



Local Safeguarding
Children Board

Hammersmith & Fulham | Kensington and Chelsea | Westminster

Local Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter March 2016

- Focus on Parental Mental Health
- Ofsted Review of the LSCB
- Welcomes and Farewells
- National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company

Update from LSCB meeting - Focus on Parental Mental Health

The last meeting of the LSCB focussed on safeguarding children when a parent has mental health problems. One of our current Serious Case Reviews concerns the protection of children where a parent became acutely unwell: the Reviewer presented her draft report and the Board members accepted the key findings. In this case, the previous social work and health care practice had been good and the case had been closed appropriately. The LSCB discussed:

- how health professionals' capacity to assess fully can be undermined if they cannot readily access relevant health records in a timely way
- the need for the focus given to safeguarding children to be fully integrated into systems for responding to parents who present in crisis with serious mental health problems and
- the need to ensure there is a shared understanding across partner agencies about the purpose and processes for the police undertaking urgent welfare checks on children whose carers present with significant concerns.

The LSCB wants learning from the review to be disseminated now so it can impact on current practice. Just to be clear about the final finding on 'welfare checks' as this was explained: the police have no general responsibility for 'safety' or 'welfare' of members of the public and so cannot carry out checks if these do not engage with police core duties - to prevent and detect crime, to keep the peace and to protect life and property. The police always assess the nature of such requests to see if they comply with other policies and processes and they do seek to establish the immediate risk of a situation. Further Guidance will be issued shortly but any disagreements should be escalated in order to get a clear understanding and resolution.

The LSCB also received a quality assurance audit report, the most recent multi-agency audit, on parental mental health. This was a full and detailed report that can't really be summarised here but the three key findings were about:

- the challenges associated with information sharing
- the importance of purposeful planning and interventions and
- the centrality of relationships in working with families and the professional network.

It's clear that the complex nature of working with families is well understood and that there is a willingness of staff in all agencies to collaborate over improvements and drive forward the Think Family Approach – in both children's and adults' services.

The LSCB has an on-going short-life working group (a 'task and finish' group) on Parental Mental Health which will follow up on the audit. The group presented a report to the LSCB on its work to date which included some useful national learning and mapping data as well as key issues for perinatal healthcare teams from case reviews. The group will continue for a few months: lead contacts are Johan Redelinghuys (WLMHT) and Catherine Knights (CNWL).

Outcome from the review by Ofsted of the LSCB

In January, Ofsted reviewed the LSCB in parallel with its inspection of the three local authority children's services. On March 29th Ofsted published all three reports, giving the LSCB a rating of 'Good'. No LSCB inspected so far has received a rating higher than Good and around 25% of LSCBs have this rating. Thanks go to all those across the multi-agency partnership who contributed to the achievement of this outcome.

Welcomes and farewells

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed a third representative from the schools, Di Donaldson from Holland Park School and from Health, Mak Inayat, Designated Nurse. At the meeting in April we will be welcoming DCI Seb Florent from the Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT), Cassie Newman from the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), and Trish Stewart, Head of Safeguarding for CLCH (replacing Liz Royle). Best wishes to Dr Paul Hargreaves, Designated Doctor, who is taking a break and welcome to Dr Ed Abrahamson. Thanks and best wishes for their futures go to Lavinia Arnotrading and Patricia Grant, Designated Nurses. Patricia is retiring very soon and, on behalf of the CCG and the LSCB, has chaired the Health Overview Group which ensures that Health agencies work closely together on the safeguarding children agendas. Farewell too – and a big thank you – to Mickella Jenkins – who has worked with the LSCB for several years connecting with children and young people to ensure their voices were represented to the Board.

Finally... just a prompt to remind practitioners always to carry out check with both the National Probation Service **and** the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) about whether an adult is known to them. They have pointed out to me that they are two separate organisations (for what we used to know as "Probation") and so checks are needed with both.

Best wishes for the next phase of our work together.

Jean Daintith
 Independent Chair
 LSCB for Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster