



Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board

Newsletter

September 2014

Welcome to the PSCB newsletter *by Reg Hooke, PSCB Chair*

2014 has been a very successful year for the PSCB so far!

In July we were inspected by Ofsted and we were judged as 'good'. The Ofsted team highly praised the PSCB for its multi-agency work and role in safeguarding children in Portsmouth. The full report will be published on 1st September and we look forward to that endorsement for the excellent work all partners are doing.

The PSCB business plan will be published in the next few weeks and work has already started: We have a new Training Committee to take forward multi-agency training, learning and development across the PSCB. We are also giving the PSCB website a new look and upgrade which we intend to become over the coming months a big part of improved communication and a major 'port of call' for information as well as contact and engagement with professionals, families and the communities of Portsmouth. Our three new Lay Members, who are featured in this newsletter, will be helping us on that work!

I hope you find this newsletter useful. As always your feedback and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged.



Successful partnership working

Lurking Trolls: Portsmouth is leading the way with E-safety. The Lurking Trolls campaign has now reached over 3000 children with messages on how to stay safe on-line and what to do if they come across a Troll. We recently ran a competition for the best recording of the Troll song. This was won by the Home Educators group.

Repeat Child Protection Plans: Since August 2013 only three children have become the subject of a repeat Child Protection Plan within a two year period. This significant reduction has been achieved through improvements in the quality of child protection plans; in particular the emphasis on an outcome focused approach and improved risk analysis.

Child Sexual Exploitation: There have been huge improvements in our identification and support for children and young people at risk of CSE.

- At the beginning of the year we launched the CSE tool and delivered an awareness campaign across services including GPs and the Police.
- A theatre based production for young people, Chelsea's Choice, was run in Portsmouth secondary schools to help young people explore CSE
- The CSE operational group comprising health, police, children's services is successfully sharing information to identify the young people and locations we are most worried about, and possible perpetrators.

PSCB Training Update

Over the last year, around 2000 practitioners and managers have attended PSCB Safeguarding Children courses. We are pleased that the feedback about the courses we receive is consistently positive and evaluation shows improvement in knowledge, skills and confidence. Here are some comments about the courses:

'A fantastic course - gave me the opportunity to practice new skills and I can transfer these skills immediately to my organisation' - **Nursery manager**

'The course was well structured, highly informative and practical' - **Assistant Head Teacher**

'The course was very enjoyable, useful and something I will use in my everyday practice'. **Year Leader**

'The trainer was outstanding and extremely knowledgeable and this sentiment was widely expressed...'
Recovery HUB worker

We have delivered more training to school staff and have our new Traded Service arrangement with schools starting in September 2014. This includes the offer of a brand new course for Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools, who are required to have safeguarding training every 2 years, as stipulated in government guidance.

If you would like any further information, please email pscbtraining@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or contact 023 92 688338

We would love to hear your comments and ideas about PSCB training - please contact Helen Sewell, Safeguarding Children Trainer at the above email address.

Did you know Barnardos offer training in CSE?

This training will give you a better understanding of CSE and information on key legislations. We will look at signs of CSE and myths around CSE and explore the most common models of CSE.



Thank you Aileen!

After four years of support to the PSCB as Vice-Chair and many years' service to the NHS, Aileen Patterson is standing down and taking her well-deserved retirement. We wish Aileen well in her next stage of life; her contributions will be greatly missed.

New Vice-Chair:

Louise Boyle, the Business Manager at Homestart Portsmouth will be taking on the post of Vice Chair. She has been a member of the Board as a key representative of the Charity and Voluntary Sector(CVS) and brings considerable energy and passion to our work as well as ensuring the CVS remains integral to child safeguarding.

Have you seen.....?

- The 4LSCB protocols and procedures for safeguarding children have been updated. Make sure you go to the website for the most up to date guidance
- The revised **Protocol for the management of actual or suspected bruising in infants who are not independently mobile** (4LSCB website)
- **'Honour' Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation** multi-agency guidance (PSCB website)
- **The new PSCB Protocol for Resolving Professional Differences.** Most differences of opinion around supporting children can be resolved between teams. If something does have to be escalated this protocol guides you through the process (PSCB website)

PSCB Priorities for 2014—2017

The PSCB has announced our new priorities for 2014-17. Reflecting our striving aspirations for children in Portsmouth, the new priorities are to:

1. Improve the effectiveness of agencies and the community in addressing Neglect
 - All agencies work effectively together to assess and agree plans for children who experience neglect
 - Every agency has in place robust management oversight of neglect cases
 - Interventions are effective in improving outcomes for children and young people from neglect
2. Improve the awareness of Safeguarding amongst practitioners and the community, with a particular focus on at risk communities
 - Parents, carers, practitioners and children, and young people understand what keeps children safe and well
 - Practitioners in all agencies are able to use messages on how to keep children and young people safe and well in everyday practice
 - The PSCB is able to communicate effectively to all sections of the community
3. Ensure that the voice of children and young people influences learning and best practice
 - The views of children and young people inform PSCB decision making
 - The views of children and young people consistently contribute to and influence their individual plans
 - The views of children and young people inform and influence organisational decision making
4. Increase the effectiveness of the PSCB with clear evidence of improved outcomes for children and young people
 - The PSCB has a comprehensive system of assessment and scrutiny
 - The PSCB and constituent agencies lead a learning culture
 - Engagement with other statutory bodies is properly resourced and managers and teams see safeguarding as everyone's responsibility



PSCB Contact Details

Web: www.portsmouthscb.org.uk
Email: pscb@portsmouth.gov.uk
Phone: 02392 841540



Reflective Practice

Reflective Practice reviews held by any agency with the support of the PSCB Professional Practice Committee are helping agencies understand more about each others practice and share learning.

