

Welcome to the December edition of the NSCB newsletter which will be the last published under the local safeguarding children board as we transition to new safeguarding arrangements.

The NSCB has achieved much in the time that it has been in operation and at the last meeting it was important to reflect on the progress that has been made over the past 12 years. The new arrangements, which are outlined in this newsletter, provide a great opportunity to build on those strengths and I am confident that we have the right approach to do that.

Thanks to all those who have worked so hard to safeguard children over the past year and best wishes for the New Year.



Chris Few
Independent Chair



Nottinghamshire
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN Board

New safeguarding arrangements in Nottinghamshire

The revised statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018', includes some important additional considerations for safeguarding practice and further information on these can be found later in this newsletter. Perhaps the most significant change is the new requirement on the **police, clinical commissioning groups and local authorities** (the 'safeguarding partners') to put in place new safeguarding arrangements.

The safeguarding partners, in consultation with the NSCB, have been working to develop the new arrangements for Nottinghamshire and a 3 month implementation period will start on **1st January 2019**. The aim has been to build on our current strengths so whilst some things will be different we have retained what has worked well.

Key changes in relation to safeguarding:

- Local safeguarding children boards are being replaced by 'safeguarding arrangements' which the police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority are jointly and equally responsible for.
- The safeguarding partners are required to identify 'Relevant Agencies' that are then expected to act in accordance with the arrangements – all member organisations of the NSCB are included in the new arrangements.
- The new safeguarding arrangements are referred to as the **Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Also in this issue

Working Together 2018 – changes to the statutory guidance

New training e learning modules

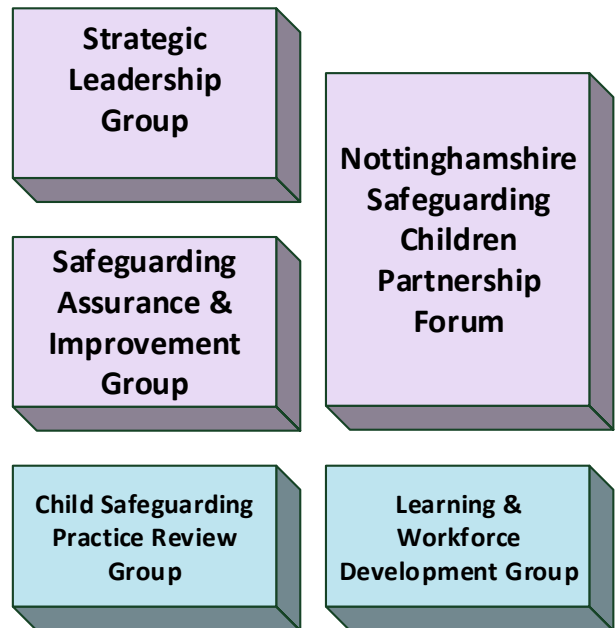
Interagency safeguarding procedures - updates

Safer sleep for babies – advice

Safeguarding survey results

CP-IS goes live





What difference will the new arrangements make?

The new arrangements, under the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, are required by statute but what do we hope to achieve by introducing them?

Vision and values

Our vision 'that children and young people in Nottinghamshire grow up in a safe and stable environment and are supported to lead healthy, happy and fulfilling lives'.

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will:

- Work effectively as a partnership to protect children from harm.
- Build working relationships between partners which support constructive challenge.
- Be transparent and self-critical.
- Learn from local and national safeguarding practice and improve the way children are safeguarded.
- Listen and respond to children and young people and adult victims and survivors of child abuse to guide how services are delivered.
- Ensure services for children and families in Nottinghamshire support children and young people to stay healthy and happy.
- Ensure services for children and families in Nottinghamshire support parents and carers to provide the best possible care for their children.

Clear accountability – the safeguarding partners (police, clinical commissioning groups and local authority) have joint and equal responsibility for setting up the arrangements and for making sure they work effectively. By forming a Strategic Leadership Group the safeguarding partners will develop a shared understanding of the priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Nottinghamshire and agree and coordinate the action that needs to be taken.

Faster response to serious child safeguarding cases – A 'Rapid Review' will be undertaken within 15 days when a child dies or is seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is suspected. Any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety or share learning will be identified and the safeguarding partners will decide, in conjunction with other organisations that have been involved, if a more in depth review is needed.

An opportunity to involve a wider range of organisations and connect better with lead safeguarding practitioners – the new structure moves away from large 'Board' style meetings. The partnership forum will enable operational managers and lead professionals to hear what issues are affecting safeguarding practice in Nottinghamshire and work together to develop solutions.

Streamlined structures – The new partnership has a streamlined organisational structure which will reduce duplication and lessen the demand on busy safeguarding leads to attend meetings.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

New statutory guidance has been issued and whilst much of the operational framework for safeguarding children remains the same there are some important changes. Access the new Working Together through our own local procedures <http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/index.html> and check out the changes.

