Welcome to the 11th Edition of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Newsletter. This 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 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 also hyperlinks to other websites if you require further information on the topics.

SSCB Priorities 2015—2018

- **Neglect and the toxic trio**
  (Intra Familial Abuse; Child Sexual Exploitation; Missing Children; Child Trafficking; Youth Violence; Forced Marriage; Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Violence)

- **Transition**
  (the SSCB are supporting the Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Adults Safeguarding Partnership Board on this priority—SSASPB)

If you have any comments about this newsletter, or wish to submit an article for the next edition, please contact: sscb.admin@stafforshire.gov.uk
USEFUL INFORMATION:

Female Genital Mutilation
   FGM pocket guide
For free training register follow this link

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy
   CSE / CSA strategy

Serious Case Review Toolkit
   SCR Toolkit & Learning Development Framework -

Advice regarding Home Tutors and the Disclosure and Barring Service.
   Safeguarding and Home tutors:

Statutory Guidance on Domestic Homicide Reviews
   Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews

Key findings from Domestic Homicide Reviews
   Domestic Homicide Reviews
   Key findings from analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews

Did you know?
The following documents have been updated and are now available on the SSCB website @
www.staffsscb.org.uk

- Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2016-2020
- 1E Staffordshire Threshold Framework (accessing the Right Help at the Right Time)
- 2C Recruitment and Selection Procedures
- 4D Concealed Pregnancy and Birth
- 4E Private Fostering Guidance
- 4I Children who display Sexually Harmful Behaviour
- 4R Fabricated / Induced Illness
- 7A Escalation Procedure
- 8A Joint LSCB How to do it Toolkit

Outcome of the national review of LSCB’s

The Children and Social Work Bill, including the role of LSCB’s is progressing through Parliament and subject to the necessary approvals is expected to receive Royal Ascent during the summer of 2017.

There will then be a need to produce revised implementation guidance along the lines of what we now refer to in Working Together to Safeguard Children. This work is not likely to be completed until early February 2018. Whilst the revisions are pending all LSCB’s are encouraged to maintain business as usual.
HIDDEN HARM

The hidden Harm Strategy originally was written in 2011, and is now being updated.
We all have a part to play in recognising the damaging impact of Hidden Harm and working together to prevent it having an adverse impact on children and their families.
Hidden Harm is wider than drug misuse, it is children and young people experiencing a level of harm because of:

- the presence of parental substance misuse, including drugs and alcohol
- poor parental mental health
- domestic abuse within the family

A workshop took place during the summer with partners across Staffordshire including Stoke-on-Trent City Council to commence development strategic vision and ensure all organisations and agencies understand how hidden harm relates to their area of work and what they need to do.

Since November; Vonni Gordon, Strategic lead for Specialist Safeguarding Delivery will be leading on Hidden Harm.

If you would like to look at the Governments original guidance please follow the link.

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**Staffordshire Police and Domestic Abuse**

**MARAC**

Due to the significant increase in cases being referred into MARAC, there has been a review of the entire process. The review is now complete. It has been identified that the demand level has risen by 167%. Options appraisal has been submitted to the review sponsor (Mark Dean) and a consultation open to everyone will run between December 1st 2016—15th January 2017.

Anyone wishing to participate may contact John Maddox, MASH Principal Officer:
Early Help Strategy Update

With the latest revelations around abuse emerging from the world of football, the aim that "safeguarding is everybody's business" has never been more necessary. The parallel objective of encouraging everybody to also take an interest and responsibility for early help is also crucial in supporting people quickly and effectively therefore reducing the complexity and intensity of the issue and its impact on them and those around them.

Staffordshire has a new Early Help strategy and plan, which also includes the concept of earliest help. Early Help is about official assessment of need when things are more complex and challenging. These assessments will largely be undertaken by Local Support Teams, schools, police and health professionals as well as voluntary organisations who are commissioned to deliver services by the County Council. However, earliest help is the kind of help voluntary groups provide almost without thinking about it every week of the year when they support and enable children and young people to overcome particular barriers or issues and by doing so develop greater personal resilience, connect them into support networks and improve emotional strength to overcome the next challenge that comes along.

