



Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Newsletter

October 2017

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Welcome to the 12th 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 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.

Ofsted inspection of children's services

Vulnerable children in Staffordshire are very well protected, according to the latest Ofsted inspection of our children's services.

For the second inspection in a row, services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers are all rated as 'Good' in every category, with no areas needing urgent improvement.

This means that we are one of only two authorities in the West Midlands to be ranked as 'Good' and we are in the top third of authorities nationally.

The recent inspection was a pilot for the new Ofsted regime to be introduced for all local authorities in England from early next year.

Among the findings, Ofsted noted:

- * The quality of our preventative work with families where there are children at risk of coming into the care system
- * That children are placed with carers who meet their needs;
- * That carers receive good support;
- * The stability of children's placements with carers is good;
- * Disabled children benefit from high quality support;
- * Children in care are making progress in education;
- * The quality of adoption work is good.

The report also notes that much of the success of the Families First service is linked to the sustained investment in staff development and good working conditions.

This is a huge achievement and testament to the hard work and focus you give to supporting Staffordshire's children and families, despite the challenges being faced by local government.

What's more, this new inspection focused much more heavily on the impact of our work and proves that we're making a real difference where it matters.

New Missing and CSE service Catch22

Catch22 are very excited to be the newly commissioned service in Staffordshire and Stoke for Child Missing from Home/Care and Child Sexual Exploitation Services. As a provider we have a vast experience of delivering these services, ensuring that the delivery model is in line with the DfE's **'Working Together to Safeguard Children from CSE'** and the DfE's **"Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care"**

The team is split into three geographical areas, Staffordshire North, Stoke and Staffordshire South ensuring that front line practitioners are located closest to the both the communities and the professionals with whom are working.

Catch22 receive missing referrals from Staffordshire Police and endeavour to complete a Return interview within 72 hours, ideally independent of an adult to determine the "push and pull" factors and any safeguarding concerns. We will also capture the voice of the child and their wishes and feelings. The ultimate aim of the service is to prevent any future missing incidents and inform any existing plan for that child.

The service for child sexual exploitation service is embedded into the pathways for the newly launched risk factor matrix (RFM). **Following the receipt of a RFM Catch22 will be offering:**

Direct work: flexible, evidence-based, longer term interventions adapted to the needs of each child to reduce risk and help them cope and recover from the impact of CSE.

Bespoke delivery: work with a professional and co-deliver part of the planned piece of work for particular cases or directly support the professional to deliver the work themselves.



Resource sharing: Catch22 has a range of resources that can be utilised by other professionals. We will share these, more specifically on low risk cases and ensure that the professional is confident in their use.

Group work: Through mapping themes and trends, Catch22 may determine that group work within certain settings may be required. This would usually be co-delivered with partners.

To contact the team:
Nigel Sargeant
01782 237106
nigel.sargeant@catch-22.org.uk

As a result of the new service, the following documents have been refreshed and replaced on the SSCB website:

[Section 4Hb risk factor matrix](#)

[Section 4Hc CSE risk factor matrix guidance](#)

Section 4A, The joint SCB CSE policy and procedure is in the process of being updated and will be on the website soon.

Did you know...

The CDOP newsletter has been re-named. The Health and Safety Awareness newsletter is full of safety advice for professionals and parents with information from safe sleeping advice to road safety and community projects.

Copies of the newsletter can be found here: [Health and Safety Awareness newsletter](#)

East Staffordshire Domestic Abuse Service from Oct 2017

Message from Julie Long, Principal Community Safety Officer, Staffordshire County Council

Dear All

I am very pleased to advise that Pathway Project will be providing Domestic Abuse support services across East Staffordshire from Monday 2 October 2017 until re-commissioned services are in place across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in 2018.

Pathway will be taking over the provision of Domestic Abuse services in East Staffordshire from Home Group who have been the provider across East Staffordshire for a number of years and we would like to thank them for their commitment and dedication during that time.

