



Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

Portsmouth Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

On 2 November 2015 the Joint Action Team (JAT) became the Portsmouth Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH will continue to be a multi-agency team including Police, Health, Education, Children's Social Care, Probation, Adult Social Care, Mental Health and other.

The MASH will ensure that there is timely access to a range of key professionals, enabling prompt and informed decision making to ensure that the right families get the right service at the right time. The benefit being that the professionals inside the MASH can quickly share information and make decisions as to the required level of intervention. Any concerns about a child should be shared with the MASH, the phone numbers remain **02392 688793** or **0845 671 0271** and are the same whether you are a professional or a concerned member of the public.

Contact MASH if:

- You want to have an informal discussion about a family with an Early Help colleague. Make this clear when you make contact. This does not require family details and no record will be kept by MASH unless it is later agreed that a formal referral is required, although you may record on your own individual systems if appropriate. Without the exchange of sensitive personal information, consent is not a requirement
- You have concerns about a family and you have their consent to share information with the MASH. If you do not have consent to share we cannot accept details of the family until you have obtained consent or unless the matter is an immediate Child Protection issue under the remit of S47 of The Children Act
- You have immediate Child Protection concerns

All decisions about children will be overseen by a social work manager and you will be informed of the outcome in writing.

The potential outcomes from the MASH are:

- a. A child protection enquiry is being completed
- b. To pass the information to Children's Social Care for a single assessment
- c. That an early help single assessment should be completed. A worker from the MASH would be in contact with the referrer in the near future to consider who should undertake the single assessment
- d. Continue with universal service support



If you have any questions please contact Dave Richards, Team Manager
dave.richards@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or Sarah Lewis, Interim Commissioning Manager for Assessment & Intervention sarah.lewis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Update from the Chair...

Welcome to the PSCB November newsletter, a month which sees quite some change for child safeguarding. It is some months since our last publication due to a change in Business Manager and I am delighted to welcome Lucy Rylatt as the new Business Manager. Some of you have already met Lucy, as she joined us in August.

Much of this edition is given to the new Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH which replaces the JAT. There has been some excellent multi-agency work to pull this together and my thanks go to the hard work of those involved and their commitment to improving further the service provided to children at risk and troubled families.

There are also updates on the new Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) arrangements where Portsmouth will now have its own CDOP group, the PREVENT strategy, Safeguarding in Schools and an introduction to our new E-safety officer.

I hope you find the newsletter informative. Remember we have a new enhanced website with regular updates and current news and please do let us know of items you would like to see in future issues.



Updates to national safeguarding guidance for schools/education providers



Keeping Children Safe in Education was updated in July 2015. An NSPCC factsheet is available outlining the overview of the main revisions.

There is also a new document called 'Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings published in October 2015 by the Safer Recruitment Consortium. The government recommends that schools use this alongside statutory guidance to develop their safeguarding policy and procedures.

Both documents can be found at: www.portsmouthscb.org.uk/professionals/training/training-for-schools/

Information on new assessment tools for Portsmouth

CSE Tool

Following the recommendation to identify who is at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Portsmouth proposal in February 2014, a CSE tool has now been developed. The tool incorporates background information, analysis and guidance for completion. There is also a disruption letter included in the appendix to inform police on intelligence and examples of what a good plan should look like. This has been reviewed within the CSE MET Operational group and initial feedback from practitioners is very positive. The tool can be accessed via the PSCB website at www.portsmouthscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Portsmouth-CSE-Risk-Assessment-Toolkit-Oct-2015.doc

Neglect Tool

Work on the new neglect tool and guidance commenced last September following an audit undertaken within health. The outcome of this audit showed assessments were variable but joint planning was stronger when neglect was involved. It was also notable that a neglect tool was not used in any of the cases reviewed. Practitioner's workshops took place and it was agreed that a tool needed to be developed. Different existing tools were reviewed and one was identified as most suitable and has been adapted for Portsmouth. The tool is now being used and can be accessed at www.portsmouthscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Neglect-Identification-Measurement-Tool-and-Guidance-August-2015.doc. Bespoke training is also being delivered to support this

The **female genital mutilation (FGM)** mandatory reporting duty came into force on 31 October 2015. The duty will require regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report known cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police. The Home Office has published procedural information on the duty to help health and social care professionals, teachers and the police prepare which you can download at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/469448/FGM-Mandatory-Reporting-procedural-info-FINAL.pdf

Portsmouth's Child Death Overview Panel

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) outlines two distinct but inter-related processes:

'Rapid Response where a group of professionals come together for the purpose of evaluating the cause of death of the individual child, where the death of that child is unexpected; and

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) that comes together to undertake an overview of all child deaths in a defined geographical area.

These processes relate to the statutory responsibilities that Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in England have had since 1st April 2008 to:

Collect and analyse information about every child's death; and

Put in place procedures for ensuring that there is a coordinated response by the authority, their Board partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death.