The priorities include changing the culture around early help by equipping the workforce, integrating commissioning where relevant and possible, making the most of the early years (0-5s), valuing the voluntary sector contribution and evidencing and measuring the impact of the partnership work being undertaken in each of the above areas. Primarily, this is not about new or additional workload or resource, it is about improving outcomes by enabling everyone to see their role in improving early and earliest help by being more joined up and proactively addressing root causes rather than presenting issues.

Further information about the Early Help strategy can be found here:

Early Help Training

Early Help Assessment E Learning can be access for Free through Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board's Online Booking System.

Register online

Click on the link below to complete registration

Early Help Assessment E Learning

is then automatically allocated.
SSCB Priorities

Update on the Multi Agency CSE Panels

The Staffordshire Multi-agency CSE Panels continue to grow and develop with the help and support offered by partner agencies and practitioners across the county. Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation has continued to increase having a direct effect on the number of young people discussed at the CSE Panel where oversight enables additional support in the disruption, prevention and protection of young people at risk of CSE.

The panels have adapted their role in recognising the hot spot locations and areas of concern discussed throughout panels where young people may be congregating and engaging in anti-social behaviour, substance misuse or where it is felt they could be at risk of targeting for the purposes of CSE. These locations are now shared with partners following each round of CSE Panels to further heighten awareness of the context of CSE for each locality and provide wider understanding of “borderless” CSE.

Multi-agency attendance at CSE Panel continues to develop and this has now ensured clear links with missing children, children missing education and gangs and youth violence while further recognising links with the Modern Slavery Act resulting in referrals being made to the National Referral Mechanism for cases of suspected trafficking of young people for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The Staffordshire Multi-agency CSE Panels will be reviewed annually and are currently in the review period. The review will continue to focus on the role of the panel meeting its proposed outcomes in offering an oversight of the current context of CSE within the County.

For useful resources and information regarding child Sexual Exploitation Visit: Know About CSE

GOOD NEWS

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) published its findings of the Full Joint Inspection it undertook with Staffordshire Youth Offending Service in March 2016. This joint inspection of youth offending work in Staffordshire was one of a small number of full joint inspections undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Probation with colleagues from the criminal justice, social care, education and health inspectorates.

Inspectors focused on six key areas: reducing reoffending, protecting the public, protecting children and young people, ensuring the sentence is served, the effectiveness of governance and court work and reports. Staffordshire Youth Offending Service received the highest rating in four of these judgements including ‘Protecting children and young people’

The Chief Inspector stated that ‘The work of Staffordshire Youth Offending Service was of a high standard and staff were committed to doing their best for children and young people’ If you wish to find the full report:
Staffordshire Police and Sexting

As reports of sexting between young people continue to rise, police forces have been given advice on how to respond in a measured and proportionate way. A briefing note published by the College of Policing aims to assist officers to respond in a proportionate way to reports of under 18 year olds possessing, sharing or generating indecent imagery of themselves or other children - often referred to as sexting.

Research by the NSPCC found that three per cent of 11-16-year-olds surveyed had taken fully naked pictures of themselves, with a smaller proportion reporting sharing the image. The multi-agency response needs to be balanced to the circumstances of each individual case with the immediate focus always being on safeguarding children. It is important that this activity isn’t viewed as just harmless teenage behaviour. There are significant risks involved for children and young people; once an image is sent, control is lost, and it can cause significant distress when it gets into wider hands.

We should take all cases seriously - all reports of youth produced sexual imagery require a police response, with criminal investigations into those involving any form of exploitation. But it should always be a common-sense approach that doesn’t criminalise children unnecessarily and if this behaviour can be dealt with in other more appropriate ways then it should be.

The LSCB joint Policies & procedures group are currently working on multi-agency guidance to support practitioners in responding to these cases.

Further information on Sexting:

Guidance for Schools and Colleges:

NSPCC Guidance for parents:

For the Whole World to see

A short film by

Burton and South Derbyshire College
Prevent is the Government’s strategy to stop people becoming Terrorists or supporting Terrorism in all its forms. It’s about working together to build stronger, safer communities.

