



The Safe-guarder

CSCB Newsletter Number 3

Summer 2008

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Safeguarding children - everyone's responsibility



Welcome from the CSCB

Hello Dear Reader

Is it summer already? Time for a well earned break in the sun, home or abroad. Meanwhile, events and happenings in the Safeguarding World proceed apace.

In this edition of the Safeguarder we kick off with Mike Stow's '**Chair's Message**'. He draws attention to the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board reviewing its scope and remit particularly around its engagement on the wider remit of Safeguarding.

The issue of **Core Groups** and their key role in protecting children in Calderdale is addressed in an article by Andrew Crabtree, Development Officer in the Safeguarding Unit. Andrew and a small multi-agency task group undertook an audit of Core Group effectiveness for the CSCB. His article comes up with some useful findings.

West Yorkshire Fire Service's Mike Smith asks for your help in identifying those vulnerable people who would benefit from a free Home **Fire Safety Check**.

Julie Bragg, the Multi-Agency Training Coordinator brings you up to date with all of the exciting news around Safeguarding **Multi-agency Training**.

Veronica Mellor, the School's Child Protection Advisor writes about the development of an **Anti-bullying Strategy** for Calderdale. This is a really key issue and has been identified as such by the Calderdale Youth Forum through the work of Anne Gomersall, Senior Participation in the Children and Young People's Partnership.

This year's CSCB Annual Conference on 19 November, jointly hosted with Calderdale Council's Children and Young People's Directorate, is on anti-bullying so put this date in your diary.

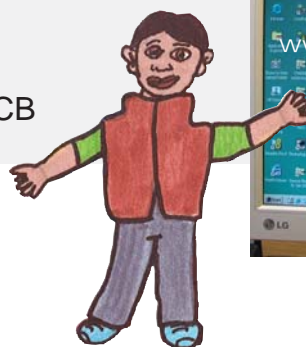
E - Safety both in and out of schools is fast emerging as a significant safeguarding issue both nationally and locally. Trevor Harris, PSHCE Consultant from Learning Services and our man patrolling cyberspace brings you news on what is happening on this front in Calderdale.

Finally, Nicki O'Keefe, Coordinator Protection from **Child Sexual Exploitation** (CSE) and Missing Children and Young People, updates on developments around CSE.

Let us know if there are any issues you want looking at and feel free to send an article in to me.

Have a great summer!

Paul Sharkey:
Safeguarding Manager to the CSCB





CSCB Chair's message

I very much hope that you are enjoying and finding value in the items that appear in each of the issues of the Safeguarder. If you have any articles that you wish to be considered for inclusion in future issues please discuss and submit to Paul Sharkey, Safeguarding Manager.

The Safeguarding Board is in the process of reviewing its work. This will take place over the next six months and is necessary as we have been operating for two years and there have been many changes in both the local and national environment over this time.

One of the key expectations of Local Safeguarding Boards, in addition to focusing on the multi agency child protection environment, is a responsibility to become engaged with the wider remit of safeguarding children. The Board will be exploring how this responsibility is being met and how the Board can monitor and influence developments in Calderdale. I am struck by the way in which agencies in Calderdale are engaged with the wider agenda of safeguarding of children and young people. This is very positive and demonstrates that the message of 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility' is being addressed. That is not to say that everything is perfect but it provides a firm foundation for future developments.

On the issue of the protection of children and support to those subject to a child protection plan there are concerns with regard to the operation of Core Groups. The Board received a report at the June meeting. This report indicated that there is room for improvement in the way in which these key groups operate (See elsewhere in this edition for details).

I must remind you all of the importance of following the procedures and expectations of the Board with regard to Core Groups - see website for details if in doubt, and to ask those of you in practice to ensure that you play your part in the effective functioning of Core Groups by attending, sharing information and carrying through on key actions. Those of you who are managers please ensure that you support members of your team to fulfil their responsibilities.

I hope that those of you who are planning holidays over the summer have a restful and pleasant break.

Best wishes

R M Stow:
Independent Chair





Making Core Groups Work

The Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) commissioned a report on how effectively child protection core groups are working. A small task group undertook a short term piece of work using secondary data analysis of key documents such as core group minutes, review reports and minutes from a random sample of case files. It was concluded that the Safeguarding procedures on core groups are fit for purpose and do not require amendment. Positive working relationships with families is acknowledged and generally core group meetings are taking place regularly and there are examples of effective multi-agency work.

