

Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board

Newsletter

Summer 2017

Update from the Chair...

Board Business



Welcome to the Summer edition of the PSCB newsletter.

As I mentioned in Spring we have been developing a new business plan which is detailed in this edition. We also have updates on the recent audit of 'Neglect' and feedback on the very successful Online Safety Day - a big thank you to all those who supported and worked on this. There are links to new procedures that are now online and details of the upcoming Safeguarding Week in November.

Please do let the PSCB Business Team know if there are any items or issues you wish to be covered in future editions, especially good news stories as we would love to celebrate more of your successes too.

Sadly I will be leaving Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board shortly once my successor has been appointed so thank you to all our readers and I wish you well for the future



PSCB Business Plan 2017-19

The PSCB is committed to supporting practitioners in working together so that the families in Portsmouth have access to the right support at the right time. This Business plan has been produced in consultation with PSCB partners and describes our priorities over the next two years.

The priorities have been agreed based on the issues identified as having a significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of children in Portsmouth. It recognises the ambition of each partner to improve how we understand these issues and identify children at risk of them; how they can work to prevent and reduce further harm; and how they can effectively intervene and support children that have been affected by these issues.

The priority areas for 2017-19 are:

- **Children experiencing neglect**
- **Children at risk of exploitation, going missing &/or being trafficked**
- **Children affected by domestic abuse**
- **Participation and engagement**

The Board will support agencies by providing a multi-agency safeguarding programme that supports practice in these areas and strengthen the learning cycle to ensure the work is responsive to emerging issues and improving ways of working.



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Multi-Agency Audit of Children Living with Neglect

In the last quarter the Board undertook an audit of 6 cases where children are living with neglect; and surveyed the children's workforce to find out how much knowledge and confidence they felt they had in identifying children living with neglect. The findings included:

- In 3 of the 6 cases it was evident that the [Neglect Identification & Measurement Tool](#) (NIMT) had been used to help assess the impact of neglect on the child, and was recommended for use in the fourth.
- In 5 of the cases there was clear evidence of multi-agency working and communication.
- The use of the [Early Help Assessment](#) and Team Around the Child meetings meant that cases appeared to be appropriately stepped up and down.
- All of the cases had evidence of a good level of support and oversight of the issues from staff at the Primary Schools the children attended.
- That plans were more effective when they were developed with the parent; there was a professional that the parent had a good working relationship with; and that often when the case became closed to Children Social Care the parent's engagement lessened.

The recommendations from this that will be taken forward by the Board are:

- Task and finish group (with Children's Social Care, Health Visiting, School Nursing and Schools) to review the indicators currently in the NIMT, redesign the tool as appropriate and update the multi-agency guidance for practitioners.
- Safeguarding Week in November 2017 will be used to relaunch the NIMT and the Neglect Guidance, and to deliver workshops for the children's workforce on evidence based interventions to address the neglect children are living with.



Online Safety Event June 2017

In June the PSCB teamed up with colleagues from [South West Grid for Learning](#), [Barnardos](#), [NSPCC](#), Portsmouth University, [Parent Zone](#) and King Richard's School to provide an event to raise awareness of current online safety issues. It was attended by over 120 professionals from a range of settings across the city.

We know that in the world we live in today the internet plays an important part in all our daily lives. Unfortunately for some these experiences can be negative, placing our children in society at significant risk. The aim for the event was to provide the attendees with knowledge and resources to take back to their workplace settings; to educate early on the children they work with about online safety so that they can have positive experiences and a better, safer internet.

Amongst the topics considered on the day were grooming, sexting, VPNs, cybercrime and how to engage better with parents. The presentations from the day plus links to many other useful resources can be found on the [Online Safety](#) page on the resources for professionals section of the PSCB website.



Safeguarding Week 2017

SAVE THE DATE!!

13 - 17 November 2017

Events are now being arranged for this year's Safeguarding Week during which this year will focus on responses to Children Living with Neglect. If you have any suggestions or wish to be involved in planning the workshops and events to support this, please contact us directly at PSCB@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

More details will be added to our website once finalised.



Child Sexual Exploitation—Messages from Research

The Centre for expertise on child sexual abuse has published a series of briefing papers bringing together messages from research on child sexual exploitation (CSE) with implications for practice and strategic commissioning. The briefing paper's aim is to increase professionals' confidence in taking appropriate action based on the best current research evidence and cover professionals in school settings; multi-agency working; staff working in health settings; and commissioning health care services

[Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: professionals in school settings](#)

[Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: multi-agency working](#)

[Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: staff working in health settings](#)

[Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: police](#)

[Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation: social workers](#)