The strategy makes clear the importance of the role that public authorities have to play in achieving these aims and this has now been reinforced through the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which placed a Duty on key agencies to have due regard to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism.

It is an extension of the safeguarding process in the same ways that authorities help to safeguard people from CSE, gang violence, or substance misuse.

Prevent is about encouraging people to talk and to challenge their concerns. Not to be afraid to have a conversation.

Staffordshire Police Prevent Team works with our partners in Local Authority, Education and Communities to help increase awareness of the issues and to allow for individuals and institutions to be supported in challenging harmful ideologies and to ensure that this is done in a multi-agency approach that enables a proportionate response to concerns raised.

We will also look at individuals and institutions about whom a concern has been raised but who do not wish to engage with Prevent. In these cases we will endeavour to disrupt their activities in order to prevent them from continuing along a harmful path or from spreading hatred and division within communities and we will use all lawful options available to us in achieving this which will include working with partners where appropriate to do so.

For those individuals who do agree to work with Prevent we take their cases to a Channel Panel. This is a multi-agency panel which is Local Authority owned and chaired by Safeguarding Leads. All key agencies are represented around the table and they discuss the issues and formulate supportive action plans that are aimed at addressing the concerns raised and supporting the individual.

In the year 2015/2016 there were 125 individuals referred into Prevent from across Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire. Not all of these were accepted at Channel Panel, and in those cases that weren’t, all were signposted to other services who were better placed to deal with their concerns and vulnerabilities in the absence of a Counter Terrorism or Domestic Extremism concern.

For more information on Channel you can complete a 20 minute eLearning programme from the following link:-

If you have any concerns or wish to make a referral you can contact the team on:

01785 232054 or email at: prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk
See, Listen and Hear children. What are they telling you and how does this confirm or change your views as a practitioner about their welfare and safety? Put yourself in their position and think - what is it like to live in this child’s shoes?

Understand risk factors and challenge the decision making of other partners when you don’t think this is right. Use the SSCB Multi-agency Escalation Procedure on the SSCB website to help you to do this, by following the link.

Child neglect is a complex issue and it’s easy for practitioners to lose focus of the child. Every time you see a child and when you leave them think about where your focus is - don’t be blindsided by the parent or carer’s behaviour or needs.

Children living with long term parental alcohol misuse, domestic abuse and /or mental ill-health can experience neglect through both physical and emotional harm. As a practitioner you need to understand what impact parental behaviours have on their ability to provide safe, consistent care for their child/ren.

If you have any historical or current information about the welfare and potential safety of a child share it with any other professionals involved in working with the child or adults and record it.

Who are the men in the child’s life? By engaging them we understand more about the nature of their relationship with the child/ren, other adults in the child’s life and whether they are a source of safety or danger.

Some adults will deny, minimise or distort the extent of their risky behaviour so you think they are good parents. Be professionally curious and don’t take information at face value; check out what is being said with others to try and confirm it.
Helping professionals identify neglect

Neglect has been a priority for the Board since 2012 as it remains as one of the highest categories of abuse for children subject to a child protection plan in Staffordshire. The learning from serious case reviews both nationally and locally also tell us that neglect is still an area that front line staff find difficult to tackle.

The NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 is the only authorised and fully tested update of the original Graded Care Profile. Building on the findings of our national evaluation, Graded Care Profile 2 is a more user-friendly and comprehensive tool that helps front line practitioners with their assessment and subsequent work with families where neglect is a concern.

The NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 measures the quality of care delivered to a child over a short window of time. Practitioners use the tool to grade care on a scale of 1 (best) to 5 (worst) and use the outcome of the assessment to determine what level of support or help the family might need (where applicable).

It has kept the principles and values of the original Graded Care Profile - ensuring that it retains its integrity in the way it scales and supports work with families - but adds value in relation to new, more accessible language, as well as incorporating new ‘items’ such as obesity and online safety.

If you’re interested in trialling the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 service, get in touch. With them and they will send you more details on dates for regional sessions, what’s involved and how to apply.

