

**NEWSLETTER WINTER 2006**



**SOLIHULL  
LSCB  
LOCAL SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN BOARD**

[www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe)

# CONTENTS



	<b>Page</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>About Solihull LSCB</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What parents told us</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Safeguarding children &amp; young people and ensuring effectiveness</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>LSCB launch events</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Advocacy pilot for parents involved in the Child Protection System</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Safeguarding privately fostered children and young people</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Guidance on individuals who present a risk to children - review of Schedule 1 offences</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Serious Case Review – RH</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>LSCB Training and Development Officer</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>New Government guidance on information sharing</b>	<b>7</b>



## Welcome to Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Local Safeguarding Children Board newsletter. On 28th March 2006, a new chapter opened in our work in Solihull in safeguarding children and young people. Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) replaced the nearly 20 year governance of child protection by the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC). Solihull owes a debt of thanks to the hundreds of staff who served the ACPC and its sub groups over that period.

The new Board will have a wider agenda than co-ordinating multi-agency responses to children and young people in need of protection, and with greater authority is charged with providing effective co-ordination of services in the interests of safeguarding all children and young people in Solihull.

We will do so in close collaboration with the Children's Trust Board, the body responsible for planning and commissioning the delivery of services to children and young people and their families under the new arrangements introduced by the government's "Every Child Matters" agenda.

A key message Solihull LSCB wishes to disseminate is that, it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard children and young people and we will all be more likely to do so if we keep as our primary focus the welfare of the child or young person.

### About Solihull LSCB

Solihull LSCB has 15 executive members made up from a number of agencies working in Solihull; many of whom are statutory members as required by the Children Act 2004. The member's role is defined in a job description and they have been selected because they "hold accountability for safeguarding" within their agency.

The Board's core objectives are set out in Section 14(1) of Children Act 2004 and are:-

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the authority and
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

The Board meets bi-monthly and is chaired by Mark Rogers, Corporate Director, Education and Children's Services, Solihull MBC. The Vice-Chair is Martin O'Connor, Director of Delivery, Solihull Connexions.

The Board has 7 sub groups to support its work:-

1. Training, chaired by Tony Dalziel: [tdalziel@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:tdalziel@solihull.gov.uk)
2. Education, chaired by Steve Martin: [smartin@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:smartin@solihull.gov.uk)
3. Health, chaired by Bindi Nagra: [bindi.nagra@solihull-ct.nhs.uk](mailto:bindi.nagra@solihull-ct.nhs.uk)
4. Serious Cases, chaired by Liz Murphy: [lizmurphy@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lizmurphy@solihull.gov.uk)
5. Practice and Procedures, jointly chaired by Lynne Bickerdike: [lbickerdike@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lbickerdike@solihull.gov.uk) and Rosie Ingham: [RINGHAM@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:RINGHAM@NSPCC.org.uk)
6. Community Engagement and Awareness, chaired by Ann Habens: [ahabens@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:ahabens@solihull.gov.uk)
7. Performance Monitoring, chaired by Melanie Lockey: [mlockey@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:mlockey@solihull.gov.uk)

Membership of the sub groups is multi-agency and further information about the work of the sub groups can be obtained from the Chairperson of the relevant sub group.

### Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) published by DfES sets out how individuals and organisations should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is the framework upon which local procedures to safeguard children and young people are based. This statutory guidance has been updated since the previous version, which was published in 1999. The new version reflects developments in legislation, policy and practice.

The guidance is addressed to all practitioners and front-line managers who work with children and young people in any setting and to senior and operational managers in organisations that have a particular responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. However, it is not necessary for all individuals to read every part of the guidance – the table on pages 19-20 of the guidance sets out which parts of the document are particularly relevant to different roles.

As a result of the revision of Working Together, Solihull ACPC Procedures are in the process of being updated. They will be launched early 2007 and will be known as Solihull LSCB Procedures.

In the interim, Solihull LSCB has formally adopted Solihull ACPC Procedures and as such they remain the procedures for any individual to follow if they have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of significant harm.

