

Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter

December 2021



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

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Arthur Labinjo-Hughes

It would not be right to publish an LSCP newsletter without acknowledging the tragic death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. As safeguarding partners we feel deep sadness at the events surrounding Arthur's death and are extremely aware of the impact on his family members, on members of the local community and on professionals who work to support and protect children in Solihull. We understand only too well the positive difference made by professionals every day, however we do not underestimate the strength of feeling and collective shock from the public as a result of the circumstances of Arthur's death. We have put in place measures to support the health and wellbeing of colleagues where those needs have been identified across the partnership.

We are working closely with Annie Hudson, the chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, to support her delivery of a single national independent review of the circumstances which led to Arthur's death. She has received and will build upon the work which had already been undertaken by this partnership towards delivering a local safeguarding child practice review. We look forward to receiving the findings of the national review, along with any recommendations from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection which is about to commence in Solihull, and we will be ready to receive any learning and to oversee the implementation of recommendations across the partnership to bring about the necessary improvements to our multi-agency safeguarding response.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the children of Solihull from:

Tim Browne, Interim Director of Children's Services and Skills

Chief Superintendent Ian Parnell, West Midlands Police

Diane Rhoden, Director of Nursing, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group

Joint Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews - Solihull

The LSCP & SSAB have developed a [joint resource](#) to promote learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The guides developed identify themes, key messages, and best practice advice. Professionals and practitioners are encouraged to take time and read these to reflect and learn, or they may be useful to encourage group reflection & learning in a team meeting

New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures

Launch of new West Midlands multi-agency procedures for responding to Physical Abuse

24 January 2022, 15.30-16.30

Dr Alan Stanton will be introducing the new West Midlands multi-agency child physical abuse procedures for practitioners who work in Solihull. The launch will be held on Teams and is open to all those who identify and respond to safeguarding and child protection concerns. It aims to raise awareness of the new procedures for Child Physical Abuse including Fabricated and Induced Illness. To book a place please go to

<https://training.solihulllscp.co.uk/Course/CourseDescriptive.aspx?id=172>. Dr Stanton will also be delivering further [Module 7 Physical Abuse](#) training on 3 March 2022, booking for this is also on the LSCP website.

Launch of new Solihull multi-agency procedures for responding to Children Missing from Home, Care and Other Settings

17 February 2022, 09:30 – 10:30

There will be a launch event to introduce Solihull's new Missing Children procedures. These procedures introduce a new protocol to be completed with parents and carers to assist the response to children who go missing. There is also a new Welfare Return Interview template. If you are a professional who has a good relationship with a child/ young person who goes missing you could be asked to conduct their welfare return interview and this launch will be of interest to you. At this event we will be advising you of further training opportunities for those who may conduct welfare return interviews. Booking is via the LSCP website

<https://training.solihulllscp.co.uk/Course/CourseDescriptive.aspx?id=173>.

Multi-agency safeguarding procedures are located at <https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/>. These procedures are updated regularly, so when notifications are provided that new procedures have been added it is important that individual agencies update their internal operating procedures to reflect and link to the new multi-agency procedures. New West Midlands child sexual abuse procedures are also being developed and will be added shortly.

Spotlight on Existing Multi-Agency Procedures

Disguised Compliance, Coercive Control and Families who are Hostile or Resistant to Change

This guidance addresses issues that arise when professionals are working with families with whom they have been unable to effectively engage. Resistance does not just refer to refusal of access to services or interventions; it may be expressed in aggression, in open refusal to cooperate, or in missed appointments and other forms of avoidance, or it may be masked by superficial co-operation and an apparent willingness to engage when the motivation is actually to mislead professionals. The common feature in all cases is failure to change, and a refusal or inability to acknowledge or address the risk to the child's welfare. These cases are acknowledged to be some of the most challenging to work with and professionals should be able to access regular support and good quality reflective supervision. Please have a look at the West Midlands procedure below for more information:

<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/pkplx/regional-safeguarding-guidance/disguised-compliance-coercive-control-and-families-who-are-hostile-or-resistant-to-change>

A New Multi-Agency Referral Form

A group of partner agency representatives has developed a new multi-agency referral form that will be introduced in the New Year for those who make referrals to the children's services Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The new referral form will introduce the need to identify the level of [threshold](#) at the start of the process.

When you are making a referral to another service, you are doing more than sharing information, you are asking for that service to intervene in the life of a child and their family. When completing the new referral form you will be asked to identify if your referral is being made because significant harm has occurred or there is a likelihood of significant harm, or if you are making a referral for a child in need, early help or the youth offending service. The LSCP has produced a [guide to making a referral](#) to assist with this, and the Referral and Advice Officers are available in MASH to help- 0121 788 4300.

The LSCP will circulate a targeted briefing to partner agencies before the implementation of the new multi-agency referral form. Look out for this over the coming weeks.