Many of you will already know Pathway as the provider of Domestic Abuse support services in Lichfield and Tamworth. Pathway will be providing outreach and IDVA support across East Staffordshire and will be able to arrange access to refuge for victims as required, although they will not be taking over the refuge previously operated by Home Group in East Staffordshire.

I know that Pathway are looking forward to working in East Staffordshire and are proactively working to establish links with local partners and community groups. They have also been linking very closely with Home Group to ensure that the change of service provider is as seamless and smooth as possible for all concerned.

Key contacts at Pathway are:

Kathy Coe, Chief Executive: Tel: 01543 442612

email: kathyc@pathway-project.co.uk

Hayley Cliff, Operations Director: Tel: 01543 442615
[project.co.uk](mailto:hayleyc@pathway-project.co.uk)

email: [hayleyc@pathway-](mailto:hayleyc@pathway-project.co.uk)

One minute safeguarding updates

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

The Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), with the support of local partners, submitted a bid to the Home Office Violence against Women and Girls Bid in March 2017 to develop and implement a FGM Project in Staffordshire. In July 2017 the PCC were notified that they had been successful in this bid.

As the provision of FGM support is limited across the Country, it is intended that this project is very much used to test some of the initiatives developed by the Barnardo's national FGM centre and make recommendations for future service delivery in Staffordshire and other areas of the country.

We are hoping to have a service in place by January 2018 (subject to procurement regulations). The service will consist of FGM project workers, counselling and therapeutic interventions for victims/potential victims, community champions and support from a national provider including evaluation, campaigns and a showcase conference at the end of the Project.

To support implementation, a multi-agency project steering group has been set up and is due to meet for the first time in October 2017.

Update on work in respect of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education

In response to the interest shown by schools through a recent safeguarding audit, the OPCC has ring-fenced some funding to employ a dedicated officer to work with schools across Staffordshire regarding their PSHE education offer. Money is also available for the development / purchasing of relevant educational resources, where required.

Staffordshire County Council have been identified as the lead organisation to undertake this work area and they will work in Partnership with other agencies and schools to undertake this work. A job description/person specification has been written along with a project outline. This will be advertised as a secondment opportunity for an initial period of 12 months. It is anticipated that the recruitment and selection process will commence at the end of October 2017 with a view to having someone in post by January/February 2018.

Launch of new Fostering campaign

First of all thank you to everyone who has already supported the Staffordshire County Council previous fostering campaign, your support is greatly appreciated!

A new Fostering campaign has been launched - "Fostering Takes All Sorts" and once again SCC are hoping that you will help to promote fostering in your local areas.

There are a number of ways in which you can support the local authority (LA). There is a dedicated Facebook page www.facebook.com/staffsfosterandadopt and twitter page @staffsfoster_adopt.

If you could like and follow the LA on these pages and then share their posts and tweets we would be very grateful.

The LA can also provide you with leaflets or posters to distribute in your local area.

Staffordshire begins to roll out the new child protection conference model

Exciting News in Staffordshire

Following a successful three month pilot a new model for all initial and review child protection conferences is being introduced in Staffordshire. The Three Houses Model is a tool used to support assessment of risk by thoroughly exploring an individual's situation. Using the 'worries', 'positives' and 'changes required' conversation, the model is designed to encourage transparency and inclusiveness when working with families (P,230, Weld in Calder, 2008).

In order to help front line staff and their managers understand and become familiar with the new process, Staffordshire County Council is holding an event on **8th November 2017** in the Newcastle and Moorlands area to discuss the model in more detail. These events will take place over two sessions; 10-12pm and 2-4pm and will include a short video that demonstrates the new process.

These events will be held at Leek Area Social Services Office, Stockwell Street, Leek.

If you work in the Newcastle, Biddulph, Leek and Kidsgrove area and would like to attend, please register your interest by sending an email to Lynne Milligan, SSCB Development Officer: lynne.milligan@staffordshire.gov.uk no later than **Friday 20th October**.