They have produced a free downloadable toolkit of resources and an implementation guide for practitioners who want to use a solution-focused approach to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

BREAST IRONING

Breast Ironing, also known as “Breast Flattening”, is the process whereby young pubescent girls’ breasts are ironed, massaged and/or pounded down through the use of hard or heated objects in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely. It is believed that by carrying out this act, young girls will be protected from harassment, rape, abduction and early forced marriage and therefore be kept in education. Much like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Breast Ironing is a harmful cultural practice and is child abuse.

For FURTHER INFORMATION:

Breast Ironing Information
Safeguarding Tools

Recently Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services have worked with colleagues from the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board to refresh our useful and popular safeguarding tools. We have also been able to include information relating to children and young people resident in Stoke on Trent thanks to their Safeguarding Children Board.

As well as the volunteer cards, which provide a handy way to keep all the necessary contact details in the event of a concern or a disclosure on you at all times, we have refreshed the content and look of the wall posters, which give a step by step guide to aid with decision making.

The final tool is a template safeguarding policy for voluntary organisations which can be used either for new groups who are setting up or for existing ones to check their policy is up to date and fit for purpose.

If you require further details please contact SCVYS:

01785 240378 or office@staffscvys.org.uk

Introducing

Vicki Holt—Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Development Officer

I grew up in Staffordshire and have lived in the county for more than 30 years. My professional background is mainly within adult social care. My aim is to further develop the MASH to improve information sharing across Staffordshire agencies so when concerns are raised we have as much of the right information available as possible. In the long term, I intend to support and influence a move to a more preventative model of working across agencies by using my research and analytical skills to help identify abuse at the earliest opportunity and to enable the sharing of best practice.

If you require more information about me or the Staffordshire MASH:

Victoria.holt@staffordshire.gov.uk

Caroline Boote—Education Safeguarding Advisor

I have been in post since September 2016 and my aim is to provide support to education professionals and provide further tools to inform their decision making to safeguard children. The top 5 enquiries are:

- Should I make a referral to First Response?
  The SSCB Threshold Framework will inform your decision making.

- Should school governors undertake level 1 safeguarding training?
  Keeping Children Safe in Education states that Governing bodies and proprietors should have training.

- Where can I find information on Risk Assessments?
  SCC schools can access advice from Kim Gristy (kim.gristy@staffordshire.gov.uk)

  Academies and Independent schools should contact their Health and Safety representative.

- Is there a legal age that children can walk home alone or be left on their own?
  No. legal age, when practitioners have a concern they need to explore this with the family and use professional judgement to what action should be taken.
12 Myths and a £75 Prize Draw

Staffordshire County Council is having a pre-Christmas online push to recruit new foster carers. We know potential carers are out there, but sometimes they are put off by myths such as ‘you can’t foster if you’re single’.

Our digital campaign starts on 12th December 2016 when our fostering angel will be blowing away 12 fostering myths over 12 days solely on Facebook and Twitter.

To work we need your help. Our messages need to be seen by as many people on Facebook and Twitter as possible. So we’ve come up with a cunning plan which will help you to help us to help Staffordshire’s children in care find a loving family home: a Prize Draw.

First prize is a £75 Post Office One4all gift card
2 runner up prizes of £25 Post Office One4all gift cards

But you’ll need to do a little work to be in with a chance:

From the 12th December look out for our colourfully animated 12 myths messages on the council’s Facebook and Twitter accounts (facebook.com/yourstaffordshire, twitter.com/StaffordshireCC). There’ll be one a day, with the last one on Friday 23rd December.

Share, ReTweet and Like, one or more of the myths. The more the merrier please to help us to reach more potential foster carers.

Hidden in only one message is our old mascot Reggie Bear. Email us which myth he’s hiding in no later than 2nd January 2017: communications@staffordshire.gov.uk. Please don’t reveal where he is in a public comment!

Please let us know the name of your Facebook or Twitter account so we can see whether you’ve shared one of the 12 posts. If you haven’t Shared and Liked you won’t be entered into the Draw.

Optional: we’d love to ask your opinion about our new campaign ideas during 2017. If you’re interested tell us in your email. The winner will be drawn at random from all correct answers on Monday 9th January.

Please be sure to read our Terms and Conditions online at before entering.

Thank you.