

Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board

Newsletter

August 2011

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LSCB Chair

We recently bid farewell to our chair, Marion Saunders, who steered us through some difficult times and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

We will soon be welcoming Christine Doorly as the new LSCB chair. Christine will chair her first Board meeting in September. The next newsletter will include a message from Christine on her priorities and hopes for the LSCB.

LSCB Business Plan – Key Priorities

The LSCB will be monitoring six key priority areas this year. The first four are areas of concern across the partnership, while the last two are key engagement areas:

- Reducing the number of children affected by domestic violence
- Ensuring placement stability of Looked After Children
- Safeguarding children with disabilities
- Identification and support of children suffering abuse, neglect and sexual exploitation
- Engaging and obtaining the views of children and families to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements
- Ensuring staff in the voluntary and faith sector are trained in safeguarding awareness

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What's new?

A child-centered system – The Munro Review final report

The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report *A child-centered system* has now been published. It contains 15 recommendations across five themes. The Government response has also been published. Both the full report and the response can be downloaded from www.education.gov.uk/munroreview.

A Young Persons' Guide to the Munro Review of Child Protection has also been developed: <https://www.rights4me.org/reportView.cfm?id=464>

Child Trafficking

In March, the London Safeguarding Children Board launched a new set of guidance and a toolkit to help agencies identify and support children who have been trafficked. The guidelines are for anyone who may come into contact with suspected victims of trafficking and can be downloaded from the London Safeguarding Children Board website:

www.londonscb.gov.uk/trafficking.

We are running lunchtime briefing sessions on Child Trafficking, facilitated by the police. The session is being held on 5th October – contact the LSCB for an application form.

NSPCC Helpline Mobile Phone Texting Service

The NSPCC Helpline has launched a mobile phone texting service, enabling members of the public to contact the Helpline by texting **88858**. Members of the public can use the text service to seek advice and assistance and also to report concerns. The service will be run on a pilot basis until the end of 2011. It is acknowledged that texting may not be appropriate for everyone, therefore the other methods of contact remain available:

Phone: 0808 800 5000 ~ **Email:** help@nspcc.org.uk ~ **Website:** www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline

All methods of contacting the Helpline are free to users and operate 24 hours a day.

Out of Mind, Out of Sight – Breaking down the barriers to understanding child sexual exploitation

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) have published their findings following a six month thematic assessment into 'on street grooming' and child sexual exploitation. The Executive Summary and Full report can be viewed at:

www.ceop.police.uk/publications.

London Child Protection Procedures – 4th Edition

The fourth edition of the London Child Protection Procedures have now been published. As it is an interim edition, the London Board have decided to make it available online only. Their website also contains a key changes document and training PowerPoint: www.londonscb.gov.uk

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LSCB Training Programme now available

This year, the LSCB training programme includes some new courses and a series of lunchtime briefing sessions. We have also introduced a basic level e-learning package. The other major change this year is the introduction of an attendance charge for some agencies.

E-learning

The LSCB has introduced a free e-learning package for anyone who requires basic training in safeguarding children. The package is aimed at all organisations, faith groups and voluntary groups based in Lewisham who work with children, young people, families or adults who may be parents or carers, where this is not offered internally by your agency. Content includes:

- Some basic information and background about the legislative framework within which children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted
- What is child abuse and how to recognise it
- What to do if you have concerns about children in order to safeguard and promote their welfare, including those who are suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm
- What will happen once they have informed someone about those concerns.

Lunchtime briefing sessions

We will also be holding lunchtime briefing sessions on a range of themes this year. Briefings are open to anyone working in Lewisham with children, young people and families. Each session lasts for 90 minutes and is facilitated by a member of the multi-agency partnership:

- Allegations against staff
- Child Trafficking
- Fabricated and Induced Illness
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Tackling Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
- Helping young people manage the decisions and risks involved in early sexual activity
- Learning from Serious Case Reviews
- MARAC: Lewisham's Domestic Violence process
- Safer Recruitment
- Supporting and safeguarding children in the community: Private fostering, young carers and missing children
- The Child's Journey through the Care System

To access the e-learning or attend the briefings, please contact the LSCB:
safeguardingboard@lewisham.gov.uk

Charges introduced for LSCB training

Due to the costs associated with providing training, this year it has been necessary to introduce a charge to attend LSCB training for some agencies. Training will continue to be free for voluntary, faith and community groups who do not receive a training grant. *All other agencies will be charged a fee of £50 for a full day course or £25 for a half day course.* There has also been a change to the cancellation policy: it is now necessary to give five working days notice if you are unable to attend the course, otherwise a further non-attendance fee will be incurred.