Information sharing

A new 'myth busting guide' has been added to help practitioners to be confident about information sharing http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/chapters/chapter_one.html#info_share

Also, all relevant information, including **Child In Need** plans, should be shared ASAP when a family moves to another local authority.

Transition points

Emphasis on the importance of identifying **transition points** in advance and planning for them. http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/chapters/chapter_one.html?zoom_highlight=transition

Escalation

Each organisation should have a clear escalation policy – the multi-agency procedure can be found here:- http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_conflict_res.html Do you know how to escalate concerns within your organisation?

What is Contextual Safeguarding?

A new term for many has been included in Working Together 2018 but what does it actually mean?

In simple terms it is about recognising that children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families as a result of the relationships they have in their neighbourhoods, schools and online. Child sexual exploitation is a well-known example but others include; exploitation by criminal gangs, involvement in organised crime groups, trafficking and radicalisation.

Tips for practitioners...

Early help - be alert to the potential need for early help in such circumstances.

Assessments - should take account of contextual safeguarding risks and the impact they are having on the child.

Interventions – need to address wider environmental factors and the impact on children who may not be known to children's social care

Children who may be alleged perpetrators – consider the impact of contextual issues on their safety & welfare

In Nottinghamshire we have reviewed our thresholds document, the Pathway to Provision, to make sure contextual safeguarding issues are appropriately referenced. We have also recently undertaken a youth violence multi-agency learning event to understand more about how existing frameworks help practitioners respond to concerns. It is clear that there are already multi-agency processes in place that provide an opportunity to respond to contextual safeguarding issues and any developments will take account of these. In January we are piloting a Youth Violence Panel to see whether that assists practitioners to work together and the findings of the pilot will be shared with partners in due course.

The University of Bedford have been leading on researching this area of safeguarding and further information can be found at:

<https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/about/what-is-contextual-safeguarding>

Safeguarding Children Procedures are there to help you

The Interagency Safeguarding Children Procedures and Guidance cover both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire and can be accessed online via desktop, mobile or tablet: <http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/>

The procedures explain how agencies should work together to ensure that children are protected. Our recent safeguarding survey showed that not enough practitioners were accessing the procedures so why not follow the link now and take a look at the advice that is available and then save it as a favourite so that you can easily find them when you need them.

The procedures are regularly updated and the latest updates have included:

- ❖ a new chapter 'good practice supporting the voice of the child'
- ❖ extensive updates to the chapter on self-harm and suicidal behaviour
- ❖ additional guidance for health colleagues dealing with sub-conjunctival haemorrhage in infants, fabricated or induced illness, and perplexing presentations
- ❖ updated missing children guidance to reflect changes to national definitions and clarify communication channels with health colleagues
- ❖ inclusion of the Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light tool to help those dealing with harmful sexual behaviour
- ❖ updated guidance regarding ; online safety, honour based violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, domestic violence/abuse, and trafficked children



New E Learning Courses now available

6 new courses have been added to our suite of E learning:

- ❖ Child Protection Investigations
- ❖ Safer Recruitment
- ❖ Childhood Obesity
- ❖ Emotional Abuse
- ❖ Safer Sleeping for Babies
- ❖ Safeguarding Adults Awareness.

Also coming soon in the New Year, a new course will be available: Trauma, Toxic Stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), so remember to visit our website regularly!

To see the full list of courses available and access link to login page go to: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb/training/e-learning>

Serious Case Reviews and Learning Bulletins published

Two serious case reviews (PN16 & QN17) have recently been published along with Learning Bulletins that provide a condensed summary of the learning from each review. Learning from case reviews is a regular item in our What's New in Safeguarding events and a specific seminar on learning from SCRs is planned for March 2019 – details to follow – in the meantime why not take a look at the bulletins?

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb/learning-from-practice/learning-and-improvement-framework>

Reminder! Safer sleep for babies over the festive period.

As the festive season approaches, **Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board** are reminding professionals and parents about the importance of safe sleep. Across the country, 219 babies died suddenly and unexpectedly in 2016. By following the evidence-based safe sleep advice the risk of these tragic events can be reduced.

During the festive season, young babies and their families may be staying away home with friends and family for the holidays, out of the usual routines, and other people may be putting baby to bed.

