



**Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board**

# Newsletter

July 2016

## Update from the Chair...Reg Hooke

Welcome to July's newsletter and I hope you find the information useful.

In May the **Alan Wood Review of LSCBs** was published. The Government has responded and plans to adopt the vast majority of the review recommendations. These concern three areas: LSCBs themselves, Serious Case Review governance and Child Death Overview Panels. You can find the report [here](#) and the Government's response to it can be found [here](#).

The report has looked extensively at LSCB arrangements across the country and consulted widely. Wood reaffirms the need to ensure efficient and effective independent scrutiny of the multi-agency arrangements to protect children who are most at risk and he highlights the critical importance of collaboration between the three agencies Health, Police and Local Authorities in ensuring appropriate arrangements and independent scrutiny.

There will undoubtedly be change to how we do this in the coming two years as legislation is framed around the recommendations. It is likely that local areas will have the freedom to determine what collaboration means for them and what outcomes they want to see to know children are being kept safe. The PSCB Business Unit is sharpening its focus on what matters most locally and I will continue to lead the PSCB, mindful of the potential legislative changes but keeping our attention on safeguarding vulnerable children and families across the city.

Have a happy summer,

*Reg*

## PSCB Training Programme



Over the last term, we have had number of professionals attend our new course 'Working with Vulnerable Children - Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked'. The course is focused on supporting professionals to identify, respond and support children who are at risk from or have experienced these issues. We will continue to run this course over the next year. Please see PSCB website (link) for a booking form.

We also have a free e-learning course on Child Sexual Exploitation which is available to all practitioners. For login details please email [pscbrtraining@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:pscbrtraining@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

## Save the date! PSCB Safeguarding Week 16—18 November 2016

This year the PSCB will be holding its Safeguarding Week in November to coincide with the National Anti-Bullying week on 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November. We will provide you with lots more information nearer the time as to our plans for this week, but would be grateful if you note it in your diaries and also let us know what events you will be holding for anti-bullying week so that we can put together a citywide calendar of events.

Please email details of these to [lucy.rylatt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.rylatt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)



## Introducing Cllr Ryan Brent ....

*... new Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care*

I was born and raised in Portsmouth. I have held the positions of Student President at Portsmouth College and Head Boy at Miltoncross Academy. Currently, I am a teacher of varying levels of Mathematics across the entire Portsmouth community and a manager of the Academic Skills department at Portsmouth College where I founded a three-tier mentoring scheme that branches into the community. I have supervised a BME mentoring scheme which links with the University of Portsmouth and always actively aim to create partnerships and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes by developing working relationships, such as the integration of NCS within extracurricular activities. I have obtained a degree in Politics with International Studies and History from the University of Exeter as well as becoming a qualified youth coach, life coach and group facilitator. I have experience working with a diverse range of people, including those with specific learning difficulties as well as physical disabilities and am currently a governor at Miltoncross Academy as well as Milton Park Primary school. I hold inclusion as a fundamental value and believe that every individual should have a person centred plan of progression.

I believe that the most imperative aspect that I consider with reference to safeguarding scrutiny and quality assurance procedures/systems is the reliability and validity within the identification of risks. Throughout my tenure as the cabinet member of Children's Social Care I intend to consistently hold the perspective that a concise, clear and structured multi agency framework of evaluation can facilitate the identification of risks and as a result increase the already good service delivered to the most vulnerable young individuals within the locality - highlighting areas for development within the service through the support of accurate data. I will hold to the aspiration of not being risk averse, but to consider all agencies' outlooks within a risk sensible strategic model to look towards possible future developments within the portfolio in a cooperative working manner with all officers and directors.

I look forward to working with everyone within the PSCB and urge individuals as well as organisations to contact me at [Cllr.Ryan.Brent@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Ryan.Brent@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) and discuss any thoughts/ideas you may have.

### Keeping Children Safe in Education New Government Guidance

An updated version Of Keeping Children Safe in Education will come into force on 5 September 2016. School must continue to use the previous version (dated July 2015) until that time. You can download this new guidance [here](#).

The new guidance states that all people working in schools should have regular safeguarding and child protection training. The new section also says that school staff should have updates at least annually. This can include emails, bulletins and team meetings (it doesn't stipulate formal training as such).



Web: [www.portsmouthscb.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthscb.org.uk)  
Email: [pscb@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:pscb@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)  
Phone: 02392 841540

### Lessons from Serious Case Reviews

The NSPCC maintain a national Case Review Repository, which was launched in collaboration with the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs in November 2013. The repository provides a single place for published case reviews to make it easier to access via a helpful search facility and share learning at a local, regional and national level. The repository is accessible via the NSPCC library online and contains over 600 case reviews and inquiries dating back to 1945.

