



Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter March 2014



Introduction from Reg Hooke, PSCB Independent Chairperson

In the last week of February I chaired my first Board since I took up my role in December 2013. The last few months has given me an opportunity to find out more about how agencies work together in Portsmouth to keep children safe from harm. My initial impressions have led me to these conclusions; firstly, there is a hard working and dedicated children's workforce across all local agencies. People at all levels from strategic managers to frontline practitioners are ensuring that children are at the centre of all we do. The reduction in the number of repeat child protection plans over the last year is one example of how we are working better together. Secondly the Board can do more to ensure our learning really impacts on multi agency practice and ensures the best outcomes for vulnerable children. This will be a theme of our work across the main Board and the Sub Committees and you will hear more about this through this newsletter

and other communications from the Board over the next year. As an example you will see on this page links to the summary findings from recent national Serious Case Reviews. Can I encourage you to look at the learning in your team meetings and consider what more your service area can do to protect children from abuse and neglect? We aim to produce this newsletter four times a year and hope you will find this issue useful.

National Serious Case Review Briefings

As part of our Learning & Improvement Framework we are considering all Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) that have been published nationally. We will identify how the learning from these could improve local practice and keep children safe from harm. Brighton & Hove LSCB have recently published a series of briefings on high profile SCRs and these are available via their webpages. Each briefing gives a link to the full SCR report:

[Keanu Williams](#) (Birmingham LSCB)

[Daniel Pelka](#) (Coventry LSCB)

[W Case](#) (LSCB is not identified to protect the anonymity of the children)

[Hamzah Khan](#) (Bradford LSCB)

[Child G](#) (East Sussex LSCB)

[Learning from Child Sexual Abuse Cases](#), including Rochdale LSCB

PRIVATE FOSTERING - CARING FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD

We are raising awareness about private fostering as it is not well known amongst practitioners working with families and even less understood by the public. The term is often confused with 'looked after children' and is actually an arrangement that is made privately by parents and does not involve the local authority. Private fostering is when a child under 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) lives with someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. A close relative includes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and step-parents. Cousins, great aunts and uncles are not close relatives within the legislation.

The law says that the local authority must be informed about all private foster arrangements. This helps us to make sure that all children and young people are safe, happy and doing well and that they (and their carers) are given advice and support to meet their needs. The parent(s) and the person who intends to privately foster the child or young person are both legally required to inform Portsmouth City Council at least 6 weeks before an arrangement starting (or within 48 hours of an emergency placement) if the arrangement is to exceed 28 days.

Privately fostered children are particularly vulnerable, as the arrangements for their care are often made at a time when families are under a lot of stress. This could be as a result of poverty, ill health, family disruption or breakdown or any number of factors. Some private fostering arrangements leave children vulnerable to abuse and neglect, frequent moves between carers and a loss of contact with their birth family and community. It is therefore vital that arrangements for privately fostered children are assessed to ensure the suitability of the care arrangements and that the welfare of privately fostered children is actively monitored and promoted.

Professionals have a shared responsibility to work together to ensure that all privately fostered children are well cared for and safe from harm. Therefore if you know a child is living away from home in a private fostering arrangement you need to inform the Fostering Recruitment Team at Portsmouth City Council.

To find out more information or to report a private fostering arrangement please contact:

Diane Le Moignan (Team Manager) on 02392834079

Email: Diane.LeMoignan@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

or

Les Valentine (Practice Leader) on 02392437931

Email: Les.Valentine@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Lay Member Roles

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board is seeking to recruit two Lay Members to join the Board from April 2014 for a period of 2 years. Lay Members volunteer their time and play a key role in assisting the Board to better engage with the community.

Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested in applying to find out more by going to: [PSCB Lay Member Recruitment](#)





Meet the PSCB Team!

From left (back row) Detective Inspector Roger Middle (Child Sexual Exploitation Committee Chairperson), Mary Brimson (Professional Practice Committee Chairperson), Helen Donelan (new PSCB Business Manager), Reg Hooke (PSCB Chairperson), Hayden Ginns (Monitoring, Evaluation & Scrutiny Committee Chairperson)

From left (front row) Lindy Elliott (E-Safety Committee Chairperson), Helen Sewell (Safeguarding Children Trainer), Aileen Blakely (PSCB Administrator)

NSPCC's Underwear Rule

In January, the NSPCC, launched the second phase of The Underwear Rule campaign. This campaign started in July 2013 to encourage parents and carers to have simple conversations with their children to keep them safe from abuse.

The Underwear Rule provides parents and carers with a child friendly way to have confident conversations with their children and teach them important keep safe messages including:

- their body belongs to them
- they have a right to say no, and
- they should always tell an adult if they're upset or worried.

To find out more, see video clips and download guides, go to [The Underwear Rule](#) on the NSPCC website.



Spotlight on the Voluntary Sector



The voluntary and community sector (VCS) have a key role to play in keeping Portsmouth's children safe. With a large number of hugely diverse community groups and charitable organisations (estimated at around 700) the VCS have a vast amount of direct contact with the city's children and young people, putting them in a really strong position to keep children safe and when necessary to act accordingly in partnership with appropriate organisations with issues around Safeguarding.

The Alliance continue to hold information briefing events and ensure we are offering opportunities for sector colleagues to network on a regular basis. Through their support role, Community Action in Portsmouth also keeps the sector informed of key issues through their regular monthly newsletters and more frequent News Flashes. If you do not currently access these, then please contact Hollie Rapp on hollie.rapp@actionhants.org.uk to be added to the mailing list.