The overall purpose of the child death review processes is to understand how and why children die, put in place interventions to protect other children, and prevent future deaths.

Until very recently Portsmouth LSCB has partnered with Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Boards to form a single CDOP. However, following a review of these arrangements by the Independent Chairs in June 2015 it has been decided to de-segregate this single CDOP and, as from 1st November, each of the four LSCBs will be responsible for making its own arrangements to review the deaths of children usually resident in their area. This decision was based on three principles:

- Each LSCB is committed to having agreed Rapid Response procedures, as well as standard CDOP forms, across the four areas
- There will be shared learning and data sharing on a minimum annual basis. There will also be a joint annual reporting (which Hampshire will coordinate)
- As far as we can ascertain at this stage, there will not be any additional resource requirements for key partners

In Portsmouth it has been agreed to amalgamate CDOP with the Case Review Committee 4 times a year, using the first hour of these meetings to review the deaths of children who were usually resident in Portsmouth. In addition to the usual members of that group a representative from Public Health, who will Chair the CDOP, and the attendance of the Specialist Midwife for Safeguarding Children has been agreed.

The PSCB Administrator's role has also been configured to allow for capacity from them to administer the child death review process and this has been renamed the PSCB and Child Death Coordinator to reflect this. So in future all notifications of deaths of children normally resident in Portsmouth will be sent to **CDOP@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk** The Co-ordinator will then send out the agency report forms to gather information from all professionals to whom this child and/or family were know. We will continue to use the nationally agreed form for this process.

Portsmouth CDOP will gather and assess information on the deaths of all children and young people from birth (excluding those babies who are stillborn) up to the age of 18 years. This will include neonatal deaths, expected and unexpected deaths in infants and in older children and young people. The outcomes of these reviews will be shared with the other CDOPs in Southampton, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to ensure that any common themes and emerging trends are identified and learning shared. It has also been agreed that the four CDOPs will continue to produce one annual report, which will be managed by Hampshire CDOP.



Prevent Programme

What is Prevent?

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism and extremism. Prevent is part of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent Duty

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a new duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The government has produced guidance for specified authorities.

Who will the new Prevent duty apply to?

The duty will apply to bodies which have significant interaction with people who could be vulnerable to radicalisation. This ensures that the duty is proportionate. These include: schools, local authorities, police forces, some NHS bodies, further and higher education providers, prisons and young offender institutions and providers of probation services.

New DfE Prevent Guidance for Schools

The Department for Education has issued a new policy paper outlining how it is tackling extremism through the education and children's services sectors, this includes additional advice on implementing the duty, British values, the influence of social media and links to Ofsted's inspection framework and more resources. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-extremism-in-schools-and-childrens-services/preventing-extremism-in-the-education-and-childrens-services-sectors>

Prevent Training for Staff

For more information on Prevent, including training options such as WRAP and e-learning, please visit the Safer Portsmouth Partnership website. <http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/prevent-duty/prevent-training>

Resource Package for Secondary Schools

A Prevent resource package is available for all secondary schools in Portsmouth called "*The Respect Programme*". We encourage all secondary schools to use this resource which is delivered free of charge by a youth worker. The resource is supported by a series of 5 lesson plans covering topics such as extremism, critical thinking, conflict resolution, British values and online resilience.

Prevent Toolkit for Schools

A good practice toolkit has been developed to support schools in complying with the Prevent Duty and includes a self-assessment toolkit alongside an action plan template for senior managers. To receive the toolkit or to discuss the availability of the resource package please email:

lolene.elkington@portsmouthcc.gov.uk - Youth Worker at Portsmouth City Council.

For further information on Prevent in Portsmouth, please email Charlie Pericleous - Prevent Coordinator at Portsmouth City Council. charlie.pericleous@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or visit www.saferportsmouth.org.uk

Meet Sarah Reed, new E-Safety Officer



My post is based in Public Health and funded by the PCSB to lead on the Online Safety Strategy for Portsmouth. My role is to support others to ensure e-safety is delivered and to maintain an e-associates network. I will be producing a regular newsletter containing useful information, advice and guidance which will be emailed to the e-associate network and the latest copy is available on the PCSB website www.portsmouthscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/E-safety-newsletter-October-2015.doc

I can be contacted for general online safety advice, I work Fridays only and can be contacted on Sarah.Reed@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or 023 9268 8270

Meet Lucy Rylatt, the new PSCB Business Manager



Having started in August this year, I have really enjoyed meeting partners and beginning to understand at first hand the work of the Board in Portsmouth. I have been pleased to see the commitment and enthusiasm for safeguarding I have seen demonstrated at the PSCB meetings I have attended so far. Please do contact me at lucy.rylatt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk if you have queries about the Board and its work.

The new **PSCB website** was launched in May 2015 and has been successfully running for a few months now. Please visit the site and send us any comments as we do value all feedback. www.portsmouthscb.org.uk

Web: www.portsmouthscb.org.uk Email: pscb@portsmouthcc.gov.uk