Welcome to the 8th Edition of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Newsletter. This quarterly bulletin is aimed at raising your awareness of national and local safeguarding children issues and has been developed especially for all those agencies that work with children and young people in Staffordshire.

As always, this edition which is longer than normal is packed with safeguarding children information that you need to know in order to promote the welfare and safety of the children and young people you work with in Staffordshire. There are also hyperlinks to other websites if you wish to read more information on the areas discussed.

We always welcome feedback and if you or your service has any important safeguarding children news or advice on how to improve this newsletter, please contact Lynne Milligan (SSCB Development Officer) on 01785 854572 or sscb.newsletter@staffordshire.gov.uk

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of the SSCB newsletter. The next issue will be out in February 2015.
SSCB Priorities

Domestic Abuse

Tackling domestic violence
As part of Staffordshire’s Domestic Abuse Strategy, Breaking the Cycle, the County Council has commissioned a two-year pilot scheme aimed at changing the behaviour of people who abuse their partners or families. The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme will target male perpetrators of abuse aged 16 and over and will give them the opportunity to recognise, acknowledge and change their behaviour so that their families are safe and so that they can improve their own relationships.

Core Assets Children’s Services will be running the programme and will also provide support to the victims of abusers who take part in the scheme. Information on who can take part in the programme and how to make referrals will be available soon.

Further information is available from Julie Long, Principal Community Safety Officer at Julie.long@staffordshire.gov.uk or from Becky Murphy, Safer Communities Development Officer at becky.murphy@staffordshire.gov.uk

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)
A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect. The purpose of a domestic homicide review (DHR) is to understand where there are lessons learned and make recommendations to prevent future homicides.

Related serious case review:
May 2014 – Lambeth – Child H
Death of a 3-year-old Somalian boy, and serious injury to his 2-month-old brother, in March 2013. Father has been charged with Child H’s murder and his surviving siblings have been taken into care. Family had previously been separated by civil war in Somalia and spoke minimal English. Significant history of domestic abuse including an incident leading to mother spending three months in a women’s refuge.

For further information please click on the link:

Published national DHR’s:
http://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/ServiceChild/Domestic-homicide-reviews.aspx
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The Jay Inquiry - Rotherham and CSE

A report published of an independent inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, estimates that approximately 1400 children were sexually exploited between 1997 and 2013. In over a third of cases, children were already known to children’s services due to child protection and neglect concerns.

Source: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

The SSCB have produced a briefing for practitioners which summarises the key points from the Rotherham Inquiry. click here for the briefing and then add the link - http://www.staffsscb.org.uk/Latest News/Briefings/Briefings.aspx

Boys are at risk of CSE too

Thematic summary of findings from a scoping study looking at child sexual exploitation (CSE) cases involving boys and young men and comparing them with cases involving girls and young women. It explores professionals' views on perpetration and victimisation processes and assesses support needs and existing service provision.

Source: Research on the sexual exploitation of boys and young men: a UK scoping study: summary of findings.

Related serious case review:

September 2014 – Lancashire - Child R
Death of a 16-year-old girl, in January 2013, from multiple stab wounds. Adult 1 contacted Child R via social media and convinced her to go to a commercial premises on the pre-text of being offered a job. Adult 1 was convicted of murder and received a 35-year prison sentence. Child R experienced multiple traumas during her childhood, including witnessing the death of a friend, physical assault, cyberbullying and rape. Identifies risk factors affecting Child R, including: going missing from home, sexual relationships with peers her own age, sexually exploitative relationships with adult males, drug and alcohol misuse and self-harm.

Useful links:


First Response:
0800 13 13 126
Staffordshire Police: 101 (non emergency)
Staffordshire Police Reaching & Teaching to Prevent CSE

Tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a major priority for Staffordshire Police for a number of years and an award-winning Stoke PCSO (police community support officer) is exemplifying the force’s proactive stance against the issue.

