



Welcome from the CSCB

Dear reader, welcome to the second edition of the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board newsletter, 'The Safeguarder'.

As usual, there are tons of new developments happening in the world of safeguarding children and young people.

We begin with Mike Stow's 'Chairs' column where he highlights some of the key matters on the local agenda. Julie Bragg follows with news about local development, learning and training opportunities from the CSCB. We have had great response from practitioners to the multi-agency courses so **get yourself on a CSCB course now!**

Much work has been done on developing a multi-agency 'threshold for intervention' document to assist practitioners when making referrals and undertaking the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Children in Need Assessments. Iain Low, Principal Officer of the Calderdale Multi-Agency Assessment Service (CMASS) provides a guide to this.

There are articles on Serious Case Reviews, Child Death Reviews and the discontinuation of the Child Protection Register. Also, have a close look at the new **Local Safeguarding Practitioner Forums** and how you can get involved with one in your local area.

Finally, we celebrate the work of PC Trudgill, Safeguarder of the Season, for his sterling work protecting young people from child sexual exploitation, congratulations Phil and huge thanks from the CSCB!!

Please access the website at www.calderdale-scb.org.uk and contact me with any comments you have for future articles, nominations for Safeguarder of the Season or anything else!

Keep safe!

Paul Sharkey:
Safeguarding Manager to the CSCB





CSCB Chair's message

I hope that you enjoyed the first Newsletter and that you found the information that it contains useful. Please let us know if you have any ideas for future content.

You will now be aware of the progress in establishing the professional forums. The details of the dates etc. have been widely circulated within agencies. If however you have not seen the information the details are in this edition of the Newsletter. Service demands permitting this is an opportunity for you to meet at a local level with colleagues across all agencies to explore issues relating to the safeguarding of children and young people.

The Children and Young Persons Management Group meets monthly. This is the tangible manifestation of the Children's Trust arrangements in Calderdale. I attend to represent the Safeguarding Board. This 'joining up' of the arrangements is valuable.

Over recent meetings we have received presentations from services and activities in the voluntary sector within Calderdale. I have been impressed by the commitment of the agencies and services from whom we have received presentations to the need to have active Safeguarding Children arrangements in place. This reflects the work of colleagues in the Community Forum.

The Local Area Agreement is currently being developed. Performance targets are an integral aspect of the process. There are a number which relate to the Safeguarding of Children and Young People. This reflects the importance of the work. If you need further information please raise within your line management arrangements.

Finally a thank you. As you will be aware there are changes taking place in April 2008 to the way in which the Connexions Service is managed. Much of the work previously undertaken by the Connexions Service will transfer to the Local Authority here in Calderdale.

Local staff within Connexions, particularly Leanne Gacic and Vicky Witter, have played a key role both in Calderdale and within the Connexions agency in ensuring that the Safeguarding of Young People is given high priority. They have also approached their responsibilities in a flexible way and in so doing have enable a number of Safeguarding initiatives to develop with Calderdale. Thank you both for your contribution to the work of the Board and to the Safeguarding of Young People in Calderdale.

Best wishes

R M Stow:
Independent Chair





Inter-agency Training

I would like this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Multi-agency Training Co-ordinator for CSCB. I started my new role on the 5 November 2007, having previously been employed as a Senior Practitioner at Elland Family Support and Child Protection Team. I have had a busy three months settling in to what is a new and exciting role.

I am very pleased to say that the CSCB Training Programme is now up and running. We have held several courses and have had some excellent responses to meeting learning outcomes with course content. I would like to thank those of you who have already attended courses for spending the time to complete our evaluation form. These are invaluable to enable us to develop the training programme and ensure that it meets your training and development needs.

I have also had the opportunity to meet with colleagues who I have previously worked with in a multi-agency setting and it has given me great pleasure to see how excited you have been in having a Safeguarding Training Programme in place. The courses have been an excellent opportunity for developing multi-agency working as well as sharing skills and knowledge.