Working Together to Safeguard Children can be found at: [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/workingtogether](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/workingtogether) and Solihull ACPC/LSCB Procedures can be found at: [www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe)



## What parents told us

In setting up the LSCB, the views of local parents have been sought and have been used to inform the Business Plan and particularly the work of the Community Engagement and Awareness sub group. Parents are directly involved in the work of this sub group.

The parents we consulted told us that for them safeguarding and promoting welfare means “safe and well cared for”. They also told us that it is important that the LSCB ensures that parents are advised that help is available so that they can keep their children safe and such help should be easily accessible. Clear boundaries around confidentiality was also an important issue identified by the parents so that parents feel that they have some control over personal information.

The Solihull Child and Family Support Model is the model of working with children, young people and their families within Solihull to ensure children and young people are safeguarded and their welfare promoted and it incorporates the principles and issues that parents told us are important for them.

Details on training in the Solihull Child and Family Support Model, which includes the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) can be obtained from the CAF Administrator on [0121 704 8480](tel:01217048480).

## Safeguarding children and young people and ensuring effectiveness

Working Together 2006 (paragraph 2.8) identifies that all organisations that provide services for children and young people, or work with children and young people need to have a number of measures in place in order to fulfil their commitment to safeguard children and young people.

These measures have been reflected as a series of standards within the Solihull Single Children and Young Persons Plan and are:-

- Standard 1** – All partner organisations/services have a senior manager/individual responsible for safeguarding and promoting welfare activities
- Standard 2** – All partner organisations/services have a clear statement of their responsibilities towards children and young people available for all
- Standard 3** – All partner organisations/services have an accountability structure for work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- Standard 4** – All partner organisations/services ensure service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- Standard 5** – All partner organisations/services ensure personnel are trained in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- Standard 6** – All partner organisations/services ensure that all staff with access to children and young people are properly selected and vetted to ensure inappropriate individuals do not gain access to children or young people.
- Standard 7** – All partner organisations/services contribute to effective inter-agency working to safeguard children and young people.
- Standard 8** – All partner organisations/agencies have arrangements in place for effective information sharing.
- Standard 9** – All partner organisations/services address issues of diversity in their work to safeguard children and young people.
- Standard 10** – All partner organisations/services work closely and effectively with Solihull LSCB through agreed mechanisms to monitor their performance in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and evaluate the effectiveness of these standards.
- Standard 11** – All partner organisations/services have in place written procedures for handling complaints and allegations against staff.
- Standard 12** – All partner organisations/services have processes and procedures in place so a safe working environment is created and maintained.

Agencies will be required to work towards achieving all the standards over a period of time and the LSCB will provide support to ensure compliance with them.

These standards are consistent with the requirements of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, which places a statutory duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Schools and Further Education providers have an equivalent duty through Section 175 of the Education Act 2002.

In order to ensure effectiveness in inter-agency work to safeguard children and young people, Solihull LSCB will audit how agencies comply with these standards and where applicable their statutory responsibilities under Section 11 Children Act 2004 or S175 Education Act 2002. Work has begun in terms of auditing those agencies covered by Section 11 Children Act 2004 and S175 Education Act 2002.

Further information about S11 Children Act 2004 can be found at [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding)

Further information about S175 Education Act 2002 can be found at <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&P>





## LSCB launch events

In order to begin to explore wider safeguarding issues, the LSCB will run a series of workshops aimed at those who work with children and young people. The workshops are as follows:-

• Safeguarding Disabled Children	21st November 2006	Chelmsley Wood Library (Marriage Suite)
• Anti-bullying	11th December 2006	Kingshurst Youth & Community Centre
• Safe employment	9th January 2007	Light Hall School
• Information sharing	23rd January 2007	Light Hall School
• Domestic violence	21st February 2007	Mell House
• Sexually harmful behaviour	28th February 2007	Chelmsley Wood Library (Marriage Suite)
• Safeguarding in a faith community	6th March 2007	Sans Souci

The workshops are free of charge and will allow practitioners and first line managers from organisations that work with children to enhance their knowledge of a particular safeguarding theme.

To reserve a place or to obtain further information about the workshops, please email Karen Perry on [lsccb@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lsccb@solihull.gov.uk) or call on 0121 788 4325.