Several months’ investment in research and networking has given PCSO Jas Mahil the platform to raise awareness of CSE and the threats posed by drugs and terror networks to over 100 women from harder-to-reach Islamic communities that attend her weekly sessions at the Reach Out Project in the Cobridge area.

“It was very difficult to make inroads at first,” said Jas, joint winner of the PCSO of the Year Award at the force’s recent awards. “Most of the women mistrusted the Police and their men often would not allow us to engage with them. We gradually gained their trust; and starting with a Zumba class that the women wanted to do, we ran basic English and IT classes and now we are freely talking about these issues that their children face every day. Many knew nothing about them.”

Making use of the CSE awareness training the force is rolling out to all its staff, PCSO Mahil is equipping her learners with the ability to identify issues and intervene before any harm is done.

“We have to all recognise that CSE is a crime and occurs in any community,” added Jas’ superior officer, Inspector Richard Simpson. “Our targets are those criminals, not particular communities or cultures. Everyone has a part to play and we are proud to be playing our part in the multi-agency approach in Staffordshire.”

The police are working in partnership with Staffordshire County and Stoke City Councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, focused on four strategic goals that form the counties approach to tackling this issue head on.

The goals are Prevent – raising awareness; Protect – implementing safeguarding systems and Prepare – providing effective organisational systems to tackle CSE and of course Pursue – bring those involved to justice.

In August 2014 the Jay Inquiry was released following concerns over how CSE was tackled in Rotherham. The SSCB have produced a briefing paper that summarises this inquiry [link].

Do you know what a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) does? The SSCB have now produced a leaflet that aims to raise awareness of the role of the LADO and how they can support you if you have concerns about an adult in a position of trust who works with children. You can download the free leaflet here: [link].

There is a refreshed version of the joint Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent SCB inter-agency policy and procedure for children who go missing from care and home and vulnerable families now available of the SSCB website. This has been updated to reflect the new statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education in January 2014 ‘Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care’ and sets out the local arrangements between Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent local authorities and Staffordshire Police.
Hidden Harm

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner commissioned a piece of work to investigate the gaps in knowledge highlighted through Silent Voices (Adamson and Templeton, 2012), a review into supporting children and young people affected by parental alcohol misuse. Silent Voices created the baseline for what is known about parental alcohol misuse, how it affects children and the services available – all with a focus on the perspectives of children and young people themselves.

It presented a range of recommendations across policy, practice and research and has had wide impact. As this report was being concluded, the authors were pleased to learn that that Public Health England (PHE) are scoping a project designed to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of parental alcohol misuse and its impact on children.

Further reading:
Office of the Children’s Commissioner (OCC) Report October 2014: "I think you need to show someone what help there is: Understanding parental alcohol misuse at a local level:
http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_877

Joint SCB inter-agency guidance: Section 4Q: Working with parents who misuse substances
http://www.staffsscb.org.uk/Professionals/Procedures/Section-Four/Section-4-Promoting-the-Welfare-Safety-of-Children-in-Specific-Circumstances.aspx

Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

Adult substance misuse treatment services can offer a range of services and support these include:

- Advice and Information
- Harm reduction interventions and needle exchange
- Structured Psychosocial Interventions including key working, counselling, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Solution Focused therapies and other interventions
- Structured Day Care Programmes
- Pharmacological interventions such as the prescribing of methadone or Buprenorphine.
- Community or inpatient detoxification services
- Assessment for residential rehabilitation services
- Liaison, through care and aftercare with criminal justice services
- Family interventions
- Recovery Champions
SSCB Priorities 2013-2014

- The development of the SSCB
- Responding to Munro and the revision of Working Together 2010
- Improve communications and engagement with all
- Engage in activity which is targeted at the following vulnerable children and young people:
  - Child sexual exploitation and children missing from home or care
  - Domestic Abuse and safeguarding children
  - ‘Hidden Harm’ (safeguarding children whose parents or carers misuse substances)
  - Child neglect (particularly for children under the age of 5 years old)

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SSCB
Wedgewood Building, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2HD. Tel: 01785 277151 www.staffsscb.org.uk