The NSPCC have also provided a number of thematic briefings and review of learning from SCRs based on types of abuse; professional practice; and specific sectors. Follow @NSPCCpro on Twitter for the latest news on Child Protection and sign to receive CASPER e-mail alerts to receive regular information on practice, policy and research on children's services. If you need help accessing particular resources or guidance, the NSPCC operate an enquiry service that can be contacted via [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) or on 0808 800 5000.

**NSPCC**

## Private Fostering

Private fostering is a term used to describe when a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if disabled) is living away from home and being cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative. This is an arrangement made between the parent or persons with parental responsibilities and the carers and is planned to or does last longer than 28 days.

It is a legal requirement to notify the local authority about a private fostering arrangement, 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to start or straight away if it is currently happening.

The local authority will assess the arrangement to ensure it is safe and the child's welfare is being promoted, and will provide ongoing advice and support to the private foster carer while the child remains within the home.

A private foster carer may be a more distant relative or a family friend such as a great aunt or uncle, great grandparents, a cousin, a friend or the parent of a child's friend, God Parent or a neighbour. Also host families taking in exchange students for more than 28 days also need to be assessed as private foster carers if the young person is under 16 or 18 if disabled.

Children become privately fostered for many different reasons for example parents ill health, parental custodial sentence, family breakdown and conflict between parents and their children.

Those working with children and families are often the first to identify that a child has been privately fostered.

If you think a child may be privately fostered and would like some advice please contact:

- the Portsmouth MASH (Multi agency safeguarding Hub) on 0845 671 0271 or
- email: [pccraduty@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:pccraduty@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk) or
- email: [privatefostering@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:privatefostering@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)



## FGM Guidance

On 1st April 2016 the government has published multi-agency statutory guidance on Female Genital Mutilation, it can be accessed [here](#). These guidelines outline the responsibility of each professional in protecting girls and women from FGM.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is increasingly featured in the media, particularly since the Government implemented the mandatory requirement to report from 31 October 2015. FGM is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is also known as female circumcision or cutting.

If this is a subject that you are not familiar with, it is important that you understand the facts and your duty to respond. The [PSCB website](#) includes some useful information, including links to various resources that you may find useful plus a Home Office free e-learning module.

Key points to remember are:

- FGM is child abuse;
- FGM affects girls and women in the UK; (current estimate 137,000 although the true extent is unknown due to the “hidden” nature of the crime);
- FGM is illegal in the UK;
- FGM can have a very negative effect on health and wellbeing;
- You have a legal duty to report known cases of FGM carried out on a child under 18 to the police.

## Useful Contact Details

### LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

02392 882500 or

email [LADO@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk)

### Child Protection Conferences

If you are attending a child protection conference and have any queries please either email [dsssgt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:dsssgt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or call the administration team directly on **02392 437651**.

### MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

0845 671 0271 or

Email [pccraduty@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:pccraduty@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk)

### Acknowledgements

Some of the photographs used in this publication have been downloaded free of charge from [freedigitalphotos.net](http://freedigitalphotos.net)

## Section 11 Audit Findings

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) carries out a Section 11 Audit on an annual basis to monitor and evaluate how well organisations are complying with their duty in the Children Act 2004 to ensure they have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This year 87 agencies, including schools, GP surgeries, nurseries, teams with Portsmouth City Council etc., completed this audit and the key finding was that the child protection system is effective, a range of measures demonstrate a timely & effective system, despite increased numbers, and that processes and systems to keep Children who are Looked After safe are good.

Ninety eight percent of all agencies scored as either good or outstanding against their leadership and management, and no agency felt that their responsibility in relation to safeguarding being clearly communicated to staff was less than good.

The two standards against which more agencies felt their current practice either requires improvement or is inadequate were Early Help Processes and Staff Recruitment and Selection; the percentage of respondents assessing their practice in these areas as less than good were 13% and 12% respectively.

As a result the Board will continue to closely monitor early help activity and processes and ensure there is sufficient availability on the Early Help training module, which includes an overview of the Single Assessment Framework. The Board will also ensure that there is adequate provision of Safer Recruitment training and that relevant agencies are attending.

For future Section 11 Audits, PSCB is working with Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight LSCBs to design a common template, in recognition of the fact that many agencies work in more than one area and to ask them to complete more than one self-assessment tool per year is too onerous a task.

