

Information update

October 2011



Ofsted report: Good practice by Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Ofsted has published a review of good practice by LSCBs.

The Munro Review of Child Protection set out the important role that LSCBs have in monitoring the effectiveness of partner agencies and recognised that they are key to improving multi-agency working, to support and enable partner organisations to adapt their practice and become more effective in safeguarding children.

Professor Munro says they are '...well placed to identify emerging problems through learning from practice and to oversee efforts to improve services in response.' She advocates a move away from a compliance culture to a learning culture and sees the LSCB as key to the development of a 'learning system'.

The Ofsted report highlights elements of LSCB good practice. It aims to support the development of 'learning systems', by encouraging all LSCBs to reflect on their practice and plan for improvement.

It showcases good practice in LSCBs. Many can demonstrate that they are learning from previous reviews and are paying particular attention to improving their practice in those areas which reviews found to be generally weaker across boards.

The report includes questions which LSCBs can use as the basis for reviewing their progress and learning from the developments of other boards.

Case study: Halton – Engaging with frontline workers

Each year, the Children's Trust or the HSCB takes the lead in delivering an event designed to provide frontline workers with an opportunity to engage with the Trust or the Board and to develop an understanding of their work. The Board is very visible with members introducing themselves and explaining what they do.

Frontline workers are encouraged to suggest ways in which improvements can be made to support them in delivering high-quality services for children, young people and their families. At each event, there is an update on actions agreed in the previous years ('you said, we did').

Topics covered at frontline events included: the implications of the serious case review on Peter Connelly for frontline practice; the Common Assessment Framework; team around the family; and the findings of the Munro review.

Issues, suggestions and questions recorded during table-top discussions are reviewed afterwards by event planners from the Trust and the Board, and relevant actions are identified.

Case study: Barking and Dagenham – Young People's Safety Group

The Young People's Safety Group contributes directly to the LSCB. It is made up of 11 to 18-year-olds and is chaired by a young care leaver. Thirty young people regularly attend its quarterly meetings to give their views and opinions on how safe they feel in the borough. Its core functions are to:

- provide a forum for young people to work in partnership through a joined-up approach
- improve co-ordination, liaison and information between the key partners working with young people around safety and safeguarding
- work towards the agreed overall aims of increasing and improving the level of safety in the borough
- provide an opportunity for all members to initiate matters and work together to develop projects to improve safety and safeguarding for young people in Barking and Dagenham
- provide a forum for raising issues and solving problems around safety and safeguarding including research and consultation
- increase good practice in safeguarding practices and approaches by sharing expertise, information and resources
- identify gaps and develop solutions around safety and safeguarding.

London Safeguarding Children Board update



Ensuring strong child protection practice in the changing health economy

The London Board has been working closely with NHS London to support the safeguarding team's efforts to ensure that child protection arrangements remain robust in the new structures, and a crib sheet has been circulated to LSCB chairs with a list of suggested questions to ask of their health colleagues in relation to transforming community services.

The Board has also written to Tim Loughton and the Munro Review team to stress the importance of safeguarding as the new health economy continues to evolve, highlighting in particular the key role of Health and Wellbeing Boards, the need for consistent public health representation on LSCBs and the importance of ensuring that new GP commissioning arrangements are developed with safeguarding children considerations firmly embedded.

With this in mind, the Board will shortly begin work with Children England and NHS London to create an aide memoire for GP pathfinders on commissioning children and young people services.

Safeguarding trafficked children toolkit and guidance

Earlier this year, the London Safeguarding Children Board launched a new guidance document and toolkit to help agencies identify and support children who have been trafficked.

The guidelines aim to support social workers, teachers, police, health workers and other professionals who may come into contact with suspected victims of trafficking.

This work brings together a wide range of tools and good practice into one document for the first time, and provides advice on joint working to tackle this complex issue.

Having been piloted in local authorities over the past 18 months, the London Board and Association of Directors of Children's Services

have now agreed to make this work available to local authority children's social care teams and LSCBs across the UK.

Overall, the London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit 2009 has helped a number of authorities to develop, implement and strengthen good practice in the safeguarding of trafficked children.

The toolkit has assisted in the identification of 56 trafficked children during the pilot period, 47 of whom were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

The toolkit offered pilot authorities a comprehensive framework with which to approach the safeguarding of trafficked children.