- Aquarius: www.aquarius.org.uk
- Change 4 Life ‘cutting down on alcohol’ http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/Pages/drink-less-alcohol.aspx
- One Recovery Staffordshire www.adsolutions.org.uk

Burton Addiction Centre/O’Connor Centre: Rehabilitation for those experiencing dependency www.bacandoconnor.co.uk

For advice and support for young people, please go to:
CRI Ltd - T3 Young Person’s Service: Specialist one-to-one advice and support for young people along with health and drug related information.
An outreach needle exchange service is also available as well as a young people’s arrest referral scheme - www.cri.org.uk

Related serious case review:
June 2014 - Coventry - Child A
Death of an 18-day-old baby in March 2012. Child A died while in bed with mother and her partner who had both consumed alcohol the previous evening; Child A’s death was considered accidental. Identifies lessons learned, including: need for commissioners to be aware of what they can expect from services in terms of the methodologies used, what outcomes can be expected and how progress will be reported; need for health professionals to be aware of the wider safeguarding of children; and need for the flexible interpretation of ‘did not attend’ policies in order for the needs of individual children and families to be taken into account. Makes recommendations, covering children’s social care, health services and Coventry Safeguarding Children Board.
Infant deaths, co-sleeping, alcohol

Neglect
In the child’s time: professional responses to neglect March 2014:
The report explores the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children who experience neglect, with a particular focus on children aged 10 years and under. The report draws on evidence from 124 cases and from the views of parents, carers and professionals from the local authority and partner agencies.
Free resource: Emotional neglect and emotional abuse on pre-school children. This leaflet summarises what is currently known about children aged less than six years who have been emotionally neglected or emotionally abused. http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/core-info-emotional-neglect-abuse.pdf
It considers the behaviour that can be observed in these children and in the interactions between them and their parents. At a time when there is increased concern about the damaging impact of emotional neglect and emotional abuse, this leaflet will help a wide range of professionals in different disciplines who work with babies, young children and their families, including:

- Health visitors
- GP’s
- Paediatricians
- Early years
- Teachers
- Social workers
- Infant and child mental health professionals.

Neglect is the ‘most serious type of child maltreatment and is the most common reason for a child to become subject to a child protection plan in the UK and is now recognised as one of the most dangerous forms of abuse because of its harmful and sometimes fatal effects. For guidance across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent on how to deal with child neglect please refer to the:

Joint SCB inter-agency guidance: Section 4P: Child Neglect
http://www.staffsscb.org.uk/Professionals/Procedures/Section-Four/Section-4-Promoting-the-Welfare-Safety-of-Children-in-Specific-Circumstances.aspx

Related serious case review:
August 2014 – Gloucestershire – Abigail
Physical, emotional and developmental neglect of a 3-year-old-girl and her siblings. Abigail presented to hospital with serious concerns about her health and development in November 2012. Parents were charged with criminal neglect and Abigail and her siblings were placed in foster care. Family were well known to a number of agencies and there was a history of professional concerns relating to abuse and neglect. Both parents had significant physical and mental health problems requiring a high level of contact with health professionals.

Identifies learning in relation to five key themes, including: limitations of an incident led approach to child neglect; professional challenge; and disguised compliance

SSCB Policies and procedures update:
The following SSCB policies and procedures have recently been updated and are on our website:

- Joint SCB Protocol: Section 4G Children Missing from Care and Home and Vulnerable Missing Families
- Joint SCB Section 3D: Bruising in non mobile babies and Section 3Di Bruising in Non Mobile Babies Flow Chart
- SSCB Section 4E: Private Fostering

All of the above can be found at: www.staffsscb.org.uk
Hundreds Stand AGAINST Female Genital Mutilation

Hundreds of people have made a pledge to stand against female genital mutilation (FGM) at a ground-breaking event in Staffordshire.

Staffordshire’s Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Sue Arnold is leading the campaign, on behalf of PCC Matthew Ellis, about this often hidden form of child abuse.