There is no charge for the e-learning or lunchtime briefing sessions.

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Are you new to Lewisham?

The LSCB runs a short induction session for all new staff in Lewisham. The induction includes:

- Lewisham's profile and performance
- The role of the LSCB
- Early intervention and child protection processes
- Lessons from serious case reviews

And of course, it is an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues across the agencies.

The LSCB have that all new staff should attend the induction programme, therefore if you have started working in Lewisham in the last year, please contact the LSCB for session information.

LSCB Annual conference

Each year the LSCB holds a conference for staff from all agencies working with children, young people and families in Lewisham. Last year we held a successful conference entitled: '*The three ages of vulnerability*' which was attended by over 100 people from children's social care, health services, schools and children's centres, probation, housing and the voluntary and private sector. Plans are underway for the conference this year and we are seeking your help.

Please contact us if you have any suggestions, or are interested in facilitating a workshop.

LSCB work with Faith Organisations

A key area of work for the LSCB is to engage with faith organisations in the borough.

On 14th June, we held an awareness raising event for the many faith organisations in Lewisham. The event proved very successful with 29 representatives of faith groups attending, including Christian (Methodist and Pentecostal) Hindu and Moslem faiths. Delegates were given information about the LSCB, the training programme and participated in a case study. Groups will nominate safeguarding leads for their church and produce their safeguarding policies. As the event was so successful, it will be repeated later in the year.

If you are a part of, or know of any organisations who would like to attend, please contact us.

Contact:

Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board
3rd Floor, Kaleidoscope, Lewisham Centre for Children & Families,
32 Rushey Green, SE6 4JF
Tel: 020 3049 1446 --- **Fax:** 020 7138 1305
Email: safeguardingboard@lewisham.gov.uk



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LSCB Audit Programme

Over the last year, the MESI (Monitoring, Evaluation and Service Improvement) Audit Sub Group have carried out a number of audits as part of a rolling programme. The first three audits focused on neglect, some of which involved children subject to child protection plans exceeding two years as was an issue highlighted by the partnership. During the year there was a significant reduction in these cases due to work by Children's Social Care and the partnership. The group also examined adolescents with complex needs.

The purpose of the audits was to identify good practice and areas of concern. The emerging themes have been added to an action plan, which is being fed back to relevant agencies and through the LSCB training programme and this newsletter. The action plan has focused on:

- Ensuring all core group minutes reflect the impact on the child of all issues / changes in the household
- Increasing practitioner understanding of information sharing to ensure a joined up approach
- The importance of using the 'Team Around the Child' process to share plans with involved professionals and work with parents
- Ensuring that practitioners always record when children are seen and when they are seen alone

The audit group will continue to provide quarterly audit reports to the LSCB and feedback to agencies as soon as audits are completed. More general recommendations and action will be publicised as necessary. The audit group has produced an audit programme for 2011-12 based on performance data.

Introducing Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust

Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust was formed in September 2010 to bring together two separate organisations: University Hospital Lewisham and Lewisham Community Health Service. With over 3,200 members of staff, we are one of the biggest employers in the borough, and provide health services in a range of different venues, including University Hospital Lewisham, health clinics like the Kaleidoscope and the Waldron, and in people's own homes.

By combining hospital and community services under one organisation, we can ensure that local people benefit from a more 'joined up' approach to their healthcare. Rather than operating in isolation, experienced hospital and community healthcare professionals are working together to reduce waiting times, help people recover quicker after treatment, and improve services across a range of settings.

These are exciting times for Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust, with a number of developments in the pipeline, such as the development of a new Urgent Care Centre which will open in August 2011, providing treatment for patients with non-threatening illness and injuries. In addition, we are upgrading A&E facilities, and in April 2011 we opened a new Children's Outpatients clinic, replacing old fashioned hospital facilities.

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Every young person on Facebook needs the ClickCEOP app – this is why!

If you work with teenagers, then you'll know most of them will be using Facebook. You might even be using it yourself... if so, you may already know about a free application that is designed to keep young people safe while they are having fun networking online.



