

Newsletter

Welcome to the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) Newsletter.

This is the first issue of the re-launched WSSCB newsletter which aims to provide information about safeguarding for people working with children and young people and their families in West Sussex.

The WSSCB is a multi-agency group of different organisations and agencies that work across West Sussex together as partners to ensure a united approach to looking out for the wellbeing of children in this county.

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A message from WSSCB Independent Chair, Jimmy Doyle

WELCOME TO THE WEST SUSSEX SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD NEWSLETTER RE-LAUNCH

I am delighted to be able to say a few words by way of introduction to the re-launch of the WSSCB Newsletter. An important aspiration of WSSCB is to promote the profile of the Board and to communicate information about safeguarding for people working with children and young people and their families in West Sussex.

Earlier this year saw the launch of the board's new website which offers access to a range of important national documents, local protocols and published Serious Case Reviews. The re-launch of our Newsletter is a further means of sharing information about the work of the safeguarding board and the role of partner agencies as well as communicating important messages about local safeguarding practice and new initiatives.

All of us who are involved in the world of 'safeguarding' children and young people operate in an increasingly complex and challenging landscape. We hope that the newsletter will serve as a helpful means of communicating with busy practitioners across all agencies. It is also hoped that the newsletter can be used to feature themes which our readers would find helpful. As such we very much welcome your feedback and any suggestions you may have regarding the content of future issues.

Latest News

WSSCB Website

The [WSSCB website](#) has been re-launched to bring together information for children & young people, parents & carers and professionals who work within the area of safeguarding children.

West Sussex Continuum of Needs

WSSCB have updated the threshold matrix. The purpose of the [Continuum of Needs](#) is to enable practitioners to develop a shared understanding and common language to communicate and understand worries regarding children's safety and wellbeing. It will help practitioners to make informed links to the level of intervention required to help families achieve change and keep children safe making sure they are getting help at the right level of intervention.

WSSCB Road Shows

WSSCB is going on the road! In September the WSSCB will be holding event days for professionals to come and see who the Board are and what we do. These will be held on the following dates:

- ◆ Monday 8th September at Centenary House, Worthing
- ◆ Wednesday 10th September at County Hall, Chichester
- ◆ Thursday 11th September at County Hall North, Horsham
- ◆ Monday 22nd September at Crawley Library, Crawley

WSSCB Development Day

In October the WSSCB will be hosting a Board Development Day facilitated by Sue Woolmore, former Chair of the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs. The purpose of the day is for Board members to participate and contribute to the Board's journey, priorities and strategies for the coming year. Keep your eye out for an update in our next issue!

WSSCB Training

The WSSCB are committed to delivering multi-agency training and are striving to look at new ways to deliver more effective training. An extensive range of FREE multi-agency training opportunities are offered to local statutory and not-for profit organisations* so that practitioners and managers can be supported in understanding how to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children & young people they work with.

Full details of our training programme can be found on our [website](#) and booked through the [Learning and Development Gateway](#). Spaces are limited so book early!

Latest courses

Child Sexual Exploitation

Due to popular demand WSSCB are offering a Child Sexual Exploitation [E-learning](#) course and Twilight Briefing Sessions. The multi-agency training will provide you with an opportunity understand what is meant by 'Child Sexual Exploitation', raise awareness about the potential risks for children & young people and consider potential current issues in relation to your agency or organisation. The course will also offer guidance about how to respond should you be concerned that a child or young person is at risk.

SEN & Disability: Developing effective anti-bullying practice

This course is being delivered by the Anti-Bullying Alliance on behalf of the WSSCB and is intended for schools and the wider children's workforce who work with schools. This course will give you the opportunity to explore bullying, its impact (particularly for those children & young people with SEND) and the law. It will also offer you practical strategies to help support you in your efforts to prevent bullying and to respond when incidents of bullying occur, including good practice tips for working with children, young people and their families.

Signs of Safety Multi-Agency Briefing Session

This briefing session is for members of the workforce who work predominantly work with children, young people and/or their parents/carers and who could potentially contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and reviewing the needs of a child and the parenting capacity where there are safeguarding concerns.

Multi-Agency Audits

One of the statutory functions of a Local Safeguarding Children Board under Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 is to *'monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve'*.

Within the WSSCB Business Plan there are specific plans related to the use of audits to monitor, evaluate and improve multi agency work, these are:

- ◆ To audit child protection practice across the whole children's workforce.
- ◆ Audit implementation of thresholds across all agencies.
- ◆ Complete multi agency S.11 Audits

Audits are an essential way to scrutinise the work of agencies; assess the nature and quality of work undertaken and monitor the impact for children in West Sussex. WSSCB has identified an annual programme of themed multi-agency file audits which has been informed by feedback from a range of activities such as; previous internal audits, Ofsted inspection, Serious Case Reviews, performance intelligence and national research projects. This year's programme of themed audits includes areas such as; Neglect (of disabled children), Young Carers, The Voice of the Child (being undertaken in July 2014) and Young People who Self-Harm (and are Looked After Children as a result).

Every 2 months agencies are also requested to participate in audits of the Child's journey through the Child Protection process, from initial referral through to RCPC (Review of Child Protection Conference) outcomes. The purpose of all these audits is to ensure that our services are providing the best possible support to children in need within West Sussex and to share good practices where these exist and to learn valuable lessons where procedures need to be improved.

On a bi-annual basis all agencies are also required to assess and report on their own compliance with the requirements of Section 11. These self-assessment reports are presented to the WSSCB and as of August 2014 will also be reviewed by a Scrutiny Panel that will investigate the way in which the self-assessments have been conducted, review the appropriateness of the evidence collected and the decisions made as well as agreeing the resulting action plans.