FGM, sometimes called female circumcision or cutting, involves the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs for cultural reasons. It usually happens between the ages of four and ten and can have serious consequences for a woman’s health and in some instances lead to death.

It is practised in 28 African countries and some in the Middle East and Asia and affects migrant communities in the UK.

A specialist midwife spoke at the conference about the different types of FGM and how it affects women in their daily lives. A criminal justice expert also explained that if found guilty of FGM a person can be imprisoned for up to 14 years although there have been no successful prosecutions in Staffordshire. Clinician and survivor Hodo Ali gave a first-hand account of how she survived FGM followed by a powerful play about how FGM is affecting girls in the UK by the New Vic Borderlines drama company.

Mrs Arnold said: “Female genital mutilation is a hideous crime which almost always goes unreported. All girls have the right to live free from this torture and child abuse. “Around 60,000 girls are currently at risk of FGM across the UK which means that this is a problem that cannot be ignored in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

“Over 400 people came together to start the conversation about how we can stand together against FGM. We must increase awareness through a joined-up training programme across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and make sure frontline professionals are fully prepared.

“We need to engage better with communities to educate this generation to protect future generations from FGM.”

The Commissioner said: “The simple fact is there is no justification for female genital mutilation and we must commit our resources, our expertise and our determination to eradicating this heinous practice from Staffordshire and beyond.

“That’s why I’m pledging to make money available to develop a greater understanding of the scale of the problem in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, raise awareness at ground level in communities most likely to be affected and fund additional specialist expertise to develop a strategy for preventing and combatting FGM.”

For more information visit www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/fgm
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  - Child neglect (particularly for children under the age of 5 years old)

Are you a foster carer in Staffordshire?

Staffordshire Foster Carers Association
Over the past twelve months we have been looking at how best the Association could meet one of its prime objectives “to support Staffordshire Foster Carers”
While gathering ideas on how best to achieve this we started to realise that most of the emails we were receiving were from smart phones and tablets this observation was supported by published sales trends, the people we wanted to support were now carrying a world of information and resources in their pockets, purses and bags.

So we set about building a web site that could take advantage of information on the move, the aims were simple uncluttered and as easy to navigate and read on a smart phone as on a desk top, quick links to the resources, information and support on the move, and when it is needed www.staffsfca.co.uk

one address a world of support
Staffordshire and the Early Help Assessment

After a lot of hard work to develop and pilot a new form of the CAF in Staffordshire, Staffordshire Children, Young People and Families Strategic Partnership have approved a new assessment format for all agencies to use in their work with children and families to deliver early help. The Staffordshire Early Help Assessment has been designed for use by all those who work in universal and early help services as the common assessment tool to guide the assessment and planning conversations with the family.

Feedback by practitioners and by children and families from the pilot districts has been very positive and we are confident that the format will support confident and positive conversations with a clear focus on the achievement of improved outcomes. The feedback from the pilot districts of Cannock, East Staffs and Lichfield has all been very positive, and report that the tool is easy to use and far less bureaucratic than its predecessor. “Families feel that they have a voice by going through the assessment with them and so this is positive for them” and “The feedback I have received from schools has been very positive and it’s highlighted a lot more CAFs that need to be completed by them.”

The CAF Development Officer Hayley Allman is now pushing ahead with a detailed plan for the roll out of the new process and will be communicating with colleagues across Families First and in partner agencies over the coming weeks to highlight training and awareness-raising expectations and opportunities.

For further detail/ questions/ queries please contact: Hayley Allman, CAF Development Officer, Stafford Children’s Centre, Faraday Road, Stafford, ST16 3NQ
Tel: 01785 895331/ 07817112833

The Staffordshire Early Help Assessment form and guidance can be downloaded here:

Partner Agencies: Staffordshire County Council:
http://www.staffs.gov.uk/health/childrenandfamilycare/FamiliesFirstPartners/FamiliesFirstDocuments.aspx
Education: Staffordshire County Council Learning Net:

Families First:
Staffordshire School Governors

Staffordshire school governors have taken up the challenge to drive improved outcomes for the children of the County with vigour and energy. The expectations placed on school governors has been increased significantly over the past few years and to meet this responsibility are driving shared best practice and peer-to-peer support. A central mechanism to promote this is the establishment of the Staffordshire Governance Forum. This is a co-ordinated direct meeting forums where governors meet each half term within their district to discuss and share developments in school governance. This is supported online with a dedicated website www.staffsga.org.uk for sharing key documents, news and events as well as the opportunity to engage with online discussion topics. The group also promotes sharing and networking through Twitter @staffsGA with followers.