In case you are not aware of it ClickCEOP is an 'app' which links the user directly from their Facebook profile to help, advice and reporting facilities from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre – the police agency set up to tackle child abuse.

By adding the app, young people and parents can get support from CEOP on a range of issues – viruses, hacking, dealing with bullying online – and they can report someone who is acting inappropriately towards them online.

If you have a Facebook profile, add and bookmark the app and an icon will appear on your profile page making it easy for you to access the help and advice CEOP. If children in your care are on Facebook, get them to search 'ClickCEOP' in Facebook and give them a chance to be one click away from help – should they ever need it.

Useful links:

www.facebook.com/clickceop

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/quiz_answers/

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Government has launched new multiagency guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The guidance aims to support practitioners and agencies by explaining the issues around FGM, identifying the signs that girls and women may be at risk or are dealing with the consequences of FGM and the actions agencies should take to support girls and women. It contains useful links and contacts for specialist health services: www.fco.gov.uk/fgm.

The London Safeguarding Children Board contains resources for practitioners including a sharing good practice section: www.londonscb.gov.uk/fgm. The Metropolitan Police have established a team – Project Azure – to tackle FGM: www.met.police.uk/fgm.

On 4th July, Kids Taskforce launched a film on FGM which involved students from Lilian Baylis Technology School in Lambeth. The film is called *CUT Some Wounds Never Heal*. It is available as a free download to schools: www.kidstaskforce.com/watchover.html.

The LSCB ran a lunchtime briefing on FGM, delivered by Dr Ruth Cochrane from Lewisham Hospital and Matt Pilch from Project Azure. It will be running again next year, so send in your application form if you are interested.

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Independent Safeguarding Update

The Review into the Vetting and Barring Scheme was published in February. The new employment vetting scheme has been outlined as part of the Protection of Freedom Bill. Significant aspects include:

- Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and Criminal Records Bureau to be merged
- It remains the duty of the 'regulated activity provider' or personnel supplier to ascertain whether a person is barred before permitting that person to engage in the regulated activity. However, the definition of 'regulated activity' has been amended
- Offences will continue of (i) a barred person working with vulnerable groups in regulated activity roles, and (ii) an employer/voluntary organisation knowingly employing a barred person in a regulated activity role
- There is a subscription process so that certificates will be updated on a continuing basis
- The eligibility criteria for CRB checks has been revised. Employers can still decide to carry out CRB checks for non-regulated activity; this decision should be based on the amount of unsupervised contact and length of time in contact with children and young people.

Whilst the transition takes place, some duties, such as the duty to refer concerns to the ISA remain. See the Home Office website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/vetting-barring-scheme/

The LSCB will be working with partners over the coming months to consider the implications of the above changes and will continue its work with the wider community to support parents / carers and young people to choose 'safe activities', and also to report any concerns.

The School Room At Lewisham Hospital

For children and young people whose health means they spend time in hospital, it is important that the disruption to their education is minimised as much as possible. The School Room at Lewisham Hospital provides a continuum of education for school age patients and brings normality during what may be a stressful time.

The school room is staffed by a teacher and a teaching assistant working in collaboration with the medical team to ensure that all aspects of a young person's life are considered during their admission. Short stay patients work on topics across the key stages covering National Curriculum subjects. For children and young people who have recurring admissions or are long stay patients, staff liaise with the child's school and together agree areas of study. It is extremely important that these children and young people focus on aspects of their schoolwork as soon as possible to avoid falling behind with their studies.

For patients who are confined to their beds, staff work with patients in cubicles and on the ward, providing activities which can be completed more easily at the bedside. Following discharge, ex-patients continue to attend the schoolroom if they are unable to return to their mainstream school for medical reasons.

The hospital school is helping to achieve positive outcomes for children who may otherwise experience a number of gaps in their education.

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Useful links

For children and young people

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| www.rights4me.org | - Office for the Children's Rights Director of England |
| www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk | - Office of the Children's Commissioner for England |
| www.safe.met.police.uk | - Information for young people and their parents. Includes travel safety, domestic abuse, knife and gun crime, hate crime, rape and sexual assault, gangs and group violence, honour based violence, dangerous dogs, drugs and alcohol and young people's rights. |

National charities

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| www.nspcc.org.uk | www.childrenssociety.org.uk | www.actionforchildren.org.uk |
| www.womensaid.org.uk | http://www.barnardos.org.uk/ | www.charity-commission.gov.uk |