Please state in your email your preference for the 'am' or 'pm' session.

Should you be successful, an email will be sent out after Friday 20th Oct confirming your place.

Further dates will be added for those partners who work in mid and south Staffordshire.

For queries in respect of the new model please contact:

Claire Cartwright, Business Manager Safeguarding Review, Independent Conference Chairs Claire.cartwright@staffordshire.gov.uk or Paula Conyon, Independent Conference Chair paula.conyon@staffordshire.gov.uk

Child trafficking project

ECPAT UK was successful in its application to the Home Office Child Trafficking Protection Fund. This funding enables ECPAT (alongside their contracted partners) to work with four local authorities (two per year) to improve their overall response to child trafficking. Staffordshire County Council was one of the year 1 authorities to be selected. ECPAT is the lead organisation but they will be sub-contracting the physical audit to Cordis Bright Ltd who will need access to SCC data.

The purpose of the project is to review how Staffordshire County Council (SCC) manages potential child trafficking cases. The benefits of the project to SCC and to our service users would be that we would receive input into our current practice with regarding to trafficking concerns. We will also receive expertise in managing and processing trafficking referrals in the most appropriate way based on national research and learning.

30 cases will be selected from a pool of 50 and approximately 3 months will be taken to view and audit the cases by Cordis Bright. The following 9 months will be used to develop and provide support and advice to SCC. A final report will be produced at the end of these timescales. It is hoped the work can start in July 2017.

Updates on the progress of this project will be reported in future newsletters.

Learning from national and local serious case reviews

Polly* ADS14 Derbyshire LSCB

On May 1st 2014, the local Ambulance Service attended the family home and on arrival found the mother's boyfriend giving cardiac massage to Polly; she was reported by him to have 'gone floppy' and had stopped breathing. She was taken by ambulance to Queen's Hospital Burton where, after further attempts at resuscitation, she was pronounced dead. The mother and boyfriend were subsequently arrested and later charged with her murder. The child lived in Derbyshire but during her short life had spent a limited period of time living in Staffordshire. Burton hospital, Staffordshire children's social care and Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership Trust (SSOTP who provide health visiting services across the county) were all involved in the review conducted by Derbyshire LSCB.

Learning points:

- A lack of robust child protection plans
- Professionals taking a fixed view with not enough professional curiosity
- Supervision orders and how these are understood by those outside of children's social care
- Not enough understanding of the role fathers/ mothers partner
- The role of health professionals in accident and emergency and their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding
- Housing of vulnerable parents and the impact on children
- Parental substance misuse and its impact on children
- The use of written agreements
- Families moving across borders

Child W and X Brighton and Hove LSCB

Following the reported death of an eighteen year old British citizen in Syria, called sibling W in this report the LSCB agreed a Learning Review.

The adult had gone to Syria with a sibling (sibling X) and a friend to join his elder brother, sibling P. It was understood that the boys were with the Al-Nusra Front, which in 2013 pledged allegiance to Al Qaeda. Whilst it was decided that the case did not meet the threshold criteria for a serious case review, a Learning Review was commissioned, in light of the fact that W was a child when he travelled to Syria and also because the risks to young people of radicalisation had become a concern in Brighton & Hove.

The review found 13 findings, some of which explore early identification, and prevention, cultural barriers and domestic abuse. The SCB have shared the learning from this review with both the Prevent Board and the Domestic Abuse steering group for further discussion and to provide assurances to the SSCB that action is being taken to ensure the learning from this case is being embedded across the County.

Do you work with Dads? The NSPCC have produced a number of reports as well as a blog on best practice when working with Dads. Here are a few top tips:

- Openly invite dads into the work
- Ask about dad
- Write to dad
- Leave your contact details specifically for dad
- Challenge everyday examples of things being all about mums
- Reflect on your own experience of family

NSPCC Working with Dads



New recruit to the SSCB

Vikky Draper is the new SSCB Training Manager. Vikky is an experienced trainer; registered social worker; parent and trying Pilates. Vikky is a graduate from Staffordshire University where she received a BA Hons in social work.

