

Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter

May 2019

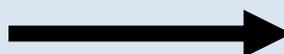


Welcome to the first edition of the **LSCP** newsletter.
Do contact us if you have any queries.

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Solihull LSCB has become Solihull LSCP



As we included in the last LSCB newsletter, significant changes to local multi-agency children's safeguarding arrangements were established through the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Act creates new duties for the local authority, clinical commissioning groups and police to make arrangements locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, and West Midlands Police have now published their new arrangements for working together to safeguard children in Solihull. Under these new arrangements we will be called Solihull Local Safeguarding Children **Partnership**. The full details are published on: <https://www.solihulllscp.co.uk/>

These safeguarding arrangements have been designed to allow partner agencies and practitioners to react to local safeguarding needs in a more flexible and dynamic way. Learning and improvement has been placed at the centre of the arrangements, with a focus on understanding the impact of our work on the outcomes for local children and young people.

We also recognise the importance of understanding how our new arrangements relate to the work of other local partnerships and wider governance framework. This is set out within the document, together with our arrangements for independent scrutiny of our work, which we very much welcome.

We believe these arrangements demonstrate our commitment to keeping children and young people safe in Solihull, and to working with our partners to continuously improve our effectiveness in achieving this. We look forward to building on the strong partnership commitment and support we enjoyed as a Local Safeguarding Children Board as we embark on this new way of working.

Links

In this issue:

1. [Published new LSCP arrangements](#)
2. [National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: practice guidance](#)
3. [Child exploitation disruption toolkit \(PDF\)](#)
4. [NSPCC Learning: safer activities and events](#)
5. [Medical Examinations for Child Sexual Abuse Concern – Video](#)
6. [The West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service](#)
7. [LSCB Training Portal – Book Reflection Sessions](#)

New process introduced for Reviews of Serious Child Safeguarding Cases

[Working Together 2018](#) also introduced a change from Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) to Serious Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected **and**
- The child has died or been seriously harmed

Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious **and/or** long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health. This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred.

As an LSCP, we will continue to undertake 'rapid reviews' in these circumstances. Rapid reviews will now include a decision on whether local partners will undertake a 'local child safeguarding practice review'. This decision to undertake a 'local child safeguarding practice review' rests with the safeguarding partners. Rapid reviews will also include a recommendation to the National Panel on whether a national review is believed appropriate. This is where the case raises issues which are complex or of national importance. It is ultimately up to the Panel however whether or not they accept the recommendation of local partners.

The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents. They are not conducted to hold individuals, organisations or agencies to account.

The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Panel and at local level with the safeguarding partners. National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published [practice guidance](#) setting out what the panel does, how it has worked to date since its inception and its practice principles. As set out in Working Together 2018, safeguarding partners should have regard to any guidance the Panel publishes.

Child exploitation Disruption Toolkit – Home Office

The Home Office has published a child exploitation disruption toolkit for professionals working with children in the UK. The toolkit sets out key legislation that can be used to disrupt the criminal and sexual exploitation of children and includes best practice guidance on information sharing and multi-agency working.

This toolkit is primarily aimed at frontline staff working to safeguard children and young people under the age of 18 from sexual and criminal exploitation. This includes law enforcement, social care, housing, education, the voluntary sector and related partner organisations.

It is intended to help all safeguarding partners to understand and access existing legislative opportunities at their disposal and to target specific risks, ranging from warning notices to offence charges and care orders.

The Toolkit is available here: [Child exploitation disruption toolkit \(PDF\)](#)

Family Group Conferencing – New to Solihull Children’s Services

Solihull Children's Services are really excited to have been able to include the facility of Family Group Conferencing into its recent restructure.

FGC is a service that originated in New Zealand as a way of empowering families to formulate their own plan to resolve issues within the family network as oppose to allowing professional to tell them what to do. It has been shown that when a family 'own' their plan that they have created it is more likely to be implemented and result in sustainable change.

FGC has been used in many areas within the UK with very successful outcomes. The newly created team in Solihull has been trained by the Family Rights Group who run the national family group conference network in the UK; Team members have also spent the past few weeks learning about the process by visiting neighbouring areas who use it and they are now in a position to start accepting referrals.

