You have concerns about a child's welfare and are wondering whether you should share these concerns with someone else

If you have consent from the parent or carer to share that's fine, but you do not need consent to share if you are concerned about a child's welfare enough to believe that without sharing the child may come to harm.

When Sharing Information Remember

1. Only share what information is necessary, relevant and proportionate.
2. Distinguish fact from opinion.
3. Ensure you are providing the right information to the right individual.
4. Share securely.
5. You may tell them either before or after but make sure that you inform the parent or carer you have or will share information unless doing so may put someone at risk of harm

Record the information sharing decision and your reasons for sharing / or not sharing in line with your organisations local procedures

Myth: The Data Protection Act 1998 is a barrier to sharing information

X -The act does not prohibit the collection and sharing of personal information, but provides a framework to ensure that information about a living individual is shared appropriately.

Myth: Personal information collected by one organisation cannot be disclosed to another

X- unless the information is to be used for a purpose incompatible with the purpose that it was originally collected for. In the case if a child at risk of significant harm, it is difficult to foresee circumstances where sharing personal information with other practitioners would be incompatible with the purpose for which it was originally collected

Myth: Consent is always needed to share personal information

You do not necessarily need the consent of the individual to share their information. Where possible, you should seek consent, and should be clear about why and with whom it will be shared. In situations, where there are concerns that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, information may be shared without consent

Myth: The common law duty of confidence and the Human Rights Act 1998 prevent the sharing of personal information.

X- Practitioners need to balance the common law duty of confidence and the rights within the Human Rights Act 1998 against the effect on individuals or others or not sharing the information.

NEGLECT: Joint Targeted Area Inspection Framework

In the last newsletter we mentioned thematic inspections which explore the quality of “Front Door” services, such as MASH, DV triage and Early Help duty desk and there are specific inspection criteria for this.

These inspections are thematic with a set of criteria for each theme. The first 2 themes were [Child Sexual Exploitation](#) and [Domestic Violence](#), followed by the current one of Neglect. Inspection findings & recommendations from the first two themes can be found by following the hyperlinks above.

Four inspectorates, Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC), Her Majesty’s Inspector of Probation, (HMP), the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Ofsted, will visit a Local Authority area unannounced.

Standards are explicitly described in the inspection criteria guidelines and should be a key reference point for collaborative working on the Front Door, Domestic Violence, CSE and Neglect. View them [here](#).

The children and social work act 2017

A series of reforms to social work in England will become law after the Children and Social Work Bill received Royal Assent. The legislation is now an act of parliament – the Children and Social Work Act 2017 – after the Queen gave it her formal approval. The Act enshrines in law a series of changes to the social work profession, including the creation of a new organisation, Social Work England, to takeover from the HCPC as the profession’s regulator. There is also a requirement for the new regulator to obtain the education secretary’s approval for professional standards and new powers for the education secretary to set ‘improvement standards’ for social workers, and introduce assessments for practitioners. The legislation will also require councils to provide personal advisers to care leavers up to the age of 25. The act also legislates for new safeguarding partnership arrangements to be agreed with the local Clinical Commissioning Group, Police and the Local Authority. There will also be new guidance for schools. There will be a 2 year phasing in to the new arrangements. A ***new draft Working Together 2018*** document has been published and currently out for [consultation](#) until December 21 2017.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The inquiry is investigating past and present failings by institutions to protect children from sexual abuse, hold those responsible to account, and make recommendations to protect future generations of children. Through investigations and public hearings they are examining what went wrong, and will challenge those institutions responsible. They currently have a research programme which will fill in gaps of knowledge about child sexual abuse.

The Truth Project offers the opportunity for victims and survivors to share their experiences and be respectfully heard and acknowledged.

The Independent Inquiry will be in Birmingham holding meetings with those who wish to be involved from January 29th 2018, although meetings can be arranged at other destinations, and all transport expenses are covered. There is also independent support provided before, during and after the meeting.

