

Nottinghamshire Pathfinder Children's Trust

Making Life Better for Children and Young People with Additional Needs

Issue 6

November 2004



In this edition

- What you told us about **key working**
- New responsibilities for **education staff** for safeguarding children

Update on the front line sessions

Key Workers

A big thank you to all of those colleagues who took time to tell us about their experiences of, or suggestions for, key working. This newsletter contains some recurring themes that will be taken forward for consideration by the working group to be used in our pilot work in Mansfield.

You said:

Key workers need to know about the different agencies or services available in the local community and to know how to access them (Therapist from Mansfield PCT).

Key workers need to work in a child and family centred way. Only by understanding how the family works will the key worker know how to best support the child and the family (Social Worker from Children's Disability team).

Key workers should adopt a flexible, individualistic approach with families. Understand the family's strengths and their preferred way of coping.
(Voluntary Sector partner)

The key worker needs to have the skills to

deliver an early years development programme to the child. This will include modelling effective interaction and supporting the parent or carer to undertake the teaching/therapy role (Inclusion Support Service Early Years Team)

Safeguarding Children - Education Act 2002

In June 2004 Section 175 of the above Act placed a duty on schools, governing bodies and LEAs to have arrangements in place to **'safeguard and promote the welfare of children'**. This is the first time these duties have been included in statute. In September 2004 the DfES issued detailed guidance as to what this means in practice. Outlined below are some of the main implications.

For Governing Bodies:

- ✓ Ensure the school has a child protection policy
- ✓ Ensure that safe recruitment and selection procedures are in place.
- ✓ Have in place procedures for dealing with allegations against staff, including the identification of a governor (usually the Chair) who will liaise and work with the LEA should there be an allegation against the head teacher

- ✓ Ensure that a senior member of the school leadership team is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues
- ✓ Ensure that all staff receive basic child protection training that is updated every three years
- ✓ Ensure that the designated person receives basic and interagency training to support them in carrying out their role and that this training is updated every two years.
- ✓ Monitor and review school policies and procedures adopted by the governing body and ensure they are fully implemented.

For Local Education Authorities:

- ✓ Plan and coordinate at the strategic level the delivery of services to support the promotion of safeguarding children
- ✓ Monitor the performance of schools and support them by providing training advice and model policies
- ✓ Take responsibility for safeguarding children who have been excluded from school or who are being educated at home by their parents.
- ✓ Work in a multi agency way to ensure safeguarding of children
- ✓ Allocate resources to enable the LEA and school to discharge their responsibilities

If you have any questions about what you have read in this month's edition, or any comments to make, please contact:

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- ✓ Monitor compliance of schools with guidelines and particularly the training of designated staff
- ✓ Provide training for all staff who work with children

For Schools:

- ✓ Head teachers should ensure that policies and procedures adopted by the governing body are fully implemented
- ✓ Head teachers should ensure that relevant staff are able to attend case conferences and core group meetings

The DfES guidance is wider than child protection and includes bullying, security and the medical and health needs of children.

Frontline sessions for staff working with children with complex needs

Three sessions have been planned, two on 29th November 2004 at Newstead Miners Welfare and one on 7th Dec at Edwinstowe House. Over 150 professionals have been invited to discuss 30 children. The sessions will explore how the Team Around the Child will work in practice. The teams will work on one multi agency plan to meet the five Outcomes of Every Child Matters. The next newsletter will have a report from the session with input from staff who attended. Please make every effort to attend if you have received an invitation.