

Safeguarding Newsletter

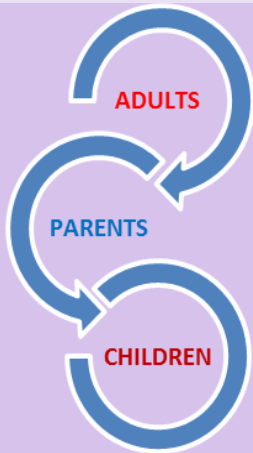


Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Safeguarding Adults Board



Safeguarding
Children Board

Issue 1/January 2016



Learning Lessons Workshop

Tuesday 9th February 2016

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Substance misuse is a patterned use of a drug in which the user consumes the substance in amounts or with methods which are harmful to themselves or others.

Substance misuse is a complex issue, which not only has impacts on the small number of individuals who are dependent on drugs and alcohol, but also the people around them, and society as a whole. The positive effects of successful drug and alcohol treatment reach as far as lower rates of crime and improved public health.



Hidden Harm

This report described the harm caused to children by parental substance misuse. It made a number of recommendations, including:

- The voices of the children of problem drug users should be heard and listened to.
- Work is required to develop means of enabling the children of problem drug users to safely express their thoughts and feelings

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BREAKING NEWS

PREVENT RADICALISATION

Due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to provide the presentation on Prevent Radicalisation at our last workshops. We are pleased to announce that this will be re-scheduled for our Learning Lessons Workshop to be held on **14th June 2016**.

Email: gkeast1@cornwall.gov.uk to book your place.



What to do if you are worried about a child -

Contact the Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) on 0300 123 1116

What to do if you are worried about an adult

Contact the Safeguarding Adults Team on 0300 1234 131

What to do if worried about a child on the Isles of Scilly

Contact Childrens Social Care on 01720 424354

LEARNING OUTCOMES FROM SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS



Common themes which come out of Serious Case Reviews:

- **Assessment /Plans** - Colleagues to come together and reflect on their practices/ processes and the sequencing of interventions. CAF/TAC to be considered more frequently.
- **Have confidence to question and challenge** - All practitioners must have the confidence to challenge other agencies' or professionals' decisions if there seems to be a lack of appropriate response or case drift.
- **Information Sharing** - Local protocols should be clear and promote sharing of safeguarding information between agencies.
- **Parental Mental Health** - There should be effective challenge of parental attitude toward their own mental health needs to ensure it is seen as essential in attaining positive parenting. The potential impact on the child should be clearly set out- as long as this would not put the child at greater risk.
- **Recording** - The recording of all agencies' contacts (including adult services) should reflect and evidence the lived experience of a child/adult and include their feelings, views and wishes. This should happen whatever the key role of the service.
- **Supervision** - Effective and reflective supervision should enable practitioners to assess and avoid case drift.

Where possible a multi-agency (integrated) chronology should be used to establish patterns of behaviour, share information and identify risk.



Where parents do not consent to take help and their mental health influences positive parenting, consideration should be given to escalation to multi-agency discussion – Early Help & Multi-Agency Referral Unit.

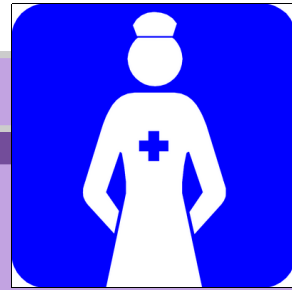
CONSENT AND CONSIDERING THE MENTAL CAPACITY ACT OF CHILDREN

Health staff are reminded of the legal framework around consent for children who would be deemed to be competent to consent but are refusing treatment or care that health professionals deem is necessary and is in the best interest of the child. This should include going to hospital even when the primary objective of being seen at the hospital is to assess rather than treat immediately. Professionals should understand that on occasions proportionate force is required and proportionality is considered in terms of the gravity of seriousness. The more grave the situation the more proportionate it is to use reasonable force.