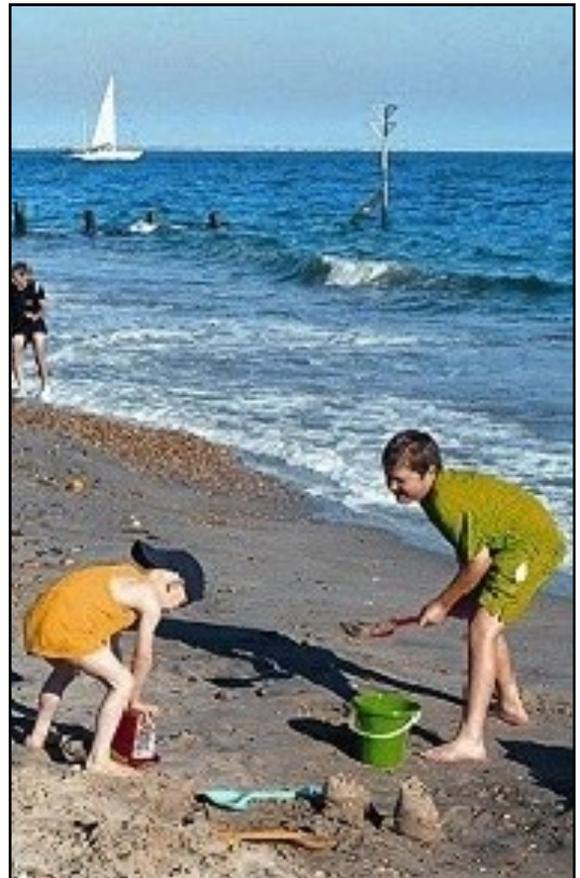
4LSCB Procedures Update

As part of the 4LSCB Online Procedures update in June 2017, the following have been updated: [The Unborn Baby Protocol](#), [Non-Mobile Baby Bruising Protocol](#), [The Joint Working Protocol](#), [S47](#).

In addition the following new policies have been agreed by the 4LSCBs: [Adults who disclose sexual abuse](#), [Practice advice on Safeguarding Children Exposed to Domestic Violence and Abuse](#).

All policies can be found on the [4LSCB online procedure site](#) where you can sign up for updates.

Please ensure this information is disseminated within your organisation.



PSCB Multi-Agency Training

The PSCB Training administrator is out of the office over the summer holidays but there will be a member of the business team here throughout this time. If you wish to book some training from September onwards please email PSCBtraining@portsmouthcc.gov.uk and you will receive a response in early September. For details on the multi-agency training programme please follow the link [here](#) to our website.



Useful Contact Nos

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Acknowledgements

Some of the photographs used in this publication have been downloaded free of charge from freedigitalphotos.net

Water Safety

The PSCB would like to promote learning regarding water safety to help families stay safe this summer. Nationally, drowning has been identified as a leading cause of accidental death, with 62 deaths of children under 5 between 2008-2012 resulting from drowning. Babies and toddlers can drown quickly and silently in as little as 5cm of water. Older children and young people are also at risk of drowning. The following key messages have been highlighted from national case reviews by which future deaths can be prevented:

- **Supervision** – Parents and carers must ensure children of any age are adequately supervised by an adult in or near water including for example the bath, garden ponds and swimming places.
- **Bath Aids** – Bath seats are intended as an aid to bath-time and must not be relied upon as a substitute to adult supervision. It is not safe to leave a baby unattended by an adult in a bath seat at any time.
- **Reduce Risks** – Parents and carers should consider reducing the risks presented by all sources of water, for example ensuring ponds are covered/fenced off as well as coverage of drains and water storage devices, ensuring baths, paddling pools and buckets are emptied immediately after use, and securing access to garden areas and similar. It is important that these risks are taken account of not only at their own home, but when visiting and on holiday.
- **Swimming** – Children and young people should be encouraged to learn to swim and to understand the risks posed by water including making appropriate assessments of the swimming location and their own swimming ability. Swimming should be undertaken in lifeguarded facilities, for example pools, beaches. The rules of the swimming area should be adhered to.

Professionals should promote the above messages when speaking to families about accident prevention as well as using the resources outlined below to help reduce the risk of accidental drowning.

The following organisations' websites provide further resources for families and professionals to help keep safe in and around water: [Drowning Prevention Week](#) and [RNLI](#) .

Falls from Windows



Summer is here, windows are left open in the hope of catching a breeze – and there are reports of small children falling from upstairs windows, frequently needing specialist hospital care for significant head injuries.

Parents and frontline staff often see such falls as 'freak' accidents but the statistics belie that view. In fact, nationally, one child under five is admitted to hospital every day after falling from a building – often from open windows but also from balconies.

Pre-school children are particularly susceptible to falls from a height:

- They are curious and want to see what's happening outside but have no real understanding of danger
- They can take parents and carers by surprise by a sudden breakthrough in their development
- Their heads are proportionally bigger than adults', so they have a different centre of gravity. This means that, if they lean out of a window, they may topple out, and when they land, their head takes much of the impact

It is helpful for frontline staff, for example in health visiting services and early years settings, to use their routine contacts with parents of small children to warn them about the risks and offer practical safety advice.

[Public Health England's new guide for practitioners working with families of under-fives](#) offers general advice on preventing falls – see page 6. This includes:

- Supervising children and teaching them where not to climb
- Using window locks and restricting access to balconies
- Ensuring nothing helps children climb to windows or from balconies