



# The Safe-guarder

CSCB Newsletter Number 1 Autumn 2007

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Safeguarding children - everyone's responsibility



## Welcome from the CSCB

A very warm welcome to all readers to the very first edition of 'The Safeguarder', the quarterly Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) newsletter. Many of you will already know that the CSCB partnership took over from the former Calderdale Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) in April 2006 in line with the Children Act 2004. Also, that CSCB has the statutory 'teeth' to pursue its primary purpose of ensuring that all children and young people's safeguarding activities in Calderdale are properly co-ordinated, monitored and evaluated, so as to keep its young people safe.

The CSCB has focussed over the last year or so in getting the key strategic structures and processes in place for it to be able to operate effectively. However, it is now very conscious of the important need to start to effectively communicate, engage with and include you the reader; whether you are professional frontline staff and management from one of its agencies, teachers, children and young people, their carers or foster carers, volunteers or anybody else with an interest in making sure that Calderdale's youngsters are safe and sound and able to achieve their full potential and talents.

This newsletter is a part of that process and seeks to inform you of what's going on, safeguarding wise, in and around Calderdale. It will also want to hear from you about stories, issues, examples of good practice, successes and lessons to be learnt, views and thoughts you may have and want to include in the newsletter. We will also run a 'Safeguarder of the Season' section so here is your chance to nominate someone, or perhaps a team, including yourself, who you think has made a difference to children and young people in Calderdale. It's a chance to celebrate and bring to wider notice the incredibly important and worthwhile job you all do to keep Calderdale kids safe and sound.

In this edition we bring you a few words from our independent chair, Mr Mike Stow. Mike is a former head of children's services in a nearby local authority and was the independent chair of the old Calderdale ACPC. He plays a very important part in, amongst things, ensuring that agencies and individuals are held to account for their organisations' safeguarding activities. He brings a vast range of knowledge, experience and commitment to the role. (*enough with the Big Up!* Ed.)

Also there is news of the CSCB's flagship event, the annual Practitioner's Conference majoring on the theme of Neglect to be held on November 16. Also how you can access on-line a free E-Learning Basic Safeguarding Awareness course; news on the CSCB training programme and the CSCB Annual Report 2006/07 which is full of interesting information on achievements made so far. Read about the new link with the Centre for Applied Childhood Studies at the University of Huddersfield.

We hope you find the newsletter informative and useful and if anybody wants to suggest an alternative snappy name for it, please feel free. Do not forget to click onto our brand new website at [www.calderdale-scb.org.uk](http://www.calderdale-scb.org.uk) to find out what else going on, including getting onto the all-new Safeguarding Procedures. Keep safe!

Paul Sharkey, Safeguarding Manager to the CSCB





## CSCB Chair's message

I am pleased that I now have the opportunity to communicate with you all as Independent Chair of your Safeguarding Children Board. I am particularly pleased to do so in the context of the first newsletter that is produced under the auspices of the Board.

I am grateful to those colleagues who have worked to bring the idea of a publication to fruition.

We know that the safeguarding of children and young people is a responsibility shared by all professionals and agencies across Calderdale. This is an often shared message but, whatever the primary focus of our contact with children and young people, it is one that must remain at the fore front of our work.

Our work is subject to constant challenge and development. It is anticipated that the newsletter will assist in increasing the awareness and understanding of these changes. The Boards website will also play a major role and this recent innovation is a most welcome addition to the communication arm of the Board's work so please develop the habit of looking at the site on a regular basis.

The work of the Board is underpinned by a series of subgroups. The membership of these is drawn from across all agencies and this is a way in which the views of staff at all levels can be linked into and influence the work of the Board. I very much hope that we can also develop the use of the facilities in existence within Calderdale to enable the input of views from young people to further extend our understanding.

I look forward to meeting those of you who will be attending the Conference in November. We are planning the introduction of Professional Forums in the foreseeable future. I will be seeking to attend a number of these and I look forward to this further opportunity to meet with you.

Best wishes

R M Stow: Independent Chair





## Visit our web site

We hope you have found this first edition of the 'Safeguarder' informative and interesting. Why not go to our excellent new website at [www.calderdale-scb.org.uk](http://www.calderdale-scb.org.uk) where you will find all you need to know about the CSCB, what it does, who its membership is, training, the Annual Business Plan, new developments and a host of other things.