The model used in PSCB is based on the systems approach where the emphasis is on seeking to find out why the outcomes arrived at happened and how far the systems around events allowed best practice. The search involves an open minded approach to discuss processes in use and whether these are supporting practitioners to get the right outcomes for children and young people. This approach helps us have a 'window on the system' to afford learning and point to any modifications in work systems and practice. Two recent cases discussed gave interesting insights that included learning about how language used across agencies needs to be clear and aimed at a mutual understanding and agreement of the issues of concern.

Any agency can organise a reflective practice meeting to assist learning together. Please contact Mary Brimson Chair of the PPC on 02392 437670 and access the guidance on the PSCB webpage which will shortly be updated.

i-HOP

A new national, Department for Education funded, service called i-HOP now provides a one stop information hub for professionals who work with children and families of offenders. There are an estimated 200,000 children of offenders in England and Wales and 7% of school age children will have experienced the imprisonment of their father. These children are far more likely to suffer poor outcomes (poverty, mental health, youth offending) than their peers.

i-HOP provides professionals who work with the children of offenders (whether they are teachers, social workers, commissioners, health care workers, prison officers etc.) with a free online information hub providing all the up to date resources, strategies, policies and research to support work with these families. There is also a free helpline that professionals can access for support.

www.i-hop.org.uk

Ring the professionals' helpline FREE

on **0808 802 2013**

Meet the Lay Members : Lorna Stringer, Jenni Wessels & Noah Carter



I'm **Lorna** and I'm a mother of 3 who is passionate about improving the lives of children. I am a volunteer support worker at off the record, a home visiting volunteer with Home Start and a developmental team leader with Cred Foundation. I am currently studying psychology with the Open university and counselling at Portsmouth college. I wanted to be a lay member with the board as I think it's important to make decisions relatable to all with emphasis on hearing the voice of all children.

Hi I'm **Jenni** and I have lived in Portsmouth for most of my life apart from a few years working in South Africa. I work in a homeless hostel for 16-25 year olds and I've been there for 4.5 years now. When I'm not there I can be found sewing and upcycling fabrics or discovering new foods to eat with my husband. I applied to be a lay member because I wanted to get a glimpse of how safeguarding works in the city from the board perspective rather than with front line staff where I usually am. I want to be a part of ensuring the community is heard and safeguarding is made a priority for every person across Portsmouth.



I'm **Noah**, a Lay member of the PSCB. I work as an ELSA at a Junior school and I am also the CPLO for that school. I like to keep active and I tend to jump from one sport to the next – at the moment I'm trying to learn Parkour. I also enjoy volunteering for charities like Home Start Portsmouth who support young families and CCHF, which provides holidays for underprivileged children. I was interested in becoming a Lay member because I wanted a chance to be involved in the big picture. Working with children and families in incredibly rewarding but it can also be frustrating because there is always a limit to the difference that you can make. I enjoy being able to bring my experience to the table and join in the discussion that leads to changes and development that have a wider significance and makes a difference to a large number of children, families and practitioners.

Love 146 reaches out to protect trafficked children in Portsmouth

Love 146 Safe Accommodation for Trafficked Children/young people will work in partnership with Portsmouth PSCB by providing resources that are tailored to trafficked children. Love 146 will provide a needs-led solution for these children which will begin with safe accommodation. Without this, it's impossible to help the child/young person.

Because the life of the trafficked child / young person is so complex, we will journey with the child to support/help her/him in this process. The complexities are around the child protection procedures; the immediate safety planning, which is about helping the child to understand why there is a need to safeguard; understanding who the professionals are in their lives, what their roles are, what they can and cannot do; recovery and trauma therapy; the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process; the asylum seeking process; the investigation process (criminal and child protection); and much more. All these processes are running parallel, which makes it critical for the child to have someone who understands all the issues and the impact they can have on the child. This is specialist care at its best.

This highlights a vital point; that is, all agencies, both statutory and voluntary, have responsibilities in this domain. Love 146 will support Social Work teams in Portsmouth and other statutory agencies and will be a critical friend. Love 146 genuinely acknowledges the pressures and huge workloads PSCB children's service's have, and hopes the Love 146 Safe Accommodation and other agencies can move forward together.