Resources for agencies

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| www.crae.org.uk | - Children's Rights Alliance for England |
| www.gethelpwithbullying.org.uk | Information / resources on all forms of bullying, including racial, homophobic, sexual, cyber and SEN |
| www.safenetwork.org.uk | - Safeguarding advice for community and voluntary groups; a phone enquiry service, training, and community-based support |
| www.afruca.org | - Africans Unite Against Child Abuse |
| www.caada.org.uk | - Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse |
| www.trustforlondon.org.uk | - Recently published ' <i>Fear and Fashion</i> ', an evaluation into why young people carry knives and some of the projects to engage young people and reduce knife crime. |
| www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk | - Resources for all agencies. Promote Anti-Bullying Week |
| www.kidstaskforce.com | - Resources for Primary and secondary schools |

Dates for your diary

September

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| 10 th September – World Suicide Prevention Day | www.iasp.info/wspd/ |
| 30 th September – Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning (Macmillan Cancer Support) | http://coffee.macmillan.org.uk |

October

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| 1 st – 31 st October – Black History Month | www.black-history-month.co.uk |
| 3 rd – 9 th October – Children's Book Week | www.booktrust.org.uk |
| 7 th October – Jeans for Genes Day | www.jeansforgenesday.com |
| 15 th – 30 th October – Family Learning Festival | www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk |
| 17 th – 23 rd October – Parents Week | http://parentsweek.org.uk/ |

November

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| 11 th November – Takeover Day | www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover_day |
| 14 th – 18 th November – Anti-Bullying Week
'Stop and Think – Words can Hurt' | www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk |
| 18 th November – BBC Children in Need | www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey |
| 20 th November – Universal Children's Day | www.un.org/en/events/childrenday |
| 21 st – 27 th November – Road Safety Week
'Too Young to Die' | www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk |

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Upcoming LSCB training

○ Advanced Domestic violence	Course date: 14 th September Closing date: 2 nd September
○ Introduction to safeguarding children against neglect (half day)	Course date: 21 st September Closing date: 5 th August
○ Communicating and engaging with challenging families	Course date: 23 rd September Closing date: 12 th August
○ Understanding your role in case conferences and core group meetings	Course date: 27 th September Closing date: 12 th August
○ Impact of parental mental ill health on children	Course date: 28 th September Closing date: 12 th August
○ Safeguarding Disabled Children	Course date: 7 th October Closing date: 26 th August
○ Safeguarding children affected by parental substance misuse	Course date: 11 th October Closing date: 26 th August
○ Understanding gangs and gang activity (half day)	Course date: 12 th October Closing date: 26 th August
○ Introduction to Domestic Violence as a Child Protection Issue	Course date: 13 th October Closing date: 26 th August
○ Working in a Team Around the Child to safeguard children and young people	Course date: 19 th October Closing date: 2 nd September
○ Understanding and assessing neglect and attachment as a child protection issue	Course date: 8 th November Closing date: 27 th September
○ Impact of parental mental ill health on children	Course date: 10 th November Closing date: 23 rd September
○ Child sexual abuse and exploitation	Course date: 17 th November Closing date: 30 th September

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- Communicating and engaging with challenging families **Course date:** 18th November
Closing date: 7th October

- Introduction to safeguarding children against neglect (half day) **Course date:** 21st November
Closing date: 7th October

- Working in a Team Around the Child to safeguard children and young people **Course date:** 12th December
Closing date: 28th October

LSCB briefings

- Helping young people manage the decisions and risks involved in early sexual activity **Briefing date:** 15th September
Closing date: 2nd September

- Allegations against staff – what happens when allegations are made against staff in Lewisham **Briefing date:** 23rd September
Closing date: 9th September

- Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence **Briefing date:** 30th September
Closing date: 16th September

- Child Trafficking **Briefing date:** 5th October
Closing date: 16th September

- Learning from Serious Case Reviews **Briefing date:** 6th October
Closing date: 22nd September

- Fabricated and Induced Illness **Briefing date:** 11th October
Closing date: 23rd September

- Safer Recruitment **Briefing date:** 18th October
Closing date: 30th September

- A child's journey through the Care System **Briefing date:** 23rd November
Closing date: 4th November

- Supporting and safeguarding children in the community **Briefing date:** 6th December
Closing date: 18th November

- MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference): Lewisham's Domestic Violence Process **Briefing date:** 9th December
Closing date: 25th November