**Oh yes... and this is where you can access the all-new West Yorkshire Safeguarding Consortium Safeguarding procedures, click here now!!**

[www.calderdale-scb.org.uk](http://www.calderdale-scb.org.uk)





## Annual Conference 2007

### “ Neglect, am I bovered ”

The Conference, to be held at the KITS Centre in Brighouse on Friday 16 November, is the flagship event of the CSCB and is not to be missed. The core theme is Neglect. With around 60% of all children on the CSCB child protection register under this category - compared to about 40% nationally - it is the key issue for all. Practitioners face the common challenge of wrestling with how to recognise neglect, how to define it and how to respond to it, . . . and should we take a family support approach, do nothing or adopt a harder edge child protection intervention? The Conference will be an occasion for practitioners and managers to meet to consider these and related matters.

CSCB has achieved a major coup in getting **Nigel Parton, NSPCC Professor at The Centre for Applied Childhood Studies at the University of Huddersfield**, to set the ‘Big Picture’ context with his keynote speech, a wide ranging and insightful tour of the current state of safeguarding policy and where Neglect fits into this. Not to be missed!

There will also be a choice of **five practitioner workshops** to attend, ranging from a practitioner’s Neglect toolkit, Neglect and the health perspective, Neglect and parental substance abuse, Obesity, is it Neglect? Working with neglect in a children’s centre and Neglect and the Common Assessment Framework. Something for everybody and conference goers will have two bites of the cherry, as there will be morning and afternoon workshops.

Bringing the whole thing to life will be a **professional drama group** who have been commissioned to deliver an experimental drama piece encapsulating the issues from a child’s perspective.

Demand will be very high for the 110 places on the conference so you need to contact your CSCB agency rep now to get a place. If you do not know who your agency rep is go to the **CSCB website [www.calderdale-scb.org.uk](http://www.calderdale-scb.org.uk)** and find out who your Safeguarding Implementation Group (SIG) organisational rep is; they have the places available but these are going fast!





## CSCB Inter agency Training Programme

CSCB is very please to announce that its new **full time training co-ordinator**, Julie Bragg - formerly a senior practitioner at the Elland child protection and family suport team - is starting on 5 November. Julie will be building on the excellent work of the training sub-group and the acting training co-ordinator, Jim Monaghan, in overseeing the delivery of the **brand new 18 month training programme** which can now be accessed through the [CSCB website](#), click training! Why not have a look at the programme and book yourself onto a course.

Let Julie know [julie.bragg@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:julie.bragg@calderdale.gov.uk) if you have any ideas about additional courses for the Programme.





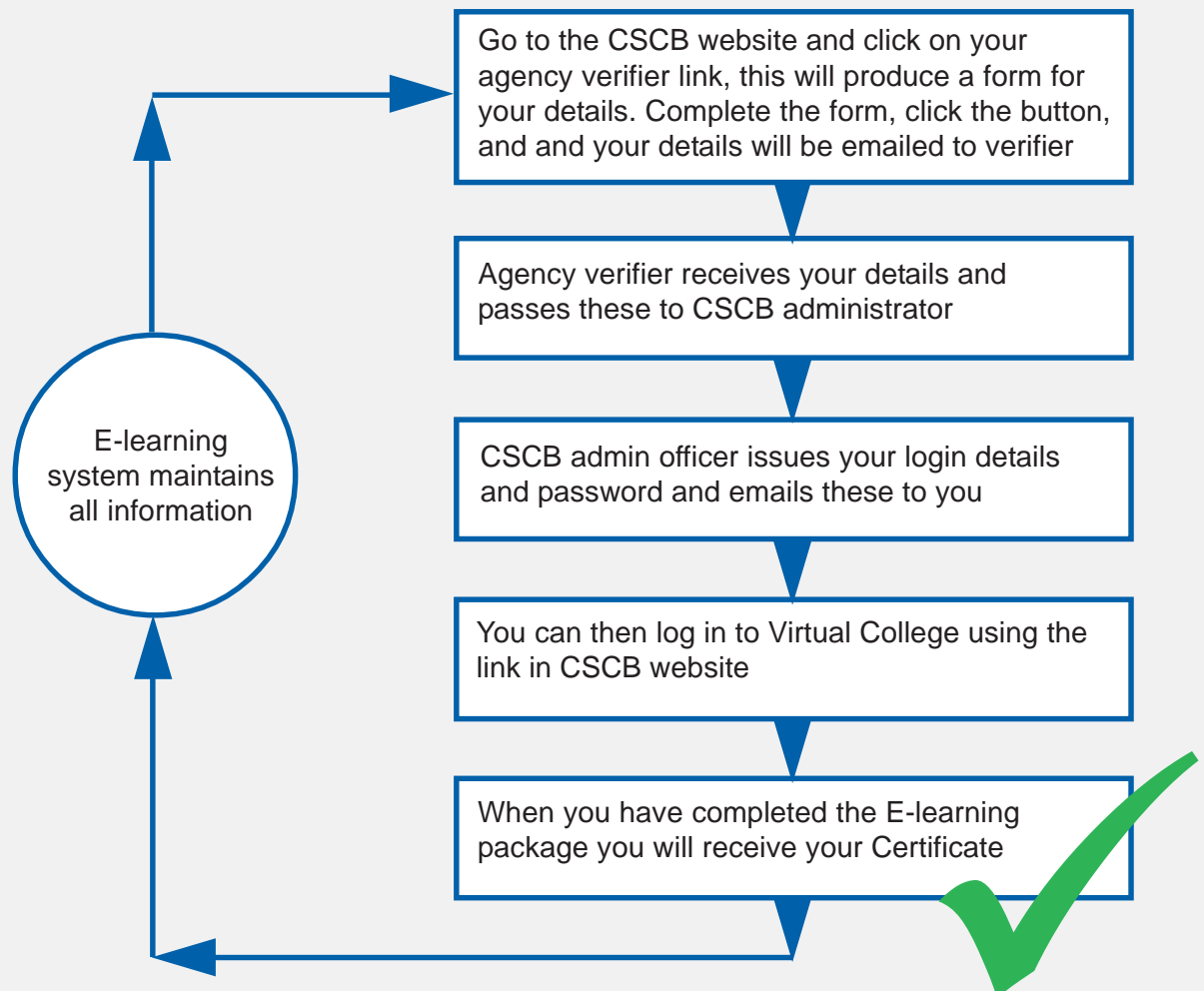
## E - Learning using 'Virtual College'