At the heart of this framework is multi-agency working, which recognises that trafficking is a complex form of child abuse and requires a proactive response supported by specialist training and input from professionals, voluntary groups and community agencies alike.

www.londonscb.gov.uk/trafficking/

Olympics subgroup

The London Board has an Olympics subgroup which is in place to ensure that London LSCBs and partner agencies were prepared for the potential challenges around safeguarding children at the 2012 Games; and to influence the Olympics delivery agencies in relation to prioritising the safeguarding children in planning and delivering the Games.

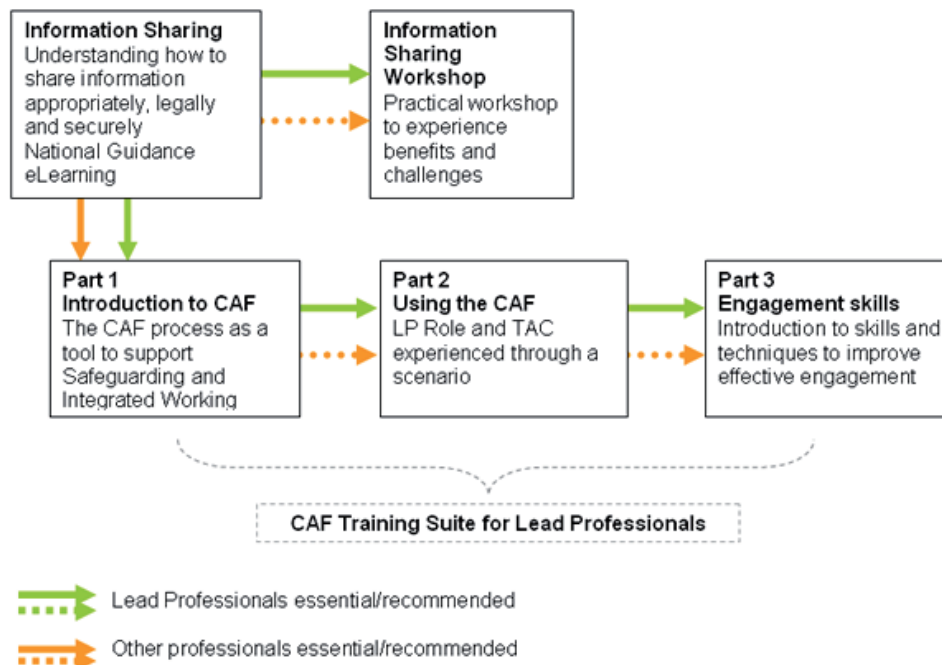
www.londonscb.gov.uk/olympics/

Training update

Common Assessment Framework training

CAF training is now available as a modular training suite: three half-day modules which give flexibility for practitioners to attend appropriate training at a convenient time. This training replaces the previous courses of Information Sharing & Awareness, CAF Lead Professional and CAF Refresher.

INTEGRATED WORKING – TRAINING PATHWAY FOR CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE



Part 1: Introduction to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

An introduction to the CAF process as a tool to support Safeguarding and Integrated Working.

Essential for all staff working directly with children, young people and their families, and recommended for all others in the children's workforce. This course is also suitable as a Refresher for CAF Lead Professionals.

Part 2: Using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Gain a thorough understanding of how to use the CAF process and a child-centred approach to help children/young people who need the support of a number of different services.

Essential for practitioners who could have the Lead Professional role, and recommended for other Team Around the Child members.

Part 3: Engagement Skills

The CAF is being used widely in Richmond, and the scope of training has been extended to include this module on engagement skills, to help practitioners improve outcomes for families using the CAF process.

This course is recommended for Lead Professionals and other Team Around the Child members.

Gain a thorough understanding of how to use the CAF process and a child-centred approach to help children/young people who need the support of a number of different services.

Essential for practitioners who could have the Lead Professional role, and recommended for other Team Around the Child members.

More details on the [CAF training webpage](#).

Training needs table

There is a updated training needs table available for schools, managers and practitioners in Richmond upon Thames to assess and identify staff training needs.

You can view this and all available courses for training in safeguarding and child protection at:

www.richmond.gov.uk/safeguarding_wellbeing_and_behaviour.htm

For more details on training, contact the Workforce Development Team on 020 8487 5345.