Since graduating Vikky has worked for Children services, Staffordshire County Council, as a social worker on a child protection team. During this time Vikky delivered multi agency training for the SSCB. This gave Vikky her opportunity to join Children Services as their trainer for the last five years.

Vikky is keen to develop in the SSCB training manager role, as she is passionate about training and developing practitioners who are working with Children and Families in Staffordshire. Vikky also hopes to overcome the challenges of parenting and master Pilates.

Update on SSCB Training

Did you know about our updated Level 2 Working Together training open to Multi-agency practitioners!

If not, should now be the time you book on!!

(Please check with your line manager as to whether this course is appropriate for you).

Our recent evaluation comments:

'This was by far one of the best child protection courses I went on. It was well paced and more importantly it gave VERY clear advice, guidance and how to access support when it was needed.' - 12 September 2017

'I walked out of the course with a very clear understanding of each level and how to act upon situations' - 12 September 2017

'Gained confidence regarding my knowledge and also affirmed my ability to lead my team in order to keep children safe in our provision. Having the opportunity to ask questions to such experienced people was really helpful and networking with other profess' - 15 September 2017

Please see available dates for Working Together - The Staffordshire Way Multi-agency Level 2 course and our extensive range of specific face to face and E-learning safeguarding training by registering or login via our webpage [Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board - Training Events](#)

Please note: Before attending/completing a SSCB training event, please ensure that you have completed your Level 1 Child Protection training in accordance with your own organisation training strategy/programme. The SSCB partnership is clear that you must complete Level 1 Child Protection training every 3 years (If your organisation does not provide Level 1 Child Protection face to face training please complete Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect-Core, E-learning and Delivering Early Help in Staffordshire (This course has automatically been allocated to you, E-learning). If you do not complete the above you will be unable to fully participate in our training.

Did you know 500 Staffordshire organisations have already downloaded the SSCB Child Protection Level 1 Core slides for FREE. The update for September 2017 - September 2018 is coming soon so get signed up for FREE Staffordshire Level 1 Child Protection Core Slides. [Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board - Core Slides](#)

Have you seen all the FREE CSE learning resources on the training pages, should you look now

[Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board - Learning Resources](#)

18th October is Anti-Slavery Day

The aim of Anti-Slavery Day is for people in the UK to acknowledge that, despite the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade more than 200 years ago, men, women and children continue to be victims of the modern slave trade. The day helps to raise awareness of the dangers of modern slavery, including human trafficking and exploitation, and encourages people to be proactive in the fight against it.

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is a complex crime that takes a number of different forms. It encompasses child trafficking both internationally and domestically, forced labour with debt bondage, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation. Modern slavery crimes are being committed across the UK and there have been year on year increases in the number of victims of modern day slavery identified in this country. These crimes are taking place in factories, fields, brothels and even in homes up and down the country. There is no typical victim of slavery - victims can be men, women or children of all ages and nationalities.

There are a number of signs which may suggest that an individual is a victim of modern slavery. There is no typical victim and some victims may not recognise or understand that they have been exploited.

Spotting the Signs

Indicators of Modern Slavery / Trafficking include:

- Signs of being controlled and dependent - for example, they may act as if they are instructed or coached by someone else and / or allow others to speak for them when spoken to directly
- Fearful of police / authorities
- Fearful of the trafficker and fearful for the lives of family members
- Signs of trauma including psychological and physical
- Fearful of telling others about their situation
- Limited social interaction or contact with people outside their immediate environment
- Living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation and / or living and working at the same address
- Not paid, paid very little or someone else in control of their earnings
- Perception of being in debt to someone
- No passport or someone else holding their passport / ID documents
- Signs of being harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities
- Children - alone, not related to adult carer, inappropriate clothing/behaviour

Making a Referral

If you suspect that someone is a victim of modern slavery in Staffordshire, help is available.