## Advocacy pilot for parents involved in the Child Protection System

In June 2006, Solihull LSCB launched a pilot to provide advocacy for certain groups of parents involved in the child protection system. The groups of parents are:-

- Parents with a learning disability
- Parents who require support with their mental health
- Parents with a child under 5 in the family

The aim of parental advocacy is to contribute to better outcomes for children and young people by:-

1. empowering parents to participate in the child protection process from an informed position, speaking for themselves wherever possible, and
2. promoting good communication and a positive working relationship, between the parents and the local authority/other agencies.

The pilot will be evaluated but in the interim if you know of any parent in the above categories who is involved in the child protection system, who may be interested in having an advocate, please discuss this with the parent and support them to raise this matter with their social worker.

## Safeguarding Privately Fostered children and young people.

The recognition of the vulnerability of this group of children and young people has been enhanced following the death of Victoria Climbié and other tragedies. As a result Replacement Regulations were introduced in July 2005 to promote safeguarding arrangements for this group of children and young people. The Regulations require Children's social work services to visit the child/young person regularly and to assess the suitability of the private foster carer.

### What is private fostering?

A child or young person is defined as being privately fostered if they are:

- under the age of 16 (or 18 if disabled) and
- cared for and accommodated by someone other than a parent or close relative and
- the arrangement has been in place for more than 28 days.

Close relatives are defined as

- step-parents,
- brothers or sisters,
- grandparents,
- aunts or uncles (whether full blood, half blood or by marriage).

This means that anyone caring for a child or young person for 28 days or more outside of the above categories is a private foster carer.

Examples of children and young people who are frequently in private fostering arrangements include:

- Black and minority ethnic children with parents working or studying in the UK
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Adolescents and teenagers estranged from their families
- Children at independent boarding schools who do not return home for holidays
- African and African Caribbean children with families overseas

### What can I do?

Private foster carers and the parents of children/young people who are privately fostered are **legally** required to notify Children's social work services of the arrangement but many don't know that they have to. This means Children's social work services are unable to make sure the child or young person's welfare is safeguarded. Everyone can help by ensuring that they are proactive in identifying and notifying Children's social work services of private fostering arrangements. If you know a child or young person is being privately fostered and you think Children's social work services are unaware please notify Duty Assessment & Referral Team on 0121 788 4375 or support the parent/carer to do so.



## Guidance on individuals who present a risk to children - review of Schedule 1 offences

Schedule One to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 provided a list of offences against children ranging from murder and child abuse to any offence causing bodily injury to a child. An individual convicted of such an offence was known as a Schedule One Offender, and the term was used to help agencies identify individuals who may pose a risk to children or young people.

The Home Office conducted a review of the term 'Schedule 1' because of concerns about anomalies in the offences the terms covers and to consider whether a more effective method of identifying those who might pose a known risk to children was required.

The review found that the term 'Schedule One Offender' is unhelpful since it defines people by their offending history rather than the ongoing risk they pose. The review concluded that the term 'risk to children' should be adopted for those identified as presenting a risk or potential risk to children or young people. This means the term 'a person who presents a risk to children' replaces the term 'Schedule One Offender' and should now be used by all those who work with children, young people and families.

There are offences other than those detailed in Schedule One to the Children and Young Peoples Act 1933 which may indicate that a person poses a risk to children or young people. A consolidated list of offences which all agencies can use to identify 'a person who presents a risk, or potential risk to children' has been produced and is available at the website address below.

It is important to remember that an assessment is required as some convicted or cautioned individuals will not necessarily pose a continued risk to children or young people. Furthermore, there will also be cases where a person without a conviction or caution may pose a risk to children; again a professional assessment of the risk such a person presents is required in order to safeguard children and young people.