With such a wide range of information sources and developments targeted at Governors to facilitate their best efforts for the children of the County having a point of reference for useful information and being able to discuss with peers individual and collective challenges is important to a collaborative approach to impactful governance in individual schools and academies and the ambition for every school in Staffordshire to be at least Good.

Paul Woodhead, lead for the initiative and Chair of Governors at St Peter’s Church of England (C) Primary School, Hednesford said "Having experienced the Silo-Mentality of school governance which failed the children of my school I am convinced that this type of failure can be averted by networking and collaboration between governing boards within the County and from this all children will benefit"

The Staffordshire Governance Forum is for all school governors in the County for chairs or representatives to meet and support colleagues and enhanced with an access to all online community. The Forum is for Governors by Governors about Governance and encourage all to get involved with YOUR network to make it the best it can be.

To find out more please visit the Staffordshire School Governors Forum at: www.staffsga.org.uk
Jenny Perring works for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) in the early intervention team covering Stafford, Stoke on Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

There is a quick turn-around of cases within the team but helping the court to reach the right decisions for children at an early stage is hugely rewarding – as is working within family-friendly hours.

Like many social workers Jenny Perring is returning from summer holidays to work – but it’s a role that not all are familiar with. “We had a fab family holiday in Turkey – it’s a beautiful country, but I’m back to focussing on the task at hand.”

The task Jenny talks of is making sure the family courts in the area have the right information for first hearings to determine arrangements for children, most of whom have experienced parental separation. “Often when people think of Cafcass they automatically think of children’s guardians in public law cases but this is only one aspect of what we do.”

Talking of what initially attracted her to the role Jenny says: “I came from a local authority background, working in the duty team. I thrived on work requiring sharp intervention and quick reactions, so when I saw the advert recruiting family court advisers within the early intervention team I was interested straight away.”

Eighteen months in, Jenny has a clear sense of her role in supporting the court in making those crucial decisions about how to progress a case in the child’s best interest. “Our social work role is to glean all of the relevant information relating to that child’s welfare to help the courts reach a safe decision. It’s fast-paced work with a limited period of time to speak to parties – most of our contact is over the phone during screening interviews. You need to ask the right questions to quickly grasp any risk in the case and understand the issues impacting the child at that time. People often live with things they don’t realise are inappropriate for their children and it’s our job to identify this.

“The discussions we have with parents can be difficult at times as it’s such a sensitive area. I clearly explain that I will only be focussing on safeguarding concerns – we’re not there to become involved in the adult dispute. Being open, honest and direct is key.”

After making her safeguarding enquiries, which include checks with the police and local authority, Jenny writes to the court: “You need to have the ability to analyse the issues and provide concise, high-quality safeguarding letters which succinctly capture all of the relevant information. This is a critical step in determining "what next?" for this child.”

It’s more than a desk job though – the role requires strong court reporting skills, as practitioners in the early intervention team also attend court at the first dispute resolution hearings. “We carry out court duty at least once a week, which is where we interact face-to-face with the court and parties.

I predominantly work at Stoke court and I’ve been able to build good relationships with the legal advisers and court staff there. We carry weight with the court and judges trust us to provide them with what they need.
“Things can change rapidly at the first hearing, where often new issues will arise that had not come up during the interviews, and we’re the only social worker advising the court. Managers are on hand to consult if needed, but we have to be confident in analysing new information and incorporating this into the advice we provide. It’s really rewarding to help judges identify the cases which can be resolved safely away from court, as we know protracted cases are rarely in the best interests of any child.”