However, the CSCB is committed to continual improvement and there are some areas to look at. It is important that all agencies read the procedures about core groups. They are available on the CSCB website: www.calderdale-scb.org.uk. Regular attendance needs to improve. If core group members are unable to attend any meetings, then a colleague should attend on their behalf. If this is not possible, then at the very least, a report of their involvement should be provided. Line managers should monitor and audit the quality of contributions from agency representatives in core groups, including written reports and actions to follow up on. Agency representatives need to be clear about their role within the core group.

Specific timescales within child protection plans should be stated wherever possible. Attendance of parents and young people (where appropriate) at core group meetings should be continually encouraged. There will be some minor amendments to the core groups minutes pro-forma and the CSCB have decided that minutes should be sent out within 10 working days.

Multi-agency training on core groups will be available later this year.

Andrew Crabtree:
Development Officer.

www.calderdale-scb.org.uk



Fire Safety Checks

Last year the fire service in West Yorkshire visited over **56,000** homes to offer fire safety advice and fit free smoke alarms where needed. The visit, known as a 'Home Fire Safety Check' consists of a chat and advice for the resident, a quick look around for any obvious hazards and the fitting of smoke alarms – **all for free!**

Although the **56,000** checks were a fantastic achievement we are mindful that there are a lot of vulnerable people in our community that are missing out on this fantastic service, and they usually fall into one of the following categories:

- **Elderly and living alone**
- **Disabled without constant care**
- **Drug or alcohol dependants**
- **Low social background**
- **Victims of abuse**
- **Single parent families**

We class these as **high risk** clients and we can offer a bespoke service to these individuals offering additional control measures such as deaf alarms, flame retardant throws and bedding, electric blankets and in extreme cases domestic sprinkler systems

The list could go on but it is fair to say that in general, the people who contact us and invite us to their home for a safety check are rarely from the above groups.

This is where you come in! We need our partners working in the community to;

- 1. Spot vulnerable people in the community who would benefit from a safety check!**
- 2. Refer them to us!**

How? Just ring **0800 5874536**. You will need the person's permission to do this but once we have the details we will contact them and take it from there.

It's as easy as that! And if you like we could even offer training in hazard spotting for your staff for free!

If you would like any further information on this or any partnership matters please contact me direct.



Mick Smith
Calderdale Assistant District Manager
Tel: 01422 386858
Mobile: 0778 999 1092
or visit our web site:
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk



Inter-agency Training

I am now settled into my new role and I am beginning to feel like a veteran. It has been an exciting time ensuring that CSCB's training programme is up and running as well as developing new training programmes. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting new and old acquaintances at my training sessions.

There is currently a real 'buzz' about the multi agency training programme it is not only an opportunity to progress your own personal and professional learning development it is also a fantastic way of networking to enhance multi agency working.

Future training events:

- **Developing assessment skills (multi-agency) to Safeguard Children and Young People.**
19 August 2008 9.30am-4.00pm
4 November 2008 9.30-4.00pm

This is a brand new course to the training programme having run the session on the 5 June everyone that attended found it to thoroughly enjoyable as well as being extremely useful for their practice

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People.**
9 and 10 September 2008 9.30am-4.00pm
18 and 19 November 2008 9.30am-4.00pm
- **Impact of adult mental health problems on parenting.**
16 September 2008 9.30am-4.00pm
- **Serious Case Reviews - lessons learnt nationally and locally.**
12 September and 14 October 2008 9.30am-12.30pm

it is so easy to apply - access the website on www.calderdale-scb.org.uk click onto training and then apply on line.

I suggest you do this as soon as possible as the courses do get full very quickly.

New Training Events:

I am working on lots of projects to develop new training programmes. These include:

- **Forced Marriages**
- **Core Groups**

Launch of the new Calderdale Protocol for safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation.

Keep your eye on the website for dates when these will be launched.

If anyone has any ideas with regards to additional training please do not hesitate to contact me on 01422 392197 or e-mail me at julie.bragg@calderdale.gov.uk

Many Thanks

Julie Bragg:
Multi-agency Training Co-ordinator.



Anti-bullying Strategy

Development of the Calderdale Anti-Bullying Strategy is now under way, a key objective in the Children and Young People's Plan. We know that bullying, and the fear of bullying is a key barrier to outcomes for children and young people and we have very clear messages from our children and young people through a variety of consultation events that this a key priority for them.

Bullying hurts, frightens and upsets people, and it doesn't have to go on for a long time to do this. Sometimes people may feel bullied even though the 'bully' had not intended to cause any harm.