B.E.A.R H.U.G.S

Building Early Attachment Relationships through
Help, Understanding, Guidance and Support

The BEAR HUGS programme which is delivered under the DOVE project (Domestic Violence and the Early Years) is currently being delivered in Heathfield Children's Centre.

We will start delivering a second programme in the spring term, January 2012.

This will be a five week programme, consisting of two sessions per week, which aims to support and nurture the relationship between mothers and their young children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence.

The programme will incorporate issues regarding domestic violence and the impact that these have on parenting and child development, with a main focus on enabling parents to learn new skills to support them in managing the difficulties of family life.

It will increase parental confidence and self-esteem as they begin to apply new skills in their interactions with their children, and will teach parents how to help their children express their feelings and fears through the natural activity of play.

We will continue to work with families with 2-3 year old children for the spring term. Six families can access the programme in the first half of the term and another six in the second half. Please send all referrals for consideration for the Spring Term as we will be contacting these parents and arranging visits after the October half term.

If you are working with families who could be included in the programme, please contact us.

Clare Inman and Susana Goncalves, Educational Psychology Team on 020 8487 5464 or clare.inman@richmond.gov.uk / s.goncalves@richmond.gov.uk



RCPCH/NSPCC submission to the Education Select Committee inquiry

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has presented a submission jointly with the NSPCC to the *Education Select Committee inquiry: the child protection system in England*.

The submission acknowledges the central role played by Local Safeguarding Children Boards in the future protection of children and says that their efficacy has increased in recent years. However, the transfer of some functions to other responsible bodies, such as Health and Wellbeing Boards, risks those services being devolved in the broader agenda and LSCBs must be strengthened in their core role of local oversight and influence. For example, services around wellbeing, such as teenage pregnancy will in future be the responsibility of HWBBs, but the LSCB can provide clear oversight where integration is not working.

This raises wider questions around how Health and Wellbeing Boards will be held to account for child health through Joint Strategic Needs Assessments,

and the importance of LSCBs providing a rigorous and powerful scrutiny function across the whole commissioned service for children in a local area, including the various health partners.

The submission sees a role for LSCBs in ensuring that the commissioning of child protection services is effective, and also championing child protection as a local priority. LSCBs should also ensure stronger links between professionals in adult mental health, substance abuse and intimate partner violence and those in children's services, especially social care.

The RCPCH and NSPCC submission also comments on the potential risk to child protection of the current reforms, for example as professionals seek early retirement and services are reconfigured. It says that information sharing continues to be a problem despite system reforms. It calls on the government to exercise caution when seeking to reduce bureaucracy, highlighting the risk to partnership working of public sector reforms.

CSV Volunteers in Child Protection (ViCP) One Day Workshop and Networking Event – 28 November 2011

Keynote speaker: Tim Loughton MP, Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Background

The role of the voluntary sector in safeguarding is critical as funding issues force statutory agencies to cut their provision in key areas. This event will focus on the role of volunteering within safeguarding and child protection. Discover the benefits of voluntary sector involvement in the wider safeguarding strategy from those at the forefront of CSV's groundbreaking Volunteers in Child Protection (ViCP) programme.

Why attend?

- Discover more about CSV's award winning ViCP scheme – how it works, the positive impact it has on families and social care budgets
- Learn how the scheme substantially increases the capacity of children's departments to deliver support to vulnerable families
- Find out how volunteers help support vulnerable families and change their lives for the better
- Hear from families, researchers and partners how volunteers can make a difference
- A choice of afternoon workshops:
 - Research and evaluation results from Anglia Ruskin University
 - Practicalities of setting up and running a local project
 - Safeguarding Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector

Who should attend:

- Local authority heads of children's services
- Commissioning Managers
- Members of Local Safeguarding Boards

For further information including the draft agenda and booking details please visit:

www.keylocations.net/csv

www.csv.org.uk/volunteering/mentoring-befriending/child-protection

SPA first anniversary

The Richmond Single Point of Access was launched last October and is part of the Council's overall plan to improve the way initial concerns about a child or children's welfare are dealt with.

The most recent unannounced Ofsted Inspection of the Council's safeguarding practice stated that the SPA was a real strength in ensuring that children do not fall through the net.