Staffordshire Organisation Combats Child Sexual Exploitation

Recent headlines in the local and national press have highlighted the growing concern of child sexual exploitation. In the Staffordshire area one organisation is seeking to combat this menace by engaging directly with statutory organisations to proactively raise awareness and equip young people with the skills needed to make healthy relationship choices.

Staffordshire-Safety.Net is a not-for-profit social enterprise that specialise in the early intervention and prevention of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The team undertake programmes of work that seek to balance the needs of potential service users against the financial resources and available capacity of statutory providers.

Launched in April 2014 by ex-professionals from NHS, local authority and educational backgrounds, the team offers over 25 years’ experience of working in sexual health and young people environments. The organisation prides itself on an in-depth understanding of the area plus the issues and concerns of local communities yet retain the professional ability to operate independently.

Sue Mulroy, the founder of Staffordshire-Safety.Net explains; “My 25 years of experience of working within the fields of HIV prevention and sexual health have given me a unique insight into factors that predicate exploitative behaviour. Whilst CSE can affect anyone, it is well documented that risk factors, such as; being in care, frequently missing from home, low educational attainment and having mental health issues impact on the emotional resilience of young people, allowing predators to actively seek them out in order to exploit. We started Staffordshire-Safety.Net because we believe enabling the lived experience of the child should be central to everything we do.

Our methods as an organisation are ‘grass roots’ and mainly participatory with an emphasis on interactive approaches. We believe this best enables children, young people, parents, professionals and strategic leads to actively recognise the potential signs of exploitative behaviour and stop it in its tracks.”

email: www.staffordshire-safety.net • susanmulroy@aol.com
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CASE STUDY

J Riley Housing Needs Officer
-Young people

Phone call from Cilla who’s step daughter, Roxanne came to them over the weekend following a dispute with her mum. Roxanne is 16 and twelve weeks pregnant. Cilla says that Roxanne can stay on the sofa for a week. Spoke to Roxanne for permission to check situation with her mum. Telephone call to Beverley who is adamant that she will not have Roxanne back home as “she does not get on with my new partner and we are falling out all the time”. Tel call back to Cilla and arranged to visit Roxanne at Cilla’s house with under 18’s social worker tomorrow.

N.B. All under 18 young people who present as homeless have a joint assessment with the Housing Needs Officer and Social Worker.
Visit to Roxanne, Roxanne is no longer with the father of her baby. Spoke to Roxanne about the provision at Gingerbread, Catherine Court, how she could live in a flat, staff are on site to support her and the baby when he is born. Advised Roxanne that she could go and have a look around before making any decision. Explained that Catherine Court is the only option for young pregnant women in Stoke on Trent if she cannot return to any family member. Roxanne explained that her mum moved her new boyfriend in within 6 weeks of meeting him and she feels that she is “in the way”. Roxanne is at the local college and wants to continue with her course.

Telephoned Wendy at Catherine Court to enquire about vacancies; Wendy says that a young person is on offer for her own tenancy with Stoke on Trent City Council and should be moving next week. Arranged for Roxanne to view Catherine Court and meet Staff. Rang Roxanne’s mum to again discuss the possibility of Roxanne returning home as if this is a possibility Housing/ CYPS could contact our mediation service to try and resolve the conflict. Beverley states she will support her as much as she can but she does not want her to return home.

I meet Roxanne at Gingerbread, Catherine Court she was pleasantly surprised by the warm environment and how friendly the staff were. Roxanne stated it did not look like she thought it would and the flat was really big. Roxanne was interviewed whilst at Gingerbread, Catherine Court. A telephone call from Wendy to say that Roxanne has been accepted for Catherine Court and can move in. Tel call to Roxanne who is really pleased. I spoke to Cilla to check if it is ok for Roxanne to stay until the flat is ready at Catherine Court, Cilla is agreeable to this.
Telephone call to Roxanne to check she had moved in, she says she is really pleased and less worried now that she has a place to call her own and can enjoy the rest of her pregnancy.