There is already excellent work being done in our schools, settings and services to tackle bullying, this strategy aims to build on that and to add value to it by co-ordinating our efforts and providing robust and timely support to victims and perpetrators

The focus of strategy and action plan will be to

- safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are at risk of or who are the victims of bullying
- raise awareness of the impact of bullying in relation to the five Every Child Matters Outcomes
- monitor incidents of bullying
- support the effective management of incidents
- agree a communication and consultation framework which includes promoting the annual National Anti-bullying Week
- develop a consistent and coherent single and multi-agency training programme
- implement robust policies, procedures and guidance in relation to bullying with a focus on looked after, vulnerable (including those at risk of homophobic bullying) and disabled children

What is the extent of the problem?

In a nutshell we don't know, primarily because to date we don't collect data on the prevalence and trends of bullying behaviour across Calderdale. The Tellus3 Survey is an opportunity to begin that process but more work will be needed, in consultation with schools and stakeholders, on how this information is collected and managed.

Nationally the picture is varied, for example a survey of 268 teachers undertaken by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers concluded that Homophobic abuse is endemic in schools. Teachers routinely hear pupils using the word 'gay' in a pejorative manner, with two-thirds of teaching staff and lecturers saying they have heard homophobic language on a regular basis. Twelve per cent of teachers say they are aware of similar behaviour in the staff room. Both teachers and pupils believe that homophobic language is used in a joking way and some staff report being afraid of tackling such behaviour for fear of misjudging a situation, or being seen to promote homosexuality. In its research paper, the ATL says 'Half of all teachers do not challenge homophobic language when they hear it. The reasons for this are varied, but combined they contribute to a wide-ranging conspiracy of silence'.

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Anti-bullying Strategy cont'd

Michael Bracey, a trustee of Stonewall states that 'Too few young people are being told that homophobic bullying is wrong, even though we know that in those schools that have taken a stand and said homophobic bullying is unacceptable, lesbian and gay students are far less likely to be bullied'. (Society Guardian, 9 April 2008, p4)

Research, conducted between 2006 and 2007 by Beatbullying across 3,000 secondary school aged young people reported that 56% of young people have experienced bullying and over 70% of young people have bullied, "quashing the notion of a small minority of bullies wielding power over a majority of victims".

In an effort to understand the motivation to bully, young people were asked what had led them to do it. Of these bullies, 5% said if they didn't do it first it would happen to them, 4% said that they bully because their mates did it, 13% said anger was the reason and amazingly just over 2% thought it made them popular.

Children on Bullying, report by the Children's Rights Director for England (February 2008) undertaken with 300 children and young people living away from home or using social care services concluded that media coverage of children and young people being shot or stabbed in towns or cities, together with a fear that serious bullying is becoming more common, is creating a climate of fear in some schools. The full report is available on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk

Over 500 children and young people with a learning disability told Mencap (2007) about their experiences of bullying by taking part in an accessible survey. The findings reveal that **eight out of ten children with a learning disability are bullied**. Dame Jo Williams, Mencap's Chief Executive, said: 'These shocking findings show how big a problem bullying is for children with a learning disability. Bullying wrecks lives, making children scared to go out. This means that children with a learning disability are missing out on opportunities to learn and make friends, socialise and play. If action is not taken to tackle bullying, children with a learning disability will face bullying and isolation all their lives.'

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Anti-bullying Strategy cont'd

Contributing to the Development of the Strategy

As project manager for the development of the strategy, I would welcome your views on the extent of the issue, what works well and where there are gaps in provision e.g. accessing specialist services where bullying has a profound impact on the emotional well being of individuals.

The Strategy will be widely consulted up and will be sent to schools in the electronic package on Monday 23 June 2008, please give us your feedback.

My contact details are

Tel: 01422 394108

e-mail: veronica.mellor@calderdale.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

- **23 June 2008**
Stakeholder consultation
on the Calderdale Anti-Bullying Strategy
to be circulated in the Electronic Package.
Closing Date for consultation Friday 18 July 2008
- **17 to 21 November 2008**
Anti-Bullying Week
the theme is Difference and Diversity
- **19 November 2008**
Calderdale Anti-Bullying Conference
to be held on Wednesday 19 November
at Heath Training and Development Centre

Veronica Mellor
Child Protection Co-ordinator





Participation Project

The Children and Young People's Participation Project has been consulting with children and young people across Calderdale to inform the anti-bullying strategy which is being developed. Overall we worked with 143 children from the following groups:- Youth Council, Student Voice Network, GALYIC, Young Carers, Disabled Youth Forum, Central Street Infants, Warley Road Primary, Mount Pellon Primary, Jubilee and Mixenden Children's Centre, Burnley Road, Heptonstall Primary.