Family members outside the parents appear to have had quite a good insight into the underlying problems that were impacting on the Young Person's life and brought this to the attention of Children's Services. Good practice should be followed in that:-

- Family members reporting their concerns need to be listened to, have their concerns acknowledged, recorded and followed up. These concerns should be included in chronologies
- Family members who contact agencies do so based on their observations of the child, parents' behaviours and/or their previous experience of being parented by the parents

This is a feature of more than one Serious Case Review



Safeguarding Adults and Children Nurse for Primary Care

The South of England Area Team are funding a fulltime safeguarding adults and children nurse for primary care on a 1 year contract. Jill Churchill has accepted the position and commenced in July 2015. She aims to visit all the GP Practices in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to:

- Work with Practice Safeguarding Leads.
- Attend Primary Care practice meetings where safeguarding issues are discussed and outcomes monitored.
- Promote the use of Websites to access local and national information.
- Support surgeries to access their staff training requirements.
- Cascade information such as new documentation /policies and learning outcomes from Serious Case Reviews, or other incidents.
- Support the development of policies and procedures relating to safeguarding.
- Support and develop education and training for GPs and practice nurses in relation to safeguarding.

Child Protection information sharing process (CP-IS)

This project is an NHS England sponsored programme dedicated to developing an information sharing solution that will deliver a higher level of protection to children who visit NHS unscheduled care settings: accident and emergency departments, out of hours GP services, walk-in centres, paediatric wards, maternity wards, minor injury units and ambulance services.

It proposes to do so by connecting local authorities' child protection social care IT systems with those used by staff in these NHS unscheduled care settings.

The information sharing focuses on three specific categories of child:

- Those with a child protection plan
- Those with looked after child status

(children with full and interim care orders and voluntary care agreements)

- Pregnant women whose unborn child has a pre-birth child protection plan

The following information is made available to the NHS:

NHS Number, Local authority name, Local authority code, Local authority emergency duty team telephone number, Local authority office hours telephone number, Child protection plan start and end date, Looked after child start and end date, Unborn child protection plan start and end date.

HEALTH WARNING (!)

Unfortunately Peninsula Community Health is not in a position to join the process at this stage and CFT and General Practices (GPs) are not included in the Department of Health's specification but they will be exploring expanding the system to these areas in the future. Staff must be aware a large number of Counties have yet to join the system therefore just because a child is not flagged on CP-IS it does not mean they are not within the above three categories simply the County from which they come is not part of CP-IS at this time. Professional judgement and curiosity is still key in recognising these vulnerable children and young people.

The Safeguarding Children Standards Unit

Following Children Social Care safeguarding children team's move to New County Hall, the health safeguarding children professionals remain at Pendragon House. We still work together closely and all the structures and access to systems remains the same. However to avoid confusion we have changed our name to:

Children's Safeguarding Team

Our contact details remain the same 01872 254552

09.00-17.00hrs

Monday - Thursday,

(16.30hrs finish on Fridays)

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

Safeguarding and looked after children services in Cornwall were inspected in January 2015. The final report discussing their findings and listing their recommendations is available on the CQC website.

A draft 'Neglect' strategy for the Safeguarding Boards is out for consultation. Please ask your board representative for more details.

What is neglect?

Neglect is “**the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and /or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development**”. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home)
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of adequate care-givers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

(HM Government, *Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2013*)

Neglect can be experienced by a child at any age, including pre-birth.

Neglect may be focused on one child in a sibling group.

Neglect can be experienced by teenagers.

'Neglect is 'relationship led' unlike other forms of abuse which is 'incident led' (Olive Stephenson).

Safeguarding Children Board in partnership with Reconstruct.

Annual Conference - Contemporary Issues in Safeguarding

TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2016 9.00am to 4.30pm

The Pavilion Centre, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

Themes covered on the day will include:

- Child sexual exploitation - boys and young men
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Modern day slavery and trafficking



Dates to put in your diaries (booking arrangements will be placed on the SCB website, in due course):

Learning Lessons Workshops—St Erme Community Centre:

9th February 2016

14th June 2016



The CIoSSCB Learning Group welcomes your feedback and comments on any improvements, information we can incorporate in our termly Safeguarding Newsletter.

Please contact us on: ciosscblearning-group@cornwall.gov.uk

Please email us providing contributions / comments on what is happening within your own individual agencies around Safeguarding
ciosscblearninggroup@cornwall.gov.uk