Initially it has been agreed that referrals will be accepted from LSCB Level 3 workers **within Children’s Services**. It is anticipated that the service will expand to include level 4 and level 2 cases in the near future.

The team of Family Group Conferencing Co-ordinators will initially meet with the referrer to agree the suitability of a family for a conference, they will then meet with the referrer and the family to explain the process and gain consent from the family. FGC is a voluntary process and the role of the co-ordinator is to ensure the family are happy to take part and do not feel pressured to take part. Once the family has agreed to take part the co-ordinator will work with the family to identify the family network to take part in the conference. The co-ordinator will then meet with each person identified to prepare them for the conference; this will ensure there are no surprises for anyone at the conference.

The co-ordinator will then arrange a suitable venue and organise the logistics of the conference.

At the conference the co-ordinator and referrer will share their information with the family, they will then leave the family alone to discuss and formulate their own plan. At the end of the conference the professionals will join the family to agree the plan and a date will be set for a review conference to monitor the family progress.

This is an exciting new service that it is hoped will enable families to play a bigger part in identifying their own solutions and prevent the need for more statutory intervention to protect children. Once established the team look forward to opening their service to more partner agencies and will provide further information at that time.

NSPCC: Safer activities and events

The NSPCC has published new information on safer activities and events. The information is aimed at the voluntary and community sector but the principles of best practice may be helpful to those in other sectors. Best practice includes: follow safer recruitment procedures to make sure everyone who works or volunteers at the event or activity is suitable to do so; draw up a code of conduct for all the adults who are working or volunteering at the event or activity; nominate a key member of staff or volunteer to take overall responsibility for organising the event or activity; and make sure all staff and volunteers understand the safeguarding and child protection plan.

Available here: [NSPCC Learning: safer activities and events](#)

Medical Examinations for Child Sexual Abuse Concern

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse have published a new report and short film resource to help practitioners better understand and explain the paediatric medical examination for CSA concerns, and support children and carers through referrals.

Watch the video by clicking on the link: <https://youtu.be/gOWX1xxnTWg>

The 'Scoping Review' report presents the available evidence on the role and purpose of the medical examination and the lived experience of, and impacts on, children and young people of having an examination. Read the report [here](#).

The West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service offers a holistic assessment and care for children and young people under 18 years of age who are victims of rape or serious sexual assault or where there is suspected sexual abuse, including:

- Physical examination
- Collection of forensic evidence
- Screening and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Emergency contraception
- Counselling and support package

The service is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

0800 953 4133 for self-referrals

0800 953 4131 for referrals from professionals or agencies.

<http://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-public/children-and-young-people/services-parent-portal/paediatric-sexual-assault-service/>

New LSCP Training – Reflection Sessions

We would like to continue to remind practitioners that the LSCP are running two reflection sessions based on serious case reviews or case learning reviews. We are confident that attending one or both of these sessions will have a positive impact on your practice.

Reflection session 1 - to help us reflect on how thinking and practice in cases where domestic abuse is a major factor can lead to gaps in assessing and managing risks, and help you identify ways around this.

Reflection session 2 - to help us reflect on thinking and practice in cases where the behaviour of the young person presents to professionals as the initial concern.

The sessions are suitable for those who are involved in multi-agency safeguarding work and have already completed Foundation (agency specific, in-house) training. They will take place in June at the Loft in the Blue Bell Centre from 3pm to 5pm. Exact dates and booking is via the website:

<http://www.solihullscb.co.uk/training.php>

Learning & Development Forum (previously Learning Faculty)

The next Learning and Development Forum will take place on Thursday 16th May 2pm at sans Souci. Updates will be provided from Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board and Solihull Safeguarding Childrens Partnership and a presentation given by Rebecca Slevin - West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit. To book a place please email lscptrain@solihull.gov.uk for more information please visit www.solihullscb.co.uk/training

Changes to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The National Referral Mechanism (**NRM**) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate protection and support. Trafficking does not have to be the movement of a person from one country to another; it can take place within the same country, city, town etc. Trafficking of persons has 3 constituent elements:

- **The Act:** (what is done) Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons.
- **The Means:** (how it's done) Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payment or benefits to a person in control of the victim.
- **The Purpose:** (why it's done) Exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs

If there is;

- A fraudulent job offer
- Deceit regarding the conditions of work
- Where exploitation involves children

Consent is rendered irrelevant in these circumstances and "the means" mentioned above does not need to be proved.