### Basic Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect

Partner agencies and employees will be pleased to hear that the mandatory requirement (WT 2006) for all agencies to provide basic awareness in how to safeguard children, can be fully met, monitored and evaluated through the e-learning training course '**Basic Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect**'.

Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board have gone the extra mile over and above simply signposting this course and renewed their subscription to the Virtual College package.

The course is available **free** to partner agencies by using the CSCB web site, [www.calderdale-scb.org.uk](http://www.calderdale-scb.org.uk) . You can simply complete your own agency's online application form, you will then receive a password and username from the CSCB administrator.



Jim Monaghan  
Multi agency Safeguarding Training Coordinator (Temp)



## New links with University of Huddersfield

As part of its development towards becoming a Learning Organisation the CSCB, at its September meeting, approved a decision to forge collaborative links with the nationally renowned and prestigious, **University of Huddersfield's Centre for Applied Childhood Studies** [www.hud.ac.uk/hhs/research/acs/index.htm](http://www.hud.ac.uk/hhs/research/acs/index.htm)

The CSCB will become an associate member of the Centre and act as a 'knowledge bridge' between the research and policy work of the Centre and agencies' practice on the ground in Calderdale. Ideas and proposals are being worked up between the CSCB and the Centre's new head, Professor Adele Jones.

Early possibilities include a major Calderdale based study on professional's perceptions of what constitutes child neglect and how best to intervene; joint practitioner/academic seminars where new knowledge can be tested and shared; and jointly hosted conferences and events around child welfare and safeguarding issues.

**Click here to go onto the CSCB website for details of a co-hosted seminar at the Centre on the 22 November (4.30-6.30 pm in Room HWG-03) examining the important theme of 'Child Centred Knowledge: The perspectives and insights that are gained when children and young people's views inform research, policy and practice'. Admission is free and is open to all who are interested with no booking needed.**

Watch this space  
for further exciting developments!



## CSCB Annual Report

CSCB puts Annual Report 2006/07  
on its website!

For those readers who can't get enough of the CSCB (*steady on, they've got lives you know, Ed!*) why not look up the 2006/07 annual report? It's on the website and is full of facts and figures about what happened with safeguarding in the CSCB's first year of existence. [Click here.](#)





## Next edition

In the next bumper edition of 'The Safeguarder' there will be news on

- Serious Case Reviews - what are they and do they do any good?
- Where are we with Child Death Review Teams in Calderdale?
- What happens when the Child Protection Register is axed in April 2008?  
(by 'eck, lighten up! Ed.)
- Not forgetting 'Safeguarder of the Season', so send your nominations in.
- Oh and we also want to start a column for children and young people and their carers so keep a look out for the Winter edition of 'The Safeguarder', it'll be out in January 2008.
- Also, please let us know if there are topics you would like to include.

## Contact us

The CSCB is very keen to receive feedback from all those working or in some way involved in keeping Calderdale's children and young people safe. If you have any comments to make about the newsletter, the website or anything else contact the safeguarding manager, **Paul Sharkey**, on 01422 393498 or [paul.sharkey@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:paul.sharkey@calderdale.gov.uk)

