

Issue 2

Autumn 2005

WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT safeguarding children board

NEWSLETTER

The Wakefield and District Safeguarding Board Launch

The Wakefield and District Safeguarding Board (WDSCB) was officially launched on Friday 16th September at an event at the Yorkshire Mining Museum. The event was a great success. Around 70 people, mostly managers from the key agencies involved in safeguarding children, attended the event. Elaine McHale, Chair of the WDSCB and Corporate Director of Social Services and Health, gave the opening address. Professor Jan Horwath from Sheffield University gave a keynote speech entitled 'Safeguarding children: the challenges and opportunities for Local Safeguarding Children Board's'. Rosie Faulkner, WDSCB Business Manager, gave a presentation on the work of the WDSCB. A 'browser bar' was available which included copies of the new inter-agency procedures and various other new procedures which have recently been updated. Pages from the new website were also displayed via a laptop computer and on display boards.

This issue will cover:

WDSCB Launch
NEW Procedures
Sexual Exploitation
Sexual Exploitation Procedures
Forced Marriage Awareness Day
Individuals who pose a risk to children

Members of the Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board

- Social Services & Health
- Health (PCT's/Trusts & Public Health)
- Education & Schools
- West Yorkshire Police
- Probation Service
- Legal Services
- New Hall Prison
- Youth Offending Team
- CAF/CASS
- Voluntary Sector
- Child Protection Co-ordinator
- WDSCB Business

New Procedures Update

The inter-agency procedures have been updated to include the change to a safeguarding board and to incorporate other local and national guidance. These procedures are available now in an A5 binder and are on the WDSCB website (www.wakefield.gov.uk, search for safeguarding).

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Interagency Procedures to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children

Website*(Continued from page 1)***Key Principals****Child Protection and the Law****Roles and Responsibilities****Recognising Abuse and Neglect**www.wakefield.gov.uk

The new A5 binders will only include what were Chapters 6 and 7 in the old procedures (Individual Cases and Specific Circumstances), now chapters 1 and 2 respectively.

The binders are available from Jean Durham at the Social Services & Health Child Protection Unit, 6 Springfield Grange, Wakefield WF2 9QP, email WDSCB@wakefield.gov.uk or phone 01924 302626. A full list of procedures and appendixes can be found on the website.

THE UPDATED INTER-AGENCY PROCEDURES WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL FROM 1ST JANUARY 2006.

New sections include children missing from home, guidance on the registration of children in the looked after system, guidance on how long children's names should be kept on the register and the introduction of a new panel to review cases which have been on the register for 15 months and over.

There are changes to the Induced or Fabricated Illness section as a result of the Canning Inquiry and more detailed procedures on the unborn child.

Finally, information has been included on the role of the chair of the child protection case conference.



FORCED MARRIAGE AWARENESS RAISING DAY

To continue the process of making people aware of this issue and to assist them in dealing with it, an awareness raising session is being held on 2nd November 2005 at Kingswood Suite, Wakefield Town Hall, from 1.30 until 4.30. Speakers include will Phillip Balmforth, West Yorkshire Police, Kate Gleave, Wakefield MDC Legal Section and a representative from the Foreign and Common Wealth Office.

New procedures are also available on the website and leaflets are available for members of the public.

- For copies of this leaflet or hard copies of the procedures or information on the awareness raising session please contact Jean Durham on 01924 302626.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A workshop was recently held to consider a way forward for Wakefield in dealing with this largely hidden problem. Speakers came from projects in Blackpool, Awaken Project Bradford SALs, Sheffield ACPC Sexual Exploitation Project and Leeds' MESMAC. The presentations were all very useful and colleagues from Sheffield kindly stayed for the whole day and made useful suggestions for how we could take things forward in Wakefield.

The information we have collected to date in Wakefield would suggest that this is a significant issue locally. If we fail to address the issue in a co-ordinated way then the potential consequences could be serious. In other parts of the country the issue has only really been taken seriously following the death of a young woman. In Wakefield we are developing a multi agency strategy to prevent this from happening. The key to the delivery of an effective strategy in this area will be:

- To make people aware of the extent of the problem in Wakefield;
- To ensure we have support and involvement from all relevant agencies and individuals;
- To ensure we have appropriate resources to implement the strategy.

We are continuing to collect information relating to the extent of the problem of sexual exploitation in Wakefield. If you have any information which you think would help us to build a clearer picture please contact Rosie Faulkner, WDSCB Business Manager on:

WDSCB@wakefield.gov.uk



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION PROCEDURES

The sexual exploitation procedures have been updated to include the findings of the Bichard and Kelly Inquiries. They give workers guidance on when to refer children involved in under-aged sexual activities to social services. They also give clear guidance on working with young people involved in sexual exploitation. The procedures are clear that those exploited in this way should be seen as the victim and should not, except in extreme cases be criminalised for their behaviour. These procedures are available on the WDSCB website.

If hard copies are required please contact Jean Durham on 01924 302626.

