



**Nottinghamshire**  
**SAFEGUARDING**  
**CHILDREN Board**

## **Newsletter No. 6 – October 2009**

### **The NSCB Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009, Mansfield Civic Centre**

At its most recent meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, the meeting considered a wide range of topics including: the progress of arrangements regarding the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in Nottinghamshire; An update regarding the Board's engagement strategy including participation of children and young people and communication strategy; ensuring lessons are learnt widely from Serious Incident Reports to the Youth Justice Board; Feedback on the results of a joint agency audit regarding cases where parental substance misuse was a factor and lastly, agreed the draft Annual Report. Details of these can be found within the minutes of the meeting which will be available after the October Board meeting on the Board's website at [www.nottsc.gov.uk/nscb](http://www.nottsc.gov.uk/nscb)

### **Serious Case Reviews**

Serious case reviews are undertaken when a child dies or is seriously injured, and abuse or neglect are known or suspected to be factors in the death. They are carried out under the auspices of Local Safeguarding Children Boards so that lessons can be learnt and action taken to improve outcomes for children and young people. Over 2008-2009, the NSCB undertook two serious case reviews. The key messages from those reviews can be seen overleaf

# Key Messages

## From Local Serious Case Reviews 2008 - 2009

### Assessments

- Should **involve all relevant professionals and family members**
- Should include **input from specialists** where complex issues are involved.
- **Core assessments** should be completed by social care where there are new children in a family from which children have previously been removed
- Should be made regarding the **impact of men** involved with the family and the impact of **mental ill health and substance misuse** on parenting capacity
- Should be undertaken by Social Care **pre-birth** where risk is identified
- Should take full account of the **history**
- Should include a **clear assessment of risk**

### Case management decisions

- Should be taken with **reference to assessment / risk analysis**
- Should be informed by relevant **NSCB Practice guidance**
- **No child should be discharged** from hospital without agreement as to how risks will be managed
- Require provision of **immediate written reports** following child protection medicals
- Should **include clear contingency planning** to address disengagement

### Multi-agency working

- **All agency views** to be taken into account in formulating plans
- Interagency disagreement should be resolved and **concerns escalated where necessary**
- Ensure there is **clear interagency communication**
- **Ensure clarity** regarding thresholds for referral and re-referral to Children's Social Care
- **Social care should take the lead role** when working with children in need

### Communicating with children and families

- **Always try to see children alone** and give children plenty of opportunity to talk about their situation
- **Do not rely solely** on what you are told by the parents

For further details and copies of the Executive Summaries of recent SCRs please go to [www.nottsscc.gov.uk / nscb](http://www.nottsscc.gov.uk / nscb)



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## E-Learning

NSCB partner agencies across the voluntary and statutory sectors are reminded that they can now access a safeguarding children E-learning package **absolutely free!** There are four courses available in the package:

- **Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect – Core**

This module is for those who work regularly with children, young people and / or their parents and carers. This is the most comprehensive version of the module.

- **Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect – Foundation**

This slightly shorter version is for those whose role is not specifically with children, young people or families although they may provide services to adults who have children or who have contact with children.

- **Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect – Police Version**

This version is designed specifically for police staff, it incorporates information about legislation and police powers in addition to the content described above.

- **Introduction to Safeguarding Children**

This version is for those who do not work directly with children, young people or families but who need to know how to spot signs of potential abuse and what to do about it.

Employers and managers can access the user's files to see how they are progressing and the courses can be completed over a period of time making it a very flexible approach to learning. Each version includes a 15 question multiple choice test which learners can attempt until the 75% pass rate is achieved. On passing, the learner can print off a certificate which meets continuing professional development (CPD) requirements (this certificate is available for all versions except the Introduction to safeguarding children).

**For more information please contact the NSCB Training Co-ordinator on 0115 993 4323 or email: [training.nscb@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:training.nscb@nottscc.gov.uk)**

## **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, or who have had, a Child Protection Plan is accurate, up to date and is available to professionals and agencies working with children and families. (This team was previously referred to as the “Child Protection Register” but are now called the “**Safeguarding Children Information Management Team**” (SCIMT)).

The SCIMT facilitates good communication and co ordination between agencies and individual workers and is accessible by telephone or letter to agencies and professionals who are members of the Safeguarding Children Board. It is not for public use and the number should not be made available to members of the public. Enquiries by members of the public should be referred to the appropriate Children’s Social Care office.

**Colleagues are reminded that professionals who have safeguarding concerns about a child should contact the SCIMT to obtain relevant information held about the child and family that may assist them in their assessments. Such enquiries should made during office hours to the SCIMT on 01623 433177.**

Out of hours access to information about children known to Children’s Social Care, including checks as to whether a child is subject to a Child Protection Plan, is via the **Emergency Duty Team (0300 4564546)**.

It is important to note that an enquiry to the SCIMT does not constitute a referral to children’s social care.

## **Assessing the risk of fire**

Since January 1st 2006 a total of 16 people in Nottinghamshire have died as a result of fire. Of these, 13 of the deaths could be attributed to the combination of of smoking materials and / or substance and alcohol use by the occupiers. In every case the victims were known to services other than the Fire Service.

As a result, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service wish to remind all staff who work with children and adults in the community of the Home Safety Check that they offer. When staff are visiting households where no smoke alarms are fitted, occupants smoke, use substances including alcohol for example, the Fire Service will offer a comprehensive Home Safety Check and, where necessary, **supply and fit smoke alarms free of charge**. Staff should first discuss this with the occupier and then contact the local fire station to arrange a visit.

## **Rapid Response to the Unexpected Deaths of Children**

In exercising its responsibilities prescribed in Working Together 2006, the NSCB has established procedures covering the Rapid Response to unexpected child deaths. These procedures apply to all agencies following all incidents of unexpected deaths of children and young people under 18 and cover unexpected deaths of children dying outside of Nottinghamshire but normally resident, or children from other authorities visiting Nottinghamshire.

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure an early multi-agency response to all unexpected deaths of children in order to:

- understand the reasons for the child's death;
- address the possible needs of other children in the household and of all family members;
- identify those deaths that may be as a result of abuse or neglect and ensure an appropriate response;
- consider any lessons to be learnt about how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the future including consideration of any wider public health implications.

Professionals are asked to note that where a child has died in these circumstances, they may be asked to attend a multi-agency meeting and will be expected to share relevant information to assist with this process.

**The NSCB newsletter is published quarterly.  
The next publication will be December 2009 and copies are available from [www.nottsc.gov.uk/nscb](http://www.nottsc.gov.uk/nscb)**