



Hammersmith & Fulham | Kensington and Chelsea | Westminster

Local Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter August 2015

- New LSCB website goes live
- Case Reviews
- Managing allegations against professionals and volunteers
- Housing and Welfare Reforms
- Radicalisation awareness and safeguarding

I'm pleased to let you know that the LSCB now has its own website at www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb. You can now find out more about the LSCB's work from the site, which is much more user-friendly and has many links to other useful websites. More information is being loaded onto it, so what you see now is only a beginning!

I want to highlight a few matters raised at the last LSCB in July. The Board is usually well-attended but I want to encourage any representative who was unable to attend to contact me over the next few weeks so we can catch up. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting in October or meeting with you beforehand.

The Case Review sub-group report and our newsletter summarising the learning from reviews stimulated a discussion about the benefits for practice from holding reviews. This is a reminder that, if you think that there could be general learning from looking in depth at a particular case (even where there isn't a requirement to hold a review), it is your responsibility to bring the case to the attention of the sub-group for a decision about holding a review. You can do this via the LSCB Business Manager or your representative on the sub group. Sometimes this might even be where a case highlights best practice.

The LSCB also received the annual report on managing allegations against professionals and volunteers. This always stimulates lively debate and, after hearing Jane Foster (the Local Authority Designated Officer or LADO) present the report, we held round-table discussions about key points for learning and "tested" our own knowledge of when to make a referral. This is because we are told that we don't have consistent knowledge of this and that practice is variable. It is important that people know who to report to in their own organisation. There is a named designated person in each agency who can pull reports together about the behaviour of individuals and see if there are any patterns. If you do not know who this is in your organisation, ask your manager! (Jane Foster will also be able to tell you and the LSCB website will have this information under the section for professionals.)

The Board received a presentation from the Housing representative about the impact of housing and welfare reforms on families and children. Whilst the three boroughs have no families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for longer than 6 weeks, other boroughs are struggling with this. Changes to the benefit cap were discussed and Board members shared some experiences of the impact on children coming to the attention of schools and health services. Whilst recognising that these are national issues, the effect on areas such as our three boroughs is particularly stressful and there is an obvious need for help and support for some children and parents. The policy in the three boroughs' housing departments continues to be to give priority to the most vulnerable and those known to children's social care. The LSCB seeks assurance that these children are "safe". Whilst there is no evidence of harm in its narrowest sense, it is clear that children and parents are dealing with distressing situations and that some of the distress is personal and internalised too.

I am in the process of preparing my 2014/15 Annual Report for the LSCB and this will be finalised in the next month before becoming available through the new website, and presented to Scrutiny Committees, Chief Executives and other statutory bodies.

Finally please remember to book onto WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) Radicalisation awareness and safeguarding training. It's free and lasts one and a half hours. It is open to all staff from all organisations and available on the following dates:

3rd September 10.30am - 12pm, Courtyard Room, Hammersmith Town Hall
21st September 2.30pm - 4pm, Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall
23 September, 9:30-11am, Rm 3&4, 17th Floor, City Hall
5 October, 1.30 - 3pm, Rm 3&4 17th Floor, City Hall
14th October 10.30am - 12pm, Courtyard Room, Hammersmith Town Hall
27th October 10.30am - 12pm, Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall

For further information on Prevent:

LBHF and RBKC - pinakin.patel@lbhf.gov.uk

WCC - mchalmers@westminster.gov.uk

Thank you for all you are doing to safeguard children over the summer.

Best wishes

Jean Daintith
Independent Chair