An NRM is completed by a **First Responder** who should be from one of the following agencies:

Police forces	UK Border Force
Home Office Visas and Immigration	Home Office Immigration Enforcement
Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority	Local Authorities
Health and Social Care Trusts (Northern Ireland)	Salvation Army
Poppy Project	Migrant Help
Medaille Trust	Kalayaan
Barnardos	Unseen
TARA Project (Scotland)	NSPCC (CTAC)
New Pathways	BAWSO
Refugee Council	

(Not all of these agencies will be available in every area)

As part of the [reforms](#) to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the Home Office will be launching the new Single Competent Authority (SCA) on Monday 29 April. From this date, the SCA will be responsible for all NRM decisions regardless of an individual's nationality or immigration status. This expert case working unit will sit in the Home Office, and will replace the competent authorities currently located in UK Visas & Immigration and the National Crime Agency.

This change will create a single process for all NRM referrals and is part of the work to improve the service provided to victims, reduce decision-making timescales and increase the certainty of NRM decisions.

If you are an NRM First Responder organisation, the creation of the SCA will not materially change your interaction with the NRM. However, from 29 April there will be new contact details and a new email address for receiving NRM referrals. These are:

By Email: nationalreferralmechanism@homeoffice.gov.uk

By Telephone: 020 7035 5689

From 29 April all NRM referrals should be sent to: nationalreferralmechanism@homeoffice.gov.uk

There are plans to move to a new digital NRM referral form, which is currently being tested ahead of rollout later in the spring.

LSCP Training Courses: 2019

Course	Aimed at	Dates
<p>Reflection Session 1- Reflection on thinking and practice in cases where domestic abuse is a major factor</p>	Those who identify and assess early help and child protection concerns and follow a multi-agency approach and /or regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	<p>13th June 2019</p> <p>18th June 2019</p>
<p>Reflection Session 2- Reflection on thinking and practice in cases where the behaviour of the young person presents to professionals as the initial concern.</p>	Those who identify and assess early help and child protection concerns and follow a multi-agency approach and /or regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	<p>12th June 2019</p> <p>17th June 2019</p>
<p>Module 2: An Introduction to multi-agency working</p>	Those who identify child protection concerns and make child protection referrals.	<p>6th June 2019</p> <p>2nd July 2019</p>
<p>Module 3: Child Protection: The challenges of multi-agency working</p>	Those who also regularly attend child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do, or lead organisations that do	3 rd July 2019
<p>Module 4: Child Protection: Analysis, judgement and leadership in partnership working</p>	Those who may provide evidence in criminal and civil proceedings and those who lead or contribute to serious case reviews and those involved in the LSCB including sub-groups	17 th October 2019
<p>Module 5(a) Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness</p>	Those who work with young people and who are responsible to identify and respond to child sexual exploitation	25 th September 2019
<p>Module 5(b) – CSE: Skills for working with vulnerable children & young people</p>	Those who work directly with vulnerable children and young people in relation to child sexual exploitation.	4 th June 2019
<p>Module 6 Neglect: Impact on child development</p>	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	2 nd October 2019
<p>Module 6(b) Neglect: Domestic Abuse</p>	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	9 th October 2019

Module 6(c) – Neglect: The Graded Care Profile 2	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do. Those who make home visits as part of their duties.	25 th June 2019
Module 6 (d)	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do	21 st May 2019
Module 7- Physical Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	20 th June 2019
Module 8- Emotional Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	6 th November 2019
Module 9- Sexual Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	11 th September 2019

Practitioners are also able to access safeguarding training from the Safeguarding Adults Board:

<http://training.ssab.org.uk/Learning-and-Development.aspx>

Learning and Development Forum (Previously the Learning Faculty)

The next Learning and Development Forum will take place on:
16th May 2019 2-4:30pm

**For more information and booking visit the LSCP website.
<http://www.solihullcsp.co.uk/training.php>**