Child Death Overview Panel

Since 2008, it has been a statutory requirement for all LSCBs to conduct a review of the death of every child (under the age of 18 years old) that dies within its local area. The WSSCB Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) meets every 2 months and is chaired by Dr Ann Corkery, WSCC's Consultant in Public Health. The panel has core representatives from the Police, Health Services, Education, Children's Social Care and Youth Services and together they review the circumstances surrounding all child deaths, of children that normally reside within West Sussex. Their aim is to classify each death and monitor any emerging trends that maybe developing and to identify any "modifiable factors" surrounding the death which, if addressed prior to the death could have prevented that death or could help to prevent future deaths. If modifiable factors are identified then the CDOP will strive to share this learning and where possible ensure that any necessary changes are implemented.

Every death of a child is a tragedy for family and friends, and support to help them to come to terms with their loss is a vital part of the healing process.

The overall principles for all child death reviews are that enquiries should be made to understand the reasons for the child's death, to address the possible needs of any other children in the household and any other members of the family and also to consider any lessons to be learned about how best to safeguard and promote children's welfare in the future. The two local priorities that have been identified by CDOP in West Sussex relate to:

- ◆ Safe sleeping and co-sleeping, and
- ◆ Smoking during pregnancy

Work is now underway to develop the necessary advice and guidance for parents and professionals in respect of these issues.

July Board Discussions



Anti-Bullying

Bullying is considered an important topic to both West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). There is a commitment to review and respond appropriately to bullying behaviour and to provide suitable support that increases the capability of children and young people to deal with the impact of bullying. There is an impressive range of work being delivered by both WSCC services and voluntary sector organisations, and in relation to Anti-Bullying, the support for children and young people across West Sussex is good.

With the emphasis of Think Family and Early Help being very clearly made across the authority, a more coordinated approach to dealing with and supporting children and young people who are both victims and perpetrators of bullying will be developed; ensuring WSCC services are not working in isolation to support families, children and young people to cope and build resilience in dealing with bullying behaviour when it occurs.

WSCC will be publishing a 'refreshed' Anti-Bullying Strategy in the autumn, which will link directly with the, already active, WSCC E-Safety Strategy, therefore providing an all-inclusive approach to actively supporting and guiding schools, parents/carers and young people in this specific area of life.

The Youth Support and Development Service coordinate the West Sussex Anti-Bullying Support Line, via the Contact Centre and are proud to promote this service across the county. The support line provides advice, guidance, signposting and a direct referral route into the Youth Service, if required, and now has a new number: **0330 142 904**.

For further information on what the Youth Support and Development Service can offer on Anti-Bullying please visit [YourSpace](#). Further information can also be found on the [WSSCB website](#).

*Article Written by: Karon Chamberlain (Service Manager: Youth Support and Development Service)
July 2014*

July Board Discussions



Early Help: Putting the strategy into effect in West Sussex



During the summer and autumn of 2013, the Early Help Action Plan was developed and agreed in partnership with a variety of organisations and stakeholders who provide services to families with children and young people in West Sussex. The Early Help plan with its shared vision and outcomes was then formerly adopted by the County Council and the Think Family Partnership in January 2014.

This plan will be the key driver to help us transform the way in which we commission and deliver our future services for children and their families in West Sussex. Building on its strong vision, the plan outlines that; We will provide help and support at the earliest opportunity to families experiencing problems; We will make sure our approach will be:- **smarter** in the way we do things; children, young people and families will get what they need **sooner**; we will ensure children live in strong protective families where they are **safer** and that outcomes for them will be **stronger**.

So what is next?

Amanda Radley has been seconded from the Probation Service to lead on the delivery and implementation of the Early Help plan.

The delivery of Early Help is a key priority for the West Sussex Children's Safeguarding Board as the effective safeguarding of children encompasses a wider, more preventative approach to meet the needs of children.

To develop this work, we will move into consultation with service providers, key stakeholders and service users to ensure that we coordinate the delivery of services more effectively. There will be a strong focus on ensuring that information sharing is improved across services and that we work with families in a positive way to give them the appropriate support to resolve any difficulties they face. Work is already underway on the replacement of the existing Common Assessment Framework (CAF) with new early help plans, which will be launched over the autumn.

For further information, please contact: Amanda Radley, Early Help Strategic Commissioning Manager amanda.radley@westsussex.gov.uk

Article Written by: Amanda Radley (Early Help Strategic Commissioning Manager) July 2014

National Serious Case Reviews

July 2014

Here is a summary of national Serious Case Reviews published in July 2014. Links to all 2014 Serious Case Reviews can be found on our [website](#).

Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board

[Child J](#)

Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board has published the final report of a serious case review of the suicide of an adolescent girl who had a history of sexual assault, bulimia, self-harm and suicide ideation.

Categorisation of findings:

- Innate human biases (cognitive and emotional)
- Family-professional interaction
- Responses to incidents
- Longer term work
- Tools
- Management systems

Key Contacts

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board Team

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Independent Chair of the WSSCB

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Children's Safeguarding Manager

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Claire Coles

Children's Safeguarding Advisor

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Children's Access Point

cap@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

01403 229 900

Emergency Out of Hours

5pm-8am weekdays

0330 222 6664

Sussex Police Missing Person Unit

101

Ext.

586352 or 586461

If your organisation would like to contribute to future issues please contact
WSSCB at lscb@westsussex.gov.uk