Visit to Roxanne at Catherine Court to check she is ok, Roxanne states that she is feeling fine and staffs are really helpful.
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SSCB
Wedgwood Building,
Tipping Street, Stafford.
ST16 2HD. Tel: 01785 277151
www.staffsscb.org.uk

SSCB Training Blog

Sally Kearney
SSCB Training Manager

I am Sally Kearney and joined Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board in June 2014, taking over the role of Training Manager. I have experience in training and in the safeguarding of children. I left University in 1999 with a degree in Human Communication Studies (Speech and Language Therapy) however did not pursue this as a career. Instead I joined West Midlands Police Force and I have spent the last 15 years as a serving police officer. During this time I specialised in Domestic Abuse, which became my area of responsibility for many years and I was heavily involved in the initiation of MARAC within the West Midlands. During the latter half of my service I became a police trainer. I am delighted to have been offered this role which enables me to combine my training skills with my passion for safeguarding in a multi-agency environment. Over the last four months I have been busy familiarising myself with the existing program of training events and getting to know partner agencies. I have delivered training on out Multi-agency Level 2 Safeguarding children events and have had chance to watch the Chelsea's Choice Drama production which has been offered to all schools free of charge.

This fantastic production is delivered to students in Year 8 and aims to educate young people in the dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation. Drama is a powerful tool to get safeguarding messages across to young people and we hope to utilise this method in next year’s program of events. I have arranged two trainer development days to be held in November 2014 to enable me to meet our pool of highly skilled trainers. The training delivered by SSCB would not be possible if it wasn’t for commitment of these experience practitioners. This is an exciting time for training as we move forward to planning next year. Some of you may have attended the Female Genital Mutilation Study Day in September 2014 hosted by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner. This was an exceptional day, raising awareness of FGM and the horrific effects that it has on young girls and women. SSCB will be offering training on FGM as of 2015. SSCB have been reviewing various serious incidents and the learning from these reviews will be incorporated into 'Multi-Agency Practitioner Forum' events which will held over next year.

So what next for the next 6 months? Work is underway planning the training events for next year as well as researching a new drama production to go into primary schools highlighting the dangers of cyber bully and sexting. I hope to meet many more practitioners over the coming months and have planned to shadow a duty social worker this month. I also hope to spend some time up at the MASH to gain an insight into the work of first response.
New things in the training world

Female Genital Mutilation
Due to the recent highlighted issues of the risk and cruelty of Female Genital Mutilation the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board has a new page for information, resources and an e-learning package from the home office
http://www.staffsscb.org.uk/Professionals/Key-Safeguarding/Female-Genital-Mutilation/female-genital-mutilation.aspx

We also will be providing:
6 half day Female Genital Mutilation awareness courses around the county, dates and venues to be confirmed and will be published as soon as possible on our webpage.

Internet Safety
We have a webpage with the Internet Safety Day information and new e-learning package specifically for Foster Carers and Adoptive Parents from the UK Safer Internet Centre.
http://www.staffsscb.org.uk/Professionals/Key-Safeguarding/e-Safety/e-Safety.aspx

Practitioners please be aware that some of the SSCB training will no longer be providing hand outs on the day and as notified on your joining instructions to print off your own hand outs to bring with you on the course.

Further details on courses can be found on the SCB website
www.staffsscb.org.uk or contact the training team on 01785 277394

Publications
Harriet Ward, Rebecca Brown and Georgia Hyde-Dryden, Centre for Child and Family Research, Loughborough University

‘We have the right to be safe’ Protecting disabled children from abuse: NSPCC
We know that disabled children are at an increased risk of being abused compared with their non-disabled peers. They are also less likely to receive the protection and support they need when they have been abused.
This report identifies key issues about safeguarding disabled children. It looks at why disabled children are particularly vulnerable and considers what we know from research and reviews of service delivery. It examines the policy context and current state of safeguarding services in the UK. Finally it sets out what is needed to improve the protection of disabled children.
http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/research-and-resources/right-to-be-safe/