Parent Guides

The LSCP has developed a range of guides to support parents to understand the safeguarding processes they may be involved in; these are located on the LSCP website and we would ask that you share them with parents at appropriate times. They are available for:

[Early Help](#)

[Child In Need](#)

[Section 47 enquiries](#)

[Child Protection Conferences](#)

[Multi-Agency Exploitation Meetings](#)

The LSCP would like to thank professionals and Solihull Parent Carers Voice for their input into the development of these leaflets.

One for the parents of children who go missing will be made available when the new Missing Children procedures are launched in February, and some young people from OVOS (Our Voice Our Service) have agreed to help the LSCP start work on the design of leaflets for children and young people.

Neglect Strategy

The LSCP has a strategic priority to support the improvement of outcomes for children and young people who experience neglect:

"How we respond to and protect children from the harmful effects of neglect is one of the most pressing and challenging aspects of safeguarding work in this country. Neglect is consistently the most common initial category of abuse for children on a child protection plan, accounting for nearly half of all plans".

(Complexity and challenge: a triennial analysis of SCRs 2014-2017 D of E 2020)

A new Neglect Strategy has been developed, supported by a group of partner agency representatives, and is now being implemented through a Delivery Plan which sets out how the Strategy will be achieved. The Neglect Strategy will be launched in the New Year so look out for details of this event.

The NSPCC has recently released [2 podcasts](#) that may help you think about what can be done to support children and families who are experiencing neglect.

Suicide Prevention

Suicide is the biggest killer of young people in the UK. In fact, 1 in 4 young people have experienced suicidal thoughts at some point. It's a myth that talking about suicide puts the idea in someone's head when it would not have otherwise been there. Mentioning suicide does not increase the risk. Talking about suicide can create safety and listening is powerful. Birmingham & Solihull councils along with Zero Suicide Alliance are sharing a free suicide awareness learning opportunity and another that is about suicide bereavement and how to support an individual. Both can be found on the [LSCP training website](#).

Early Years Sector: Learning from Case Reviews

NSPCC Learning has published a new learning from case reviews briefing focusing on the early years sector. It summarises risk factors and learning for improved practice highlighted in case reviews published since 2017. The briefing highlights that practitioners do not always have the right training to recognise and respond to child protection concerns or know what to do if they have concerns.

Click [here](#) to view the summary and the full briefing

Learning Briefings

The two learning briefings below have been widely circulated to strategic leads across the partnership with a request that they take action to ensure that operating procedures reflect the key messages and that frontline staff are aware of them. Please familiarise yourself with the briefings and take the opportunity to reflect on how these key messages might inform your own practice when working with children and families:

Professional Curiosity <https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/10/Professional-curiosity-briefing-FINAL.pdf>

Voice of the Child <https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/09/VOC-Briefing-FINAL-1.pdf>

LSCP Training January – March 2022

| Course | Dates |
|--|----------------------------------|
| An Introduction to Safeguarding Children for the Voluntary & Community Sector Virtual Training | 3.3.22 9.30-12.30 |
| Module 1 Early Help Virtual Training | 19.1.22 23.3.22 9.30-12.30 |
| Module 1b – Early Help- Recognising and supporting parents in parental conflict Face to Face training | 16.2.22 9.30-16.30 |

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| Module 2 – Child Protection; an introduction to multi-agency working Face to Face training | 26.1.22 15.2.22 9.30-16.30 |
| Module 5a – All Age Exploitation Awareness Virtual Training | 9.2.22 16.3.22 13.30-16.30 |
| An Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding Virtual Training | 1.2.22 9.30-12.30 |
| Working with Parents as partners in Child Exploitation | 17.3.22 9.30-12.30 |
| Module 6- Neglect; impact on child development Face to Face training | 3.2.22 9.30-16.30 |
| Module 6b; Domestic Abuse; coercion & control Face to Face training | 27.1.22 9.30-16.30 |
| Module 6c Neglect; Graded Care Profile 2 Face to Face training (unless you are a qualified social worker or Paediatrician you will need to have completed Module 6 before attending this course) | 2.3.22 9.30-16.30 |
| Module 7 Physical Abuse Face to Face | 3.3.22 1.30-4.30 |
| Module 9 Sexual Abuse Face to Face | 10.2.22 9.30-16.30 |

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| Managing Allegations Against Staff Face to face | 9.2.22 9.30-12.30 |
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Booking is made via the LSCP website;

<https://training.solihullscp.co.uk/Course/CoursesDetailListing.aspx>

*Please be aware that face to face training has resumed with Covid safety measures in place; please read further information & risk assessments provided on the website, and be aware that changes may need to be made in line with Government guidance at the time.

**The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership wishes you all a
happy Christmas and a relaxing New Year**



To contact Solihull LSCP please email lscp@solihull.gov.uk