Through Love146 safe accommodations, we will improve the lives of children who are highly at risk of being trafficked/exploited, currently being trafficked/exploited, or exiting trafficking/exploitation and at high risk of being re-exploited. Additionally, within our safe accommodation, we will have available bed spaces for emergency need. This will support the Out of Hours Team when there is a need to Safeguard. This will allow the age assessments to take place over a period of time, thus enabling the process to be holistic but also assisting the practitioner to plan this critical process. This process is in line with the 4LSCB Child Trafficking Protocol.

Through this Safe Accommodation project we will work together with the police, PSCB and other agencies to break the control that traffickers have over their victims. Working in partnership, we will safeguard victims and share intelligence.

The Safe Accommodation will create effective support around the trafficked child or young person. There will be good communication between agencies, sharing of information and creation of a holistic package of support. The support and work will be carried out at the child's or young person's pace and appropriate activities will also be offered to the child or young person. The Safe Accommodation will also provide materials in required languages.

Love 146 will continue to deliver Trafficking training to Portsmouth. The dates for this year are Thursday 2nd October and Monday 1st December at the Civic Office.

Love 146 will also work in partnership with Portsmouth Social Workers on:

- joint assessments as early identification is paramount in safeguarding the child or young person
- offering consultancies
- working with other key agencies regarding the indicators of trafficking for exploitation.
- supporting the Social Worker with National Referral Mechanism (NRM) if required

Lynne Chitty, UK Care Director Love 146 Europe
lynne@love146.org.uk

The logo for Love 146, featuring the word "LOVE" in black and "146" in red.

Portsmouth employers pledge to help stop domestic abuse

Major employers in Portsmouth including; Portsmouth City Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Portsmouth Hospital Trust, Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group and their partners at Solent NHS are taking the domestic abuse pledge.

The Public Health Responsibilities Deal asks Employers to sign up to a number of Public Health pledges including one on identifying and supporting any employee experiencing domestic abuse.

The domestic abuse pledge aims to raise awareness within the workplace of domestic abuse and ensure that employers are properly equipped to support any of their staff who are in abusive relationships.

Bruce Marr, who manages the domestic abuse service at Portsmouth City, said "Our domestic abuse service is here to support people in abusive relationships, by helping them to develop an individual safety plan we reduce their risk and help them move forward with their lives.

Letting people access our service in work time and putting in place other measures at work is a relatively simple step but can literally change your employees' lives as well as increasing their productivity at work."

Employers wishing to talk to someone local about the scheme can contact Bruce Marr at Portsmouth City Council on 023 9268 8569 or bruce.marr@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

A leaflet for Employers can be found at:

<https://responsibilitydeal.dh.gov.uk/organisations-commit-to-supporting-staff-facing-domestic-violence/>



The Girls' Network

The Girls' Network is a charity which works with girls from less advantaged backgrounds and links them to professional women who will mentor them for a year. The charity also provides sessions for the girls on topics such as team building, managing your Internet profile and confidence building.



The charity has been running very successfully in London, working with many schools and hundreds of girls, and we are very excited that it is expanding into Portsmouth where we are beginning the programme with St Edmund's School, Priory, King Richard and Milton Cross.

At the moment we are actively recruiting mentors and signing them up to our mentor training. The programme will begin in September with a matching event where the girls will have the opportunity to 'network' with a number of women. The girls will then be matched with their mentor who will meet with them ten times during the year.

Rosie Dean, Portsmouth Director—The Girls' Network 07980517904

Acknowledgements

Some of the photographs used in this publication have been downloaded free of charge from freedigitalphotos.net

Neglect Conference 2014

Did you know the PSCB and Solent NHS Trust in partnership with Portsmouth City Council are hosting a one day conference focusing on neglect for front line practitioners in all agencies?

Monday 15 September 2014 09.00-16.30hrs

Landport Community Centre

Charles Street, Portsmouth PO1 1JD

Programme

- **Dr Helen Coleman + Health Visiting Service** Solent NHS 'Normal Childhood Development'
- **Dr Mandy Burton**, Clinical Lead, CAMHS, Solent NHST 'What are the outcomes for young people when development is impacted by neglect'
- **Guest Speaker: Professor Harriet Ward**, Centre for Child and Family Research, Loughborough University; 'Identifying Neglect & Understanding its consequences'
- There will also be interactive "**Question Time**" to close the conference with an invited panel

Learning Outcomes

Following the conference participants will be able to:

- Assess their knowledge of childhood development
- Understand more about identifying neglect
- Know more about the consequences for children who have suffered from neglect
- Learn to recognise the impact of neglect on children from behaviours and development indicators
- Appreciate the need for timely interventions for children to address the impact of neglect

How to book - places are allocated on a first come basis!

PCC staff - bookings should be made via MLE. If you experience any difficulties booking please contact Chris Kirby on 02392 688627, christine.kirby@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Solent NHS staff and non PCC staff - bookings should be made via Safeguarding Children team on snhs.safeguardingchildren@nhs.net



PSCB Contact Details

Web: www.portsmouthscb.org.uk

Email: pscb@portsmouth.gov.uk

Phone: 02392 841540