

Welcome!

Welcome our third edition of the SSCB newsletter! Since the last newsletter Katie Clark has left her post as Board Manager. The Board would like to thank her for all her great work and the new Board Manager will be announced soon. As always we hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and please get in touch if you have any comments!

Working Together 2013

Comments from SSCB Independent Chair, Donald McPhail

The statutory guidance for Safeguarding Children Boards has been revised and the new Working Together to Safeguarding Children became operational on the 15th of April 2013.

This revision demonstrates formal response to issues raised by professor Eileen Munro when she recommended that Safeguarding Children Boards should address Early Intervention Services and should undertake reviews that involve staff more directly and attempt to understand 'why' events happened.

The new Working Together simplifies the guidance for Local Authorities on how assessments should be conducted and a timescale of 45 days has been established for the completion of the assessment process.

The new Working Together is 97 pages and replaces the earlier version of almost 400 pages. Everyone is encouraged to read it. My personal advice is to retain a copy of the previous Working Together as it includes very useful reference material that is not available in the new version.

Adult Services

The Board is keen to expand its work beyond those agencies who provide services specifically for children. As many adults are parents or carers, services for adults and children are closely linked. There are lots of ways we can help adult-focused services, for instance by reviewing your child safeguarding policy (contact jane.evans@southampton.gov.uk). We are currently planning a joint conference with the Safeguarding Adults Board, which will take place in Autumn / Winter 2013. We are also pleased to welcome Jackie Hall, Drug Action Team Manager, as a new member of the SSCB. The Drug Action Team oversees the way that money is spent on drug services and how these are provided.



**Remember our online policies and procedures:
4lscb.proceduresonline.com**

Child Sexual Exploitation

At the March Board a paper was presented on Southampton's current progress against the recommendations from the DfE Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan, and the interim report from the Office of the Children Commissioner Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups.

In response to the paper it was agreed that a Sub Committee would be established to scope the extent of the problem in Southampton. The group will run a workshop in summer 2013 to expand on this research and decide how to progress.



A Lay Member's perspective **By Clive Clifford, SSCB Lay Member**

Because of serious mistakes in the past the public has at times been critical of those who had a duty of care for affected children.

This led to the formation of LSCBs whose role is to ensure that there is interaction between the various agencies and that issues do not, figuratively speaking, fall between the cracks. The interests of adults – their desire to escape criticism, avoid controversy and carry on much as before – cannot be allowed to take precedence over the needs of all children.

In this the Lay Member's role comprises of supporting the Local Southampton Children Board (LSCB) by:

- Supporting stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and contributing to an improved understanding of the LSCB's child protection work in the wider community
- Challenging the LSCB on the accessibility by the public and children and young people of its plans and procedures
- Helping to make links between the LSCB and community groups.

Without such interaction it is not possible to arrive at a clear and enduring consensus about how we can better protect our children.

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If children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses.

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Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

National Safeguarding News

Recently in the news....



Children and Families Bill

The Children and Families Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on 4th February 2013. The Bill will reform the legislation for:

- Adoption and children in care
- Aspects of the family justice system
- Special Educational Needs
- The Office of the Children's Commissioner for England
- Statutory rights to leave and pay for parents and adopters
- Time off work for ante-natal care
- The right to request flexible working.

The Department of Education has also published a young person's guide to the Children and Families Bill. This guide aims to explain what will change for Children and Families if the Bill is agreed. It is described as a good summary of what Children and Young People need to know is in the Bill.

Download the
Young Person's
guide:
<http://bit.ly/YReTCf>

You can find out more about the Bill and its progression through Parliament here:
<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/childrenandfamilies.html>

Missing Persons

From April 2013 Police forces are to move towards a new approach to risk assessing and responding to missing person cases that aims to better protect children and vulnerable adults.

The new definition distinguishes between people who are:

- Absent: not at a place where they are expected or required to be.
- Missing: not at the place they are expected to be but the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests they may be subject of a crime or at risk of harm to themselves or others.

Association of Chief Police Officers lead for missing people, Chief Constable Pat Geenty said: "Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults requires a multi-agency response and both police and partners agree on the need to move beyond a 'one-size fits all' response."

The new definition is said to give police forces a tool to identify and direct resources towards those cases where missing persons are most at risk of harm.

The Interim guidance can be found here:
<http://bit.ly/11rhJ4h>

Upcoming Training Events

Working Together Level 2

For people who have regular contact with children and young people and some involvement in child protection. Building on the Level 1 online module, or your specific single agency training, this course will look in more detail at safeguarding children and young people as well as the referral process in Southampton. **When:** 16th May 2013, 09:30 - 4:00

Where: Eastpoint Centre. **Cost:** £110 (Early Years and Child Care providers £50)

Child Protection Lead Officer Refresher training

All CPLOs should attend refresher training at 2 yearly intervals to meet the requirements of Ofsted and the Education Act 2002. **When:** 21st May 2013, 09:30 - 12:30 **Where:** Eastpoint Centre **Cost:** £60 (Early Years and Child Care Providers £25)

Child Protection Lead Officer Training for new Lead Officers and Safeguarding Leads

Inspire offer the opportunity to attend a one day learning and development session. This will give delegates the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding around Child Protection. **When:** 4th June 2013, 9:30 - 16:30

Where: Eastpoint Centre **Cost:** £125 (Early Years and Child Care Providers £50)

Working Together Level 3

For people who have a high level of child protection involvement. The Children Act 1989 placed a duty on local authorities to investigate if there was reasonable cause to suspect that a child in the local area was suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. It builds on the Working Together Level 2 course. **When:** 20 and 21st June 2013, 9:30 - 16:30

Where: Eastpoint Centre **Cost:** £285

For more information or to book your place on the above courses please contact:

Email: inspire@southampton.gov.uk

Tel: 023 8083 3781

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A person's
a person, no
matter how
small

Dr. Seuss

”

News from our partners

Hate Crime App

Hampshire Constabulary have created a new App to help victims of Hate Crime. Based on the recently published booklet 'Helping Victims of Hate Crime', it contains information on reporting incidents to the Police as well as details of other agencies who can help. The App can currently be downloaded from iTunes (search for 'Hate Crime') and is being developed for Android.

CIS'ters: Outgrowing the Pain, Breaking Free and Healing

CIS'ters offer a confidential environment for adult female survivors to discuss their feelings & anxieties related to their prior experiences of rape and/or sexual abuse/exploitation as children/young people by a member of their immediate/extended family. Host group meetings in Southampton, a newsletter and also topic based workshops.

CIS'ters – Helpline 023 80 338080

Email: admin@cisters.org.uk

Survivors experience growth through:

- Being believed and heard;
- Being listened to, with empathy and compassion;
- Receiving positive feedback & encouragement;
- Sharing resources, coping strategies and insights;
- Seeing new possibilities and options;
- Being inspired by others' progress and hope;
- No longer feeling isolated;
- Gaining in confidence and self esteem;
- No longer keeping the secret; and
- Laughing as well as crying together

Our next newsletter will be published in July.

**Do you have an item you would like to publish?
Contact us on: 02380 83 2995 or jane.evans@southampton.gov.uk**