There are still a few places available on the March courses, however you do need to apply quickly as they will get full.

Working together to safeguard children and young people

11 + 12 March 2008 9.30 to 4.00pm

Impact of adult mental health problems on parenting

4 March 2008 9.30 to 4.00pm.

Listening to children and young people

18 March 2008 9.30 to 4.00pm.

Cultural assumptions and safeguarding children

19 March 2008 9.30 to 4.00pm.

Please apply by completing the application form in the Training Programme 2007-09, see programme fax form or see apply for your place on line.

Part of my role, along with the Training Sub Group, is to develop the training and learning programme, so I welcome any ideas that you may have about additional training. You can ring me on 01422 392197 or e-mail julie.bragg@calderdale.gov.uk

Many Thanks

Julie Bragg:
Multi Agency Training Co-ordinator.

www.calderdale-scb.org.uk



Thresholds for Intervention

Children and young people 'in need' and 'in need of protection' are the concern and responsibility of all agencies and practitioners who deliver services to children.

Identifying children and young people with additional needs, carrying out assessments, planning and reviewing packages of support to meet their needs, is a corporate responsibility which falls on all sections of the Council and its partners.

Early identification of additional needs in children and young people and improving the outcomes for children and young people is achieved through close collaboration between individual workers and agencies both at a strategic and practice level.

The Safeguarding Calderdale Children: Thresholds for Intervention – Multi-agency Working document is a tool to support practitioners working with Calderdale's children and young people in decision making in conjunction with their own in-house procedures, Common Assessment Framework (CAF) guidance and the West Yorkshire Consortium Safeguarding procedures.

The document uses a tiered model of need and intervention adapted from Hardiker, Exton and Barker (1992) and the Department of Health (2000)¹.

It provides a conceptual framework for matching the level of children and young people's needs to the complexity of the interventions required to meet that need. The framework has four levels:

Tier 1 Universal

Tier 2 Targeted – Vulnerable Children, Early Prevention

Tier 3 Targeted – Children in Need, Family Support

Tier 4 Complex – Children in Need, Statutory Intervention, Significant Harm

Tiers 2 and 3 split and have a Tier 2/3 and 3/4.

The framework should not be seen as static; children and young people will move between the tiers as their situations change. The aim of the framework is that at each tier, children and young people have access to all services in the tiers below and additional services relevant to their tier. Movement across the tiers is based on assessment, using the Common Assessment Framework.

The task of creating the document for Calderdale was given to the North Halifax Information Sharing and Assessment (ISA) Pilot. The document was agreed by colleagues on the multi-agency ISA Pilot Project Group during 2006. In late December 2006 it was approved by the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board. With the launch of Calderdale Multi-Agency Assessment Service (CMAS), further changes were necessary and they were agreed by the Safeguarding Implementation Group (SIG) in October 2007.

The CSCB launched the document formally in February 2008.

¹ Hardiker P, Atkins B, Barker M, Brunton-Reed S, Exton K, Perry M and Pinnock M (2002), 'A Framework for conceptualising need and its application to planning and providing services'.



Serious Case Reviews

Many readers will have heard of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and their connections with Local Safeguarding Children Boards. But what exactly are they and what are they for?

SCRs have been around for many years under the old Area Child Protection Committees. Now they are an important part of Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) business. Nationally about 100 take place every year.

A SCR is always carried out by the LSCB when a child dies and abuse or neglect is known, or suspected, to be a factor in the death. *Working Together* (2006) guidance also states that LSCBs should consider holding a SCR where a child has sustained a life threatening injury through abuse or neglect, serious sexual assault, or through serious and permanent impairment of health or development through abuse or neglect.

LSCBs should also consider holding a SCR where a case gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and cases where a parent has been killed in a domestic violence incident, and where a child has been killed by a parent with mental illness.