The sector's role in Safeguarding is supported and enhanced by their role on the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB). Clare Ansell (Director of Operations at Motiv8) and Louise Boyle (Business Manager at Home-Start Portsmouth) are the voluntary and community sector representatives on the PSCB. Their aim is to ensure good representation where possible and a VCS perspective at all times as well as sharing up to date and relevant information about keeping children safe with the wider sector. Between them they are members of the main Board and the Executive Committee as well as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Scrutiny Committee giving a VCS contribution to a good range of activity carried out by the PSCB as well as a valuable perspective at the strategic level.

If you would like to know more about the work that Clare and Louise do or have particular issues that you would like raised at Board level, you can contact them using these email addresses: clare.ansell@motiv8south.org.uk louiseb@hspportsmouth.org.uk



**Alby
Luguterah,
Principal Child
and Family So-
cial Worker with
Portsmouth City
Council
comments on
World Social
Work Day**



Alby Luguterah says,

"World Social Work Day on 18th March 2014 gives an opportunity for us to celebrate and reflect on the contribution social workers make locally - as well as nationally and internationally. Social work for me is about understanding the multiple stories involved in children's often complex situations and acting appropriately.

With recent reviews such as the Munro review of child protection and the Narey report on training for children's social workers, I believe these are exciting times for social workers to take part in shaping the profession for today and future generations. We are privileged to have Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children & Families, visit us on the 24th March this year and I hope many will be able to attend the all staff forum on that day.

May I take this opportunity to encourage social workers to contact me as a channel for expressing their views on what is working well and what needs to improve in social work today."

Contact: alby.luguterah@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or 023 92 437928

Focus on the PSCB Safeguarding Children Training Programme

Our multi-agency training programme is open to all practitioners (including the voluntary sector) who work with children in the Portsmouth area. For more information about the courses that are available, duration and the target audiences, go to: [Multi Agency Safeguarding Children Training](#) or contact Monika Lowerre, Training Administrator on 023 92 688338 or email trainingchildrentrus@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Helen Sewell the PSCB Safeguarding Children Trainer is keen to ensure staff across all services working with children and families make the most of the training on offer. Feedback from course delegates is essential in monitoring the effectiveness of the programme. Here some quotes from those who have attended the programme.

"Excellent course - well presented. Thank you."
Director, Salvation Army
(Basic Awareness course)

'The course was very informative (and included lots of useful documents and references). I feel confident to feedback and develop my staff'. Nursery Manager
(Manager's Module)

"The course was well structured, highly informative and practical." Secondary School Assistant Head Teacher (Early Help Course)

'The opportunities to discuss safeguarding practice and issues with colleagues from different settings was incredibly useful'. Junior School Head Teacher (Manager's Module)

"This course has given me a lot more confidence and direction in undertaking Supervision." Children's Centre Co-ordinator (Supervision course)

"After this course I would know what to do if a child told me something and I have a much better understanding of how children in Portsmouth (and beyond) are kept safe' - School teacher, Junior School (Basic Awareness course)

"Very enjoyable, useful and something I will use regularly in my every day practice. Thank you." Secondary School Year Leader (Child Protection Course)

The Joint Action Team (part of Children's Social Care, PCC) are holding 2 hour workshops every 8 weeks to promote awareness and the work of the Joint Action Team - please come along and find out more about the team and 'early help' practice in Portsmouth - please book a place on the workshop by contacting:

Carol.richmond@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Keeping Portsmouth children and young people safe on-line

The majority of young people live their lives very intensively on-line, jumping between different applications and mixing it with real life chat to enrich their lives, stay in touch and have fun. This is great when all is going well, but potentially devastating if things go wrong.

The internet can be a very dangerous place for children and young people. Online problems like cyber-bullying, grooming and fraud are ever increasing, and young people are especially vulnerable. With the easy access to smart phones, tablets and PC's, the agenda is no longer about blocking sites, but giving young people the awareness, knowledge and confidence to keep themselves safe. Of equal importance, is for professionals working with children, carers and parents to be aware of the dangers and key strategies for staying safe and knowing what to do if things go wrong.

Portsmouth City Council has teamed up with the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board, the Youth Parliament, and the University of Portsmouth to develop the 'Beware of lurking Trolls!' campaign. Introducing the internet dangers as four "Lurking Trolls", the campaign uses language and ideas that children can engage with and strategies they can remember. These are delivered in a book for KS2 children, posters, leaflets and pop-up banners. We have a costume for 'Tormentor' - one of the Trolls - which can help to make the point very powerfully at public and school events.

All Portsmouth Libraries lend copies of the book or it can be downloaded [FREE](#). The [Facebook](#) page offers changing information and tips to stay safe.

As part of a new safer Internet campaign collaboration between Portsmouth City Council and the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Board, a fun animated video has been created to help raise the awareness of the dangers of the web.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8D8i0fO3Uo>

To ensure your organisation stays in communication regarding the e-safety campaign in Portsmouth, or to discuss the role of your group in this important work, contact Lindy Elliott E Safety Chairperson, PSCB: lindy.elliott@portsmouth

Other useful sites include:

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> CEOP's website, practice further support.
- <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>
- <http://www.childnet.com/>



PSCB Contact Details:

Web: www.portsmouthscb.org.uk

Email: pscb@portsmouth.gov.uk

Phone: 02392 841540