Staffordshire Police: 101

(In an emergency, dial 999)

First Response (Child Safeguarding):

0800 131 3126 (between 8am and 5.30pm and 4.30pm on a Friday)

0845 6042 886 (Outside of 8am and 5.30pm)



**MODERN
SLAVERY**

MODERN SLAVERY IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

IT IS HAPPENING IN STAFFORDSHIRE

SOME OF THE SIGNS:

- ❖ Behaviour – withdrawn, scared, not willing to talk
- ❖ Appearance – unkempt, malnourished, few possessions, health concerns
- ❖ Work – inappropriate clothing for job, long hours, little or no pay
- ❖ Fear of authorities – doesn't want to speak to Police or authorities
- ❖ Debt bondage – in debt to, or dependent on someone else
- ❖ Accommodation – overcrowded, poorly maintained, blacked-out windows
- ❖ Lack of control – no ID, no access to bank account, work transport provided
- ❖ Lack of freedom – unable to move freely, unwilling or scared to leave
- ❖ Children – alone, not related to adult carer, inappropriate clothing/behaviour

If you suspect that someone is a victim, help is available:

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE: 101

FIRST RESPONSE (CHILD SAFEGUARDING):

0800 131 3126 (between 8am and 5.30pm and 4.30pm on a Friday)

0845 6042 886 (Outside of 8am and 5.30pm)

MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE: 0800 0121 700

IN AN EMERGENCY, ALWAYS DIAL 999

New and revised SCB policies and procedures

As a result of changes to national guidance, local commissioning arrangements and learning from local serious case reviews the following policies and procedures have either been newly created or refreshed. Please share with your staff and ensure any supporting information is updated to reflect the new changes.

- Section 4J (**Staffordshire**)/ F10 (**Stoke-on-Trent**) Guidance for Professionals Working with Sexually Active Children & Young People;
- Section 6J/ A09 Guidance on Recording Incidents for Organisations Working with Children in the Private and Voluntary Sector;
- Section 6D/ D03 Responding to Sexting - *please note this has two separate appendices attached:*
 - National Decision Making Model Diagram
 - Responding to Youth Produced Sexual Imagery Process
- Section 4Hb/ D14b Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Factor Matrix;
- Section 4Hc/ D14c Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Factor Matrix Guidance;
- Section 4U Children & Young People who Self Harm or Disclose an Intent to Die by Suicide (**Staffordshire only**);
- Section 4N Domestic Abuse (**Staffordshire only**).
- Section 4B/ D04 Complex abuse

Policies and procedures that will be published in due course include;

- Section 3C/ C02 Undertaking Assessments and Investigations
- Section 4G/ D08 Missing from Home and Care Protocol

To locate multi-agency policies and procedures on the **Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board** web site please go to:

<https://www.staffsscb.org.uk/Professionals/Procedures/Procedures.aspx>

To locate multi-agency policies and procedures on the **Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board** web site please go to:

<http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/professionals/procedure-manuals/>

National News

[Indecent images of children: guidance for young people.](#) This guidance aims to help young people understand the law on making or sharing indecent images of children.

[Joint inspections of the response to children experiencing neglect: May to December 2017.](#) Guidance for inspectors and inspection reports for joint targeted area inspections of local area services.

[Home Secretary gives £20 million boost to tackle online grooming.](#) Amber Rudd has awarded more than £20 million over three years from the Police Transformation Fund to help combat the online grooming of children for sexual exploitation.

[Child Protection in Sport Unit](#)

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) is a partnership between the NSPCC, Sport England, Sport Northern Ireland and Sport Wales.

The Unit was founded in 2001 to work with UK Sports Councils, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) and other organisations to help them minimise the risk of child abuse during sporting activities.