The above information is taken from Home Office Circular 16/2005 Guidance on Offences Against children and further information can be found at [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/risktochildren/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/risktochildren/)

## Serious Case Review – RH

Solihull LSCB has conducted a review into a case where a baby received serious injuries. The purpose of the review was to identify any lessons, which will help us to better safeguard children and young people. A key learning point from the review is that:

ANY MARK OR INJURY to a non-mobile baby and especially the head of a non-mobile baby, FOR WHICH THERE IS NO PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION is an indication of physical abuse and should be dealt with in accordance with ACPC/LSCB procedures and therefore referred to the Duty Assessment and Referral Team on 0121 788 4375 for an assessment of the child's welfare.

In total 16 recommendations were approved by the LSCB and a detailed action plan has been put in place and will be carefully monitored by the Serious Cases sub group until all the recommended actions have been fully implemented. The sub group will also audit the impact of the recommendations on practice in order to ensure that lessons have been learnt.

The Executive Summary is available from Liz Murphy, Safeguarding Children Business Manager, [lizmurphy@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lizmurphy@solihull.gov.uk) or 0121 788 4324.

## LSCB Training and Development Officer

Tony Dalziel, who worked part-time for the ACPC for 18 years, took up the post of full-time LSCB Training and Development Officer in August 2006. Tony is very much looking forward to working more closely with colleagues from statutory, voluntary and private organisations to develop and support the comprehensive new framework of training arrangements and opportunities set out in the LSCB's Training Strategy 2006 -2008.

### LSCB-sponsored training courses currently available to people include:-

- Protecting Children with Disabilities (November 14th 2006)
- Multi-Agency Working and Neglect (February 23rd 2007)
- Learning from Serious Case Reviews (Jan 11th, Feb 26th, March 7th 2007)
- Substance Misuse and Parenting (January 23rd 2007)
- Core Training in Child Protection (Nov 7/8 2006, Jan 17/18, March 5/6 2007)

Further details on these courses have been circulated to organisations, and places can be booked subject to availability by contacting Debbie Johnson on 704-8163 or by email to [djohnson@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:djohnson@solihull.gov.uk)

### Courses under development include:-

- Mental Health and Parenting
- Responding to Sexualised Behaviours
- Training on 'Working Together 2006' and New Safeguarding Procedures (due April 2007)





## New government guidance on information sharing

Effective safeguarding and welfare promotion require us all to share information legally, and with confidence. To support us to do this, the government has issued new Guidance. It comprises 3 practical and important documents:-

- **'Information sharing: Practitioner's guide'**  
Contents include 'Six Key Points on Information Sharing', 'Core Guidance on Information Sharing', and 'Further Information to Help Decision-Making' which offers a structured approach to inform decision-making based on 8 key questions
- **'Information sharing; Case examples'**  
The examples illustrate good practice in information sharing, and are of relevance to everyone who works with children and young people across all sectors. They cover a wide range of factors that are of concern to practitioners both above and below the 'significant harm' threshold
- **'Information sharing: Further guidance on legal issues'**  
This provides a comprehensive look at the laws that may impact on our obligations and decision-making – and gives particular attention to the Human Rights Act 1998, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality, and the Data Protection Act 1998. Other legislation containing powers or implied powers to share information is also covered

### A Taster from the Practitioner Guide: Six Key Points on Information Sharing

- You should explain to children, young people and families at the outset, openly and honestly, what and how information will, or could be shared and why, and seek their agreement. The exception to this is where to do so would put that child, young person or others at increased risk of significant harm or an adult at risk of serious harm, or if it would undermine the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime including where seeking consent might lead to interference with any potential investigation.
- You must always consider the safety and welfare of a child or young person when making decisions on whether to share information about them. Where there is concern that the child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, the child's safety and welfare must be the overriding consideration.
- You should, where possible, respect the wishes of children, young people and families who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information, if in your judgement on the facts of the case, there is sufficient need to override that lack of consent.
- You should seek advice where you are in doubt, especially where your doubt relates to a concern about possible significant harm to a child, or serious harm to others.
- You should ensure that the information you share is accurate and up-to-date, necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, shared only with those people who need to see it, and shared securely.
- You should always record the reasons for your decision – whether it is to share information or not.

### What Next?

Multi-agency training on the Guidance is likely to be available in due course, but in the meantime, individuals and teams are encouraged to be proactive in accessing the documents.

### The 3 documents are available on-line at :-

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00065/>





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