We're encouraging everyone to help ensure the Lullaby Trust's Safer Sleep tips are followed, whether baby is sleeping at home or away, at baby's normal bedtime, and during daytime naps:

- **Always place your baby on their back to sleep**
- **Keep your baby smoke free during pregnancy and after birth**
- **Place your baby to sleep in a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as you for the first 6 months**
- **Breastfeed your baby, if you can**
- **Use a firm, flat, waterproof mattress in good condition**
- **Never sleep on a sofa or in an armchair with your baby**
- **Don't sleep in the same bed as your baby if you:**
 - **Smoke**
 - **Have drunk alcohol**
 - **Have taken drugs**
 - **Are extremely tired**
 - **Your baby was born prematurely**
 - **Your baby was of low birth-weight**
- **Avoid letting your baby get too hot**
- **Don't cover your baby's face or head while sleeping or use loose bedding**
- **To avoid accidents remove all pillows, soft bedding, cot bumpers and soft toys from the cot.**

The Lullaby Trust website has lots of information about safe sleeping and sudden unidentified death in infancy for parents **www.lullabytrust.org.uk**.

To help tackle this a **safer sleep risk assessment tool has been developed**. The tool is recommended for use by colleagues from all sectors who work with families with babies and can be accessed by **completing the NSCB safer sleep e learning package** (if you have already completed the e learning please go into the programme again and you will find the risk assessment tool attached **<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb/training/e-learning>** (Please Note: this tool is not intended for use by maternity and health visiting services who should continue to assess and promote safe sleep via the usual processes).

NSCB SAFEGUARDING SURVEY 2018

Thanks to all of you that completed the NSCB Safeguarding Survey this year. Over 500 responses were received – a full analysis has been presented to the Board and is already being used to inform the work to help multi-agency safeguarding – here is a summary of the findings:-

Pathway to Provision (Nottinghamshire's thresholds for services guidance)

Over 80% of respondents were aware of the guidance.

64% of respondents had used the guidance.

84% said it was either helpful or very helpful.

Recognising and responding to abuse and neglect

Most respondents indicated they were confident or very confident at dealing with a range of safeguarding concerns to a similar degree.

More respondents were unsure about dealing with sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and self-harm compared to physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.

Use of chronologies

75% of respondents said they had made use of a chronology when dealing with safeguarding cases

Time was identified as the biggest barrier to completing a chronology

So how have the survey results been used so far?

- Your feedback has been used as part of the Pathway to Provision update (out soon!)
- The NSCB Training Programme for 2019/20 will focus on issues highlighted and incorporate pointers for good practice
- A new e newsletter is planned for the New Year

Early Help Assessment Form (EHAF)

Good knowledge of EHAF (82%).

43% had used the EHAF.

68% said it was either helpful or very helpful.

Positive feedback regarding the new form that was introduced during the year.

To a lesser extent some concerns around the length of the form and the perceived duplication of effort.

Professional disagreements

31% of respondents had resolved a professional disagreement in relation to a safeguarding issue.

Support for resolving professional disagreements - references to the NSCB escalation procedure being helpful, the value of professional relationships, availability of right senior manager, support from within your own organisation.

Barriers to resolving disagreements - defensiveness on the part of agencies

NSCB support

Over 80% of respondents had accessed the NSCB website, with the policy and guidance and the training sections identified as the most useful

Less awareness and use of the learning from practice section which contains learning bulletins and details of serious case reviews
However positive feedback on the value of the Learning and Improvement Bulletins by those that had accessed them

Over 86% of respondents found the NSCB newsletters either helpful or very helpful!



Child Protection Information Sharing CP-IS goes live

The Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) service is an NHS England sponsored work programme dedicated to developing an information sharing solution that will deliver a higher level of protection to children who visit NHS unscheduled care settings such as: accident and emergency; maternity; minor injury units; out of hours; paediatric wards and walk-in centres.

The information sharing focuses on three specific categories of child only:

- Those with a Child Protection Plan (CPP)
- Those children 'Looked After' by the Local Authority (LAC).
- Any unborn child that has a Child Protection Plan.

Alerts are now visible next to the child's name when they attend any of our Emergency Departments or Minor Injuries Unit.

They look like this:



This indicates that the child is in one of the three categories above.

Staff can then access the Summary Care Record where further information is held including; the type of plan, when the plan was instigated and the originating authority with telephone number.

You can ring the number to share information about the child if necessary. If a child in one of the categories attends and there are no concerns you may not have to do anything. An automatic alert is sent to the social worker or team looking after the child. This will let them know the child has attended our hospital but no further details. They will have the option to ring for further details but their contact is the Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children.

IMPORTANT

THIS DOES NOT REPLACE ANY CURRENT PROCESSES FOR REFERRING. IT ENHANCES INFORMATION SHARING. YOU HAVE A DUTY TO REPORT A CHILD TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IF YOU THINK THEY ARE AT RISK OF HARM AND THE USUAL PROCESS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED – FURTHER DETAILS ON WHEN AND HOW TO MAKE A REFERRAL CAN BE FOUND IN THE INTERAGENCY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PROCEDURES.

http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_referrals.html