The purpose of an SCR is to establish what lessons can be learnt about the way professionals and organisations worked together, how they will be acted upon and what is expected to change in order to improve inter-agency working and improve safeguarding practice to children.

So essentially, SCRs are exercises in learning and improving policy and practice and outcomes for children and young people. They are not inquiries into how a child died or who was culpable, this is the business of Coroners and the Criminal Court.

An SCR is always commissioned by an LSCB and involves setting up a multi-agency review panel of senior and experienced managers, with an independent chair, to ensure objectivity and impartiality.

The panel must produce a report to the LSCB on lessons learnt, the LSCB then ratifies the conclusions and recommendations for actioning the lessons. The report also goes to Ofsted and Government Office for their scrutiny and response.

All relevant agencies are expected to produce and implement an action plan, based on the recommendations, which is overseen by the CSCB Quality Assurance Sub-Group and CSCB.

CSCB has held several SCRs and is currently, through its SCR and Training Sub-Group, intending to put on some dissemination events around local and national lessons (see next article by Mike Stow), so watch out for these. If you need more details on SCRs go to section 10 of the West Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Board procedures on www.calderdale-scb.org.uk



Serious Case Reviews

learning from the outcomes of a National Report

There are a number of Serious Case review ongoing currently within Calderdale. As these reviews provide a valuable learning opportunity it is important that the lessons that emerge are addressed. The outcome of these and the messages regarding the practice and management issues for agencies will be disseminated in due course.

However, there is an important national publication currently available on the DCSF website which I recommend to all managers and practitioners.

The document *Analysing child deaths and serious injury through abuse and neglect: what can we learn?* is a biennial analysis of serious case reviews undertaken during 2003-05.

Many of the lessons that emerge from the analysis are pertinent to our safeguarding work here in Calderdale.

I recommend that you look at the report and consider how the findings apply to your practice as managers and front line staff.

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/seriouscasereviews

The issues highlighted in the Executive Summary include:

- *Two thirds of the 161 children died and a third were seriously injured.*
- *A total of 12% of children were named on the child protection register, and 55% of children were known to children's social care at the time of the incident.*
- *The families of very young children who were physically assaulted (including those with head injuries) tended to be in contact with universal services or adult services rather than children's social care.*
- *In families where children suffered long term neglect, children's social care often failed to take account of past history and adopted the 'start again syndrome'.*
- *In the cases where the information was available, well over half of the children had been living with domestic violence, or parental mental ill health, or parental substance misuse. These three problems often coexisted*

continued over





The Practice notes that are drawn out in the Summary include:

It is what is done with information, rather than its simple accumulation, that leads to more analytic assessments and safer practice.

Staff working with young babies and their families, particularly midwives, health visitors and GPs, have a key role in safeguarding children.

Some older adolescents are beyond the reach of existing services and their vulnerability is not being recognised or taken sufficiently seriously by professionals.

The added impact of parental mental ill health, to the known risks of harm to children when domestic violence and parental drug or alcohol misuse coexist, is a potential risk factor which should inform both assessment and intervention.

All practitioners working with children and in services for adults need to be aware of the risks of significant harm across all levels of need and intervention.

Working with early needs means working within, not outside of, the safeguarding continuum.

Since there is considerable emphasis currently on electronic information sharing, it is very important to remember the power of personal contact.

The 'start again syndrome' prevents practitioners thinking and acting systematically in cases of long standing neglect.

Family 'volatility' and a history of previous injury or admission to A&E for the child present warning signs of abuse. Moreover, community and hospital based practitioners need a greater awareness of the dangers of domestic violence to children's safety.

'Agency neglect' of these 'hard to reach' young people should be acknowledged.

More creative, more responsive services are required that address the young people's trauma and the root causes of their problems. Better join up with adult services is essential.

All of these issues are relevant to our work - some of these are reflected in previous or current Serious Case Reviews here in Calderdale which makes the national analysis even more pertinent to your activities and responsibilities.

