



**Nottinghamshire
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN Board**

Newsletter No. 5 – May 2009

Appointment of Independent Chair for the NSCB

Following a successful appointment process, Mr Chris Few took up his position as Independent Chair of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board on 1st May 2009. Chris spent 30 years working for the Police, the last 10 of which were spent handling child abuse and homicide investigations. He retired from the police force some two years ago and in November 2007 he became the chairman of Northamptonshire's Safeguarding Children Board. He brings a wealth of experience of working across agencies to protect children and strongly believes that there is a benefit to chairing two safeguarding boards. He is looking forward to exploiting the real potential for usefully sharing ideas and best practice.

Chris recognises the achievements of the NSCB so far, and, as Independent Chair of the Board, he is seeking to ensure that it builds upon its good base by further developing its engagement strategy, amongst other things, and he stated;

"I am especially committed to ensuring that the community, including young people themselves, are engaged with the work of the Board. Agencies cannot safeguard children on their own and I therefore want to work towards everyone in Nottinghamshire feeling a responsibility for keeping children safe and knowing how to do this."

The NSCB Meeting 22nd April 2009, Mansfield Civic Centre

At its most recent meeting on 22nd April, the NSCB was introduced to the newly appointed independent chair Chris Few, who attended the meeting as an observer. The meeting considered a wide range of topics including arrangements for children as in-patients and visiting patients in adult psychiatric facilities; a report regarding the first year of operating the rapid response to unexpected child deaths and review processes; the impact of our most recently completed serious case reviews and the NSCB work plan including the priority for inclusion in the children and young people's plan.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2009 were approved and will be available on the NSCB website shortly. The minutes from the meeting on 22nd April will be available following the next meeting due to be held on 22nd July 2009.

The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan The Government's Response to Lord Laming

Lord Laming's report, The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report was published on 12 March 2009. The Government accepted all recommendations and published their response in May 2009. Copies are available online from www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding

An action plan relating to the 58 recommendations in the report identifies various initiatives including revised Working Together (WT) guidance by December 2009 with revised WT guidance relating to Serious Case Reviews (Chapter 8 WT 2006) by July 2009; a new cross-government National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will be operational by July 2009; revised joint inspection programmes and a social work reform programme will be set out in autumn 2009

Safeguarding in Sport

The Sports Service has achieved the Preliminary and Intermediate standards for safeguarding children in sport. Work in this area has put sports on the agenda with several key safeguarding groups and agencies across the county. The safeguarding policy for the service has been communicated to all county partners and training courses have been arranged. Information is available on www.intosport.org.uk – the sporting website for the county.

Having these policies in place has ensured that sports services now have a voice at the Safer Working Practices Group and the commitment from the Facilities Development Group to receive training and updates on safeguarding issues as well as looking at standardising safeguarding policies across the county. Following this work there is now a county safeguarding group for sport meeting every 2 months to look at training, updates, establish a clear information sharing protocol, and to share good practice. Current priorities for the service include work on the advanced standards along with a consultation programme for young people involving safeguarding and provision of sports activity. For more information on the work the Sports Service is doing in safeguarding please contact Denise Richards on 0115 9772311 or denise.richards@nottscc.gov.uk

You can download a copy of the sports child protection policy at:

<http://www.intosport.org.uk/index/coachsport/childprotection/childprotectionpolicycsp.htm>

Anti-bullying – Guidance & Resources

The DCSF has recently published *Safe from Bullying*, guidance on tackling bullying outside of schools. It consists of a suite of guidance documents setting out how different local services can work together to prevent and respond to bullying outside of schools. *Safe from Bullying* contains specific documents for practitioners working in local authorities, extended services in and around schools, Further Education (FE) colleges, play and leisure provision, youth activities, Children's Homes, and on journeys around the community. They are supported by a set of training resources for staff. For more information, and to order free hardcopies please visit

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/stayingsafe/bullying>

Briefings on Domestic Violence

Three area briefings were held in February and March 2009 to introduce practitioners working with children in Nottinghamshire to the new Practice Guidance on Children and Domestic Violence. Two hundred practitioners, from a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations attended the briefings. There were presentations at each event from Children's Social Care, Nottinghamshire Police, Women's Aid and Nottinghamshire County Council's Domestic Violence Policy Officer. Speakers identified the services available for children in each area of the county and how to access them. Attendees learnt about the new risk assessment tool which can be used by all agencies to determine risk levels in domestic violence cases. The guidance contains a comprehensive description of current good practice in work with children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse as well as risk assessment and safety planning tools and a broad directory of specialist services available to support children and families. Copies of the guidance can be downloaded from the NSCB website at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb

Seminar for Voluntary Sector Organisations

A seminar for voluntary sector organisations took place on the 14th May 2009. The seminar was organised by the NSCB and NAVO (Nottinghamshire Association for Voluntary Organisations). Anthony May gave the key note speech at the event and outlined the current safeguarding agenda and the importance of compliance with s11 Children Act 2004 for the voluntary sector as it impacts on the children for whom they provide services. Attendees from 37 organisations then went on to undertake facilitated completion of a self assessment tool created specifically for their use. The event was very highly evaluated by the participants. Work is now underway to analyse the submissions and further joint events will be arranged to follow up on the findings in

8-12 months time. The self assessment tool will shortly be available on the website at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb

Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Vetting and Barring Scheme will have two key components

- There will be a single list of all adults barred from working with children
- The vetting scheme will alert agencies if serious concerns are raised about staff/volunteers working with children

The implementation timetable for the Vetting and Barring Scheme has been revised. From 12th October 2009 the single barring list will become operational. Also on that date

- It will become a criminal offence for a barred individual to seek employment in regulated activity, or for an employer to knowingly employ a barred individual in such a post
- All staff working in regulated activity must have an enhanced CRB check.

Regulated activity is briefly defined as any activity, paid or voluntary, which involves contact with children or vulnerable adults.

People will be able to apply to join the vetting scheme from July 2010, with membership becoming compulsory for all new appointments from November 2010.

Further information, including a more complete definition of the term regulated activity is available at www.isa-gov.org.uk/

**The NSCB newsletter is published quarterly.
The next publication will be August 2009**