



Newsletter No. 1 – March 2008

Changes to the Child Protection Register

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 requires that alternative arrangements are put in place to replace the child protection register by 1st April 2008. This change is being implemented by government to ensure that work undertaken with children who have suffered, or are believed to be at risk of suffering, significant harm focuses on whether the child needs to be subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Although there will be no “child protection register” from 1st April 2008 all the processes that were in place prior to this date will continue.

- There will continue to be Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences. These conferences will however make decisions about whether the child or children need a child protection plan, rather than whether a child's name will be placed on, or removed from, the child protection register.
- All Children with a protection plan will be allocated to a qualified social worker who will continue to lead on implementing the agreed protection plan.
- Core groups will continue to be held in order to ensure that all elements of the protection plan are implemented in a co-ordinated manner.

Agencies will continue to have the facility to make checks as to whether a child is the subject of a protection plan, in the same way that checks can currently be made to establish whether a child is on the child protection register

Safeguarding Children Information Management Team

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board has a specific team whose primary purpose is to ensure that information held about children with a Child Protection Plan is accurate and kept up to date. This team was previously referred to as the “Child Protection Register” team but from the 1st April will be called the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team.

The team is currently based at The Lindens, an office located on Woodborough Road, Nottingham. This office is due to be closed, and the team will be moving to Meadow House, Mansfield. As soon as the final arrangements have been agreed in relation to this move there will be further communication confirming the teams' new contact details.

If you require any further information in relation to this, or any other matter in this newsletter, please liaise with your agency's representative on the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board Alternatively please ring the NSCB administrator on

0115 9773935 or email jonathan.severn@nottscc.gov.uk

NSCB WebPages

The NSCB has further developed its WebPages, now providing information on a wide variety of safeguarding subjects such as bullying, self harm and internet abuse. There are individual pages for children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and voluntary and faith organisations. You will also find information about the role of the NSCB including the yearly work plan, Board structure and minutes of meetings.

The WebPages continue to contain the Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures and the NSCB inter-agency training programme.

There is a resource section with all current legislation and links to other main sites for those working with children and young people. A news page gives current information about issues and is used to communicate what is happening in Nottinghamshire to safeguard children.

Web address www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb

Practice Guidance

The NSCB has produced practice guidance covering a range of issues which affect the safety and well-being of children and young people. Currently available on the NSCB WebPage is practice guidance in relation to

- Sexual Exploitation (titled "Tip of the Iceberg")
- Drug and Alcohol Using Parents
- Safeguarding Disabled Children and Young People
- Safer Working Practices
- Child Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Guidance for Licensees

The practice guidance in relation to Drug and Alcohol Using Parents has been recently revised and a consultation draft has been circulated for comment. The revised version of this guidance will be available on the NSCB WebPage during April 2008.

There are 3 new local interagency practice guidance documents which are currently available for consultation:

- Domestic violence – consultation period ends 10th April 2008
- Missing children – consultation period ends 7th April 2008
- Self-harm – consultation period ends 18th April 2008

A copy of each of these consultation documents has been sent to NSCB members. If you would like a copy of any of these consultation documents please the NSCB administrator (contact details above).

Staying Safe Action Plan

The Staying Safe consultation

A national consultation on *Staying Safe*, which covered the wider staying safe agenda, took place between July and October 2007. The NSCB co-ordinated a multi-agency response to this which included the views of local children and young people. The results of this consultation have informed the recently published Staying Safe Action Plan, which is a national document.

The action plan indicates that children and young people are, in many ways, safer today than in previous generations, although there are new risks in the present, rapidly changing and complex world.

The Staying Safe Action Plan

The action plan set out three levels of safeguarding: Universal (to keep all children and young people safe and create safe environments for them), Targeted (for those most at risk) and Responsive (supporting children who have suffered harm and dealing with those that harm them)

A further chapter covers the new Public Service Agreement on children's safety for the period 2008-11, how this will be monitored using a range of indicators, and the role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in monitoring improvements at a local level

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/stayingsafe

Child Death Functions

Working Together 2006 sets out procedures to be followed when a child dies within an LSCB area. These requirements are detailed within the statutory section of the guidance and processes should be in place to ensure they are met by **April 2008**. There are two interrelated processes.

- A rapid response by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death of a child
- An overview of all child deaths (under 18yrs) in the LSCB area

Child Death Overview Panel

Work has been undertaken to put in place a model and methodology for the work of the child death overview panel in Nottinghamshire.

The panel has now been established and will meet for the first time in April 2008. Meetings will be every 6 weeks thereafter

Rapid response function

Work in relation to this requirement is due to be completed shortly. The key outstanding issue to be resolved is identifying the personnel who will fulfil health responsibilities in this area of practice. This issue is expected to be resolved shortly but not in time to allow for implementation across Nottinghamshire by April 2008. Current arrangements will continue to apply until these changes take effect at which point all agencies will be informed about the new arrangements.

Learning the lessons from Serious Case Reviews

Serious Case Reviews are carried out when a child dies or is seriously injured due to abuse or neglect and there are lessons to be learnt about inter-agency working. The Department for Children, Schools and Families published two documents in January 2008 which analysed serious case reviews undertaken in England during 2001-03 and 2003-05.

The NSCB is planning to hold a seminar on the key themes arising from these documents. This will form part of the NSCB seminar programme for 08-09. Further details of the seminar programme will be published in a future newsletter.

In summary the 03 – 05 report studied 161 serious case reviews in England. Of these, two thirds of the children died and the rest were seriously injured. Almost half of the children were under 12-months-old.

- 55 percent of the children were known to children's social care at the time of the incident and 12 percent were named on the child protection register
- 83 percent of the families involved had been previously known to children's social care
- Some cases were 'closed' just days or weeks before the incident
- All agencies were preoccupied with eligibility for services
- Agencies neglected 'hard to help' older children over the age of 13
- Poor communication between agencies was common
- In families where children suffered long-term neglect, children's social care often failed to take account of past history

A full copy of both reports can be found at

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