Anyone, who has experienced sexual abuse, of any age, and at any time; past or present, is invited to contact the Truth Project and can contribute in a number of different ways including phoning, emailing or writing.

****The Inquiry is independent of Government and the person's name will not be published or made public****

You can contact them by:

Ringling: 0800 917 1000

Or

Emailing: contact@iicsa.org.uk

Or

Write to: Freepost HEAD OFFICE (no other address details are required)

The LSCB & SSAB Learning Faculty

The next Learning Faculty Meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th February 2018 at Sans Souci 2-4pm. The topic for discussion will be special education needs and disabilities. Any practitioner/manager working with children young people, families and adults in Solihull can attend the learning faculty. If you wish to book a place please email lscbtrain@solihull.gov.uk for more information about the Learning Faculty and previous meetings please visit the [LSCB website](#)

The LSCB Staffing News



As many of you will already be aware, Betty Lynch has now moved on to pastures new.

I am delighted to have been asked to join the LSCB Business Unit on an interim basis to cover the Business Manager position, and also to support the Board in several other areas.

I have already met many of you involved with the Board, and am very much looking forward to working with everyone over the coming months. I am very grateful to you all for the very warm welcome I have received; you clearly have a great partnership here.

Prior to joining Solihull, I was managing the safeguarding boards and community safety partnership in Herefordshire, and have also previously been involved with the LSCB's across West Mercia and Warwickshire.

I shall be with you all until the end of March 2018, so if there is anything you wish to discuss in relation to the Solihull LSCB, or feel there is anything the Business Unit can do to support its work, then do please feel free to contact me; stephen.eccleston@solihull.gov.uk 0121 788 4324

Steve Eccleston

LSCB Training Courses: 2018 dates

<p>Module 2: An Introduction to multi agency Working</p>	<p>Those who identify child protection concerns and make child protection referrals.</p>	<p>17th January</p> <p>7th March</p> <p>3rd May</p> <p>(All day)</p>
<p>Module 3: Child Protection: The challenges of multi-agency working</p>	<p>Those who also regularly attend child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do, or lead organisations that do</p>	<p>1st February</p> <p>18th July</p> <p>(All day)</p>
<p>Module 4: Child Protection: Analysis, judgement and leadership in partnership working</p>	<p>Those who may provide evidence in criminal and civil proceedings and those who lead or contribute to serious case reviews and those involved in the LSCB including sub-groups</p>	<p>8th March</p> <p>2nd May</p> <p>(All day)</p>

Module 5A Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness	Those who work with young people and who are responsible to identify and respond to child sexual exploitation	30th January (Half day-am) 17th April (Half day-am) 21st June (Half day- pm)
Module 6 (a) 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.	23rd January 18th April 27th June (All day)
Module 6(b) 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.	1st March (All day)
Module 6(c) – Neglect: The Graded Care Profile 2	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. Those who make home visits as part of their duties.	18th January 13th February 8th May 6th June (All day)
Module 7- Physical Abuse: 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.	26th April (Half Day-pm)
Module 8- Emotional Abuse: 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.	24th April (Half Day-am)
Module 9- Sexual Abuse: 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.	28th February 5th June (All day)

And Finally...

A big thank you!

As many of you are no doubt aware, Solihull of over recent weeks has been undergoing an LGA CSE Peer Challenge process, which culminated this week in the review team being based in Solihull, speaking to managers and practitioners, and examining case files and other material.

The process ended yesterday and we await the formal letter of findings which we will receive early in the New Year. Although it would appear from initial feedback that Solihull's collective response to CSE is strong, what has already come through very clearly from the Review Team is that they were highly impressed with the commitment, professionalism, knowledge and determination of everyone across the partnership to keeping children and young people safe from CSE. The reviewers were also keen to emphasise the openness and enthusiasm with which those that met with them had participated, in short they were really impressed with you all!

I have therefore been asked to extend the thanks of the senior leaders who requested and organised this peer review to you all for making it such a valuable process, and giving up your time to take part.

We will of course keep you updated with the detail of the findings when we have the formal feedback.

Steve Eccleston