Mike Stow:
Independent Chair





Child Death Reviews

Starting on 1 April 2008 each Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) will be required, in line with Government guidance *Working Together 2006* chapter 7, to have procedures to look at all child deaths in their area. This function has two interrelated processes:

- A rapid and co-ordinated response by a multi-agency group of key professionals, known as the Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood (SUDIC) team, to enquire into and evaluate each unexpected death of a child.
- An overview of all deaths of children under 18 year's old in the LSCB area to be undertaken by a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).

In Calderdale there are around 25-30 child deaths per year most of which are due to natural causes or accidents (road traffic accidents).

The SUDIC team will be led by a paediatrician and will provide a rapid, co-ordinated and sensitive service in all cases of unexpected child deaths. There is an intention that the CDOP will be a joint Calderdale/Kirklees group. It will meet several times per year and identify public health trends and patterns in child deaths, eg a cluster of road traffic accidents. These will be reported to the CSCB in order to improve policy and practice to help minimise factors accounting for the deaths.

Further information on CDOPs can be found at the *Every Child Matters* website under 'Safeguarding Children'. www.everychildmatters.gov.uk



Child Protection Register

The child protection register will cease to exist as from 1 April 2008, in line with Working Together 2006.

It will be replaced by a list, underpinned by the local authorities Integrated Children's System (ICS) IT system, of all children and young people in Calderdale who are subject to a **child protection plan**.

In practice, exactly the same process takes place when practitioners make enquiries about whether a child has a child protection plan, as is the current practice when consulting the child protection register. Practitioners should contact the Safeguarding Unit and ask whether a particular child is the subject of a child protection plan, rather than are they on the child protection register.

Safeguarding Unit:

Tel: 01422 393337





Safeguarding Practitioner Forums

All front line practitioners and managers across the CSCB should keep a look out for Local Safeguarding Practitioner forums (LSPF) coming to your area. LSPFs are being set up in each of four areas in Calderdale, see below, and are aimed at bringing together practitioners and front line managers from all member agencies to:

- Establish a local point of reference for identifying safeguarding and child protection issues.
- Encourage inter-agency working and learning at a local level.
- Communicate issues to the CSCB from the 'grassroots'.
- Provide a local forum for consultation and disseminating the work of the CSCB.

Local meetings are as follows:

Central Halifax	20 February 2008, 10.00 to 11.00am Jubilee Centre, Lightowler Road, Halifax
Calder Valley	13 March 2008, 1.30 to 2.30pm Todmorden Children's Centre, Todmorden Community College
North Halifax	17 March 2008 2.30 to 3.30pm Mixenden Children's Centre, 1 Sunnybank Road, Mixenden
Lower Valley	19 March 2008 2.30 to 3.30pm Elland Children's Centre, Boxhall Road, Elland

For more information contact Julie Bragg on 01422 392197 or julie.bragg@calderdale.gov.uk



Safeguarder of the Season



This award is an acknowledgement for outstanding contribution to safeguarding Calderdale's children and young people.

In Winter 2008, the award goes to Police Officer, Phil Trudgill.

PC Trudgill has been working tirelessly locating missing children and young people (as well as adults) and as the child sexual exploitation police officer. PC Trudgill has the knack of quickly gaining the trust of vulnerable children and young people, who in turn help him out if required.

PC Trudgill is always willing to go that extra mile to support his multi-agency partners by providing advice, attending a strategy meeting, or talking with a parent. PC Trudgill was recently instrumental in gaining an excellent arrest of a Calderdale adult involved in sexual exploitation.

Well done, and a big thank you to PC Trudgill!

Remember, you can nominate a colleague for this award.





Next edition

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

- E-safety and ICT Awareness
- The Government's new 'Staying Safe' Strategy and what it means for you
- Not forgetting 'Safeguarder of the Season', **so send your nominations in.**
- 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