Over the last year, the SPA team have received over 14,000 calls and 6,300 emails, including enquiries from professionals working with children and members of the public.

The service acts as the gateway into Richmond upon Thames Children's Services, regarding

all concerns and advice on safeguarding, child protection, social care and welfare and all enquiries are dealt with by a dedicated team of advisers, supported by a senior social worker, CAF Coordinator and Performance Manager.

The SPA now also handles general enquiries about services for children and young people including the provision of childcare, such as nurseries, childminders, out of school care and parental support.

If you have concerns or need advice about a child or young person under the age of 18, you should call 020 8891 7969 or complete the form online at: www.richmond.gov.uk/child_protection

Safeguarding resources for schools

The Children's Safety Education Foundation (CSEF) has developed an online resource called Street-Vibe' Topics covered include staying safe and in control, alcohol, drugs and solvent misuse, car crime, shoplifting, racial harassment, anti-social behaviour, guns, gangs and knives, criminal damage and counter terrorism.

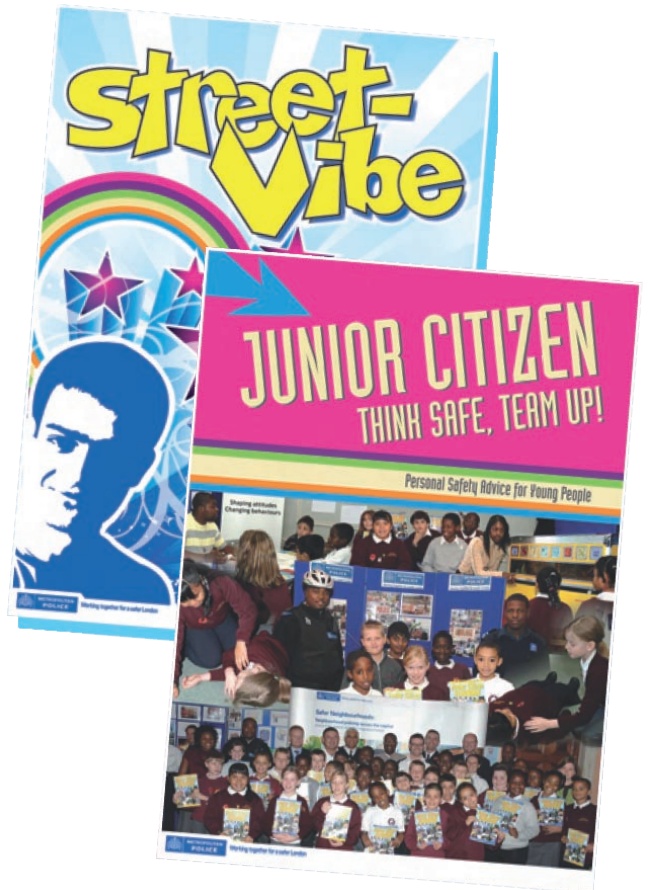
Street-Vibe is designed to complement the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education syllabus and covers hazards that young people may encounter in their everyday lives. Street-Vibe supports Safer Schools Programmes which aim to keep young people safe and prevent problems with youth crime before they escalate.

This year, all secondary schools are to be given free online access to this resource.

CSEF has also developed an on-line 'virtual safety experience' for primary school pupils.

The Junior Citizen E-Book allows young people to encounter real-life scenarios in a virtual environment.

With both packages, CSEF has aimed for a format that is easily accessible, engaging and helps promote effective learning within the classroom.



To access Street-Vibe go to <http://csef.digitalpc.co.uk/quick/metsv.aspx>

To access the Junior Citizen E-Book, go to <http://csef.digitalpc.co.uk/quick/metjc.aspx>

Domestic Violence Identification Matrix

Barnardo's and the London Safeguarding Board have worked with London boroughs and responded to their needs in assisting practitioners in identifying and assessing the impact of domestic abuse on children.

Following feedback taken by London Councils from boroughs, the matrix has been updated and includes new indicators, such as the abuse through texting or social networking sites. It is also interactive, enabling anyone to use the matrix on their computer and store the information for each child or family in PDF format.

The matrix can be downloaded from the [London Safeguarding Children Board website](#).

If you have any queries about any of the items in this newsletter contact Karen Neill, Head of Safeguarding Quality and Performance: k.neill@richmond.gov.uk