This resulted in a wide range of solutions being put forward by children and young people.

The involvement of children and young people in the development of the strategy will continue through writing the action plan and running the anti-bullying conference booked for November 19th. A working group of young people from Calderdale Youth Council will be planning and running the conference, to include many groups of children and young people running workshops, showcasing their work on this issue.

Anne Gomersall
Senior participation Worker





E - Safety and Cyber-bullying

For today's children and young people who were largely born surrounded by and immersed in the technology and tools of the digital age, the 'real' and 'virtual' worlds are one and the same thing. Their friends from Second Life, Facebook, the Habbo Hotel and Runescape are just as real and important to them as their friends in the playground.

The internet is a brilliant place for kids to hang out. It's educational, fun, entertaining, commercial and a great way to communicate with others. Presently more than 80% of young people have home web access and, because of the marked educational advantage of this, the government is looking to ensure the figure will be 100% soon. However, the internet is a huge public space inhabited by millions of people and this brings risks and dangers as well as the undoubted advantages. Are parents, carers, teachers and agency staff sufficiently knowledgeable to safeguard and advise Calderdale's children and young people about online grooming (both paedophile and hebophile) and the burgeoning torment of cyber-bullying? In most cases the answer is "no".

We teach children how to cross the road, to swim and to keep themselves safe in a whole host of situations. We assume that young people of all ages can take care of themselves in the cyber world and consequently 95% of the risks they face are self-generated. Who do they seek support from? Where can they report problems? How do they acquire their own 'net literacy' skills? When will the internet become a much harder place for child sex offenders, 'collectors' of kiddie porn, sex tourists or online bullies to make their contacts?

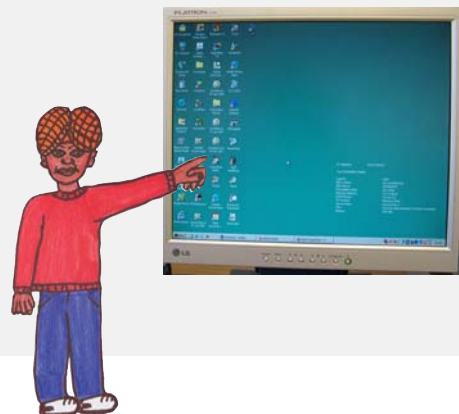
A training and advisory programme using CEOP (child exploitation online protection centre), ThinkUknow, Childnet, Becta and other powerful materials has started to be rolled out to young people, parents, teachers and other appropriate adult groups. The emphasis in this training is how to develop appropriate behaviours to use digital technologies safely and is not a blocking or banning approach.

Evaluations from these training events have been extremely positive whilst the demand for sessions is growing as schools and other agencies are now much more aware of their responsibilities around e-safety and acceptable use policies.

LSCBs nationally are each appointing e-safety leads and developing strategies for ensuring the online welfare of their young people within the context of Every child matters.

For more details of the training packages
or to discuss any other issues
please contact:

Trevor Harris
Calderdale Lead for E-safety.
Tel 01422 394168
e-mail: trevor.harris@calderdale.gov.uk





Child Sexual Exploitation

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy is now into its third year of implementation with secured funding until 2010. Located within the Safeguarding Unit and accountable to the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board via a CSE Sub Group.

The CSE Co-ordinator is responsible for facilitating a multi-agency response to children who may be at risk or involved in exploitation. A significant amount of the work is completed across West Yorkshire with the five other local authorities. This includes the development of the CSE West Yorkshire Protocol which is being placed on the CSCB web site.

Under the Protection and Prosecution phase of the Strategy, arrests in 2008 include two adults for rape. This included one key adult male who was remanded for six months awaiting trial. Other arrests and sentences have been served for associated offences and this has had a positive impact across Calderdale.

Safeguarding children and young people by a preventative approach is crucial, and this has been recognised by the Joint Commissioning Group approving the development of a CSE specialist service for Calderdale. This is an exciting phase for the Strategy. Once further funds have been secured and an appropriate provider identified, the service should be operational by early 2009.

Other key developments include:

- Choices Secondary School SRE resource to include five additional lessons on CSE
- CSE Peer brochures for school nurses, education and youth settings
- Intelligence gathering processes and forensic guidance to increase prosecutions

If you have any questions or feedback regarding CSE, please contact me.

Nicki O'Keefe
CSE Co-ordinator
Tel: 01422 393393
e-mail: nicki.okeefe@calderdale.gov.uk





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 please contact:

Paul Sharkey
Safeguarding Manager
Tel: 01422 393498
e-mail: paul.sharkey@calderdale.gov.uk

