

Issue 3

Summer 2006



## NEWSLETTER

### Review of WDSCB Constitution

This issue will cover:

- **WDSCB Constitution**
- **WDSCB Business Plan**
- **WDSCB Training**
- **WDSCB Standing Conference**
- **Child Well Being Model**
- **Performance Management**

The Wakefield & District Safeguarding Children Board recently reviewed its Constitution in light of the new guidance issued from central Government. The contents remain largely unchanged but additional clarification has been given to the remit of the WDSCB and its strategic linkage to other

<b>Wakefield &amp; District Safeguarding Children Board</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership</b>	<b>Community Safety Partnership</b>
Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation	Safe from accidental harm	Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
Investigation of child deaths	Safe from bullying and discrimination	
Have security, stability and are cared for		

### Members of the Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board

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

### New Business Plan 05-06

The WDSCB has just published its first Business Plan. The plan includes a review of its work over the last year and details of its priorities for the year ahead. For details of the *Key Priorities* please go to page 2. The Constitution and the Business Plan are available on the WDSCB website, [www.wakefield.gov.uk](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk)

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## Key Priorities for 2006:

### Interagency Procedures:

Just to remind that the Inter-agency procedures are available on the WDSCB website (visit [www.wakefield.gov.uk](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk)), along with the supporting chapters which were available in the old 'pink binder'.

The new version of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' is now available on the DfES website and work will begin shortly on incorporating the changes into the Wakefield Inter-agency procedures.



Priority	Outcome	Action
Responsibility & Accountability of Partners	Partner agencies demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004	Develop and implement Section 11 Audit Programme Report on first Section 11 Audit to WDSCB
Thresholds	Improved threshold clarity between partners	Develop integrated Child Well-Being and Safeguarding procedures
Training	Ensure training is available for persons who work with children and young people or in services affecting the welfare and safety of children and young people	Publish WDSCB Training Strategy 2006/07
Private Fostering Arrangement	Ensure safety and welfare of children and young people who are privately fostered	Development and publication of interagency procedures
Domestic Abuse	Children and young people living with domestic abuse are safeguarded	WDSCB to receive quarterly reports from Community Safety Partnership on progress
Sexual Exploitation	Ensure a co-ordinated response to the needs of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation	Report to WDSCB on outcome of research study Develop and deliver Sexual Exploitation Training Programme
Inter Agency Procedures	Interagency procedures consistent with the requirements of Working Together 2006	Publish revised procedures
Child Death Panels	Ensure local arrangements meet requirements of Working Together 2006	Review current local arrangements and report to WDSCB with recommendations

## Performance Management

The WDSCB completes a performance management report every 6 months around key targets. The report provides information on how agencies are working together to safeguard children in the Wakefield District. The report is used to highlight specific issues which can then be looked at more thoroughly. Key issues raised by the latest report include:

- Numbers on the child protection register has fallen from 180 last June to 160.
- Re-registration of children is declining which suggests that sustainable change is occurring in the families who are being worked with.
- Reviews of Child protection Conference ALL take place within the prescribed timescales – well done everyone.
- Numbers of children on the register for over 2 years are now showing signs of reducing
- The Wakefield district is higher than other areas in the number of children registered under the category of neglect. This isn't necessarily a problem but a more detailed audit will be undertaken to identify why this is.
- Some concerns exist over the number of 16 year olds on the register, guidance will be issued

## Continued from Performance Management

on this in the near future.

- Attendance by agencies at case conference is reasonable but some agencies are failing to send written reports. This will be taken up with the relevant Service Directors/Chief Officers.

The performance management report and its supporting audits are available on the WDSCB website.

### 15 month review of Children on the Child Protection Register

Due to the number of cases where children were on the register for more than 2 years, it was agreed that a review of all cases who have been registered for 15 months or more should take place. This review will be undertaken by a sub-group of the WDSCB Quality and Performance Committee. Consideration is given to the following issues.

The Family Services Team Manager is also invited to attend the meeting. The meeting cannot de-register children, it will only be able to make recommendations to members of the Core Group on how the Child Protection Plan can be taken forward or developed.

**WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT**  
**safeguarding**  
**children board**



## Child Well-being Model

The Child Well Being Model is an interagency initiative to improve the way in which we work together to provide children/young people and their families with the most appropriate services to safeguard children and to promote their well being.

It is the prime mechanism for information sharing within Wakefield District. It covers all children/young people from the provision of universal services to those who have additional, special needs and those in need of protection.

This model has been developed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in response to research and areas of good practice, which have shown that early intervention and joint working, can significantly reduce the need for statutory intervention. Bolton's Child Concern Model is one such example and the Wakefield Child Well Being Model has been largely based on this. It is part of the preventative strategy, it meets the Government requirements outlined in Every Child Matters and provides guidance on identifying lead professionals, sharing information and the common assessment framework.

#### The aim of the model is:

**To ensure that children are identified and receive services at the appropriate level of intervention, to minimise intervention, maximise empowerment and enable families.**

A Pilot of the project is now taking place in the South East of the district and this will be evaluated in early May. The learning from this will inform the roll out across the whole district. The roll out of the project will be incremental across Wakefield District and we plan to complete this process by November 2006. The vision for the future will see the Child Well Being Model embedded in the good practice of all the agencies and organisations working with Children and Families in Wakefield District. This will help breakdown the barriers to effective integrated working and ensure a common language and understanding. It will improve joint planning and ensure quality and consistency of service delivery to the children young people and families in Wakefield District.

The Pilot has involved workers across all agencies contributing to the development of the model to ensure it is workable. The training and development for the model will be on going and the project co-ordinator will offer support to workers who need help using the model. Although change can be difficult many workers are already following the Child Well Being Model of good practice. The Model will provide a universal standard, structure and context in which integrated preventative services can be delivered for the benefit of and in partnership with children, young people and families.

Work has commenced on planning for the second phase of the roll out programme, this will cover the central Wakefield Learning Community. Gill Newey project co-ordinator is always looking for opportunities to meet and discuss the model and what it will mean to you.

If you wish to find out more about the model please contact: -

**Gill Newey**

**(01924) 305730**

**E-mail [cwbproject@wakefield.co.uk](mailto:cwbproject@wakefield.co.uk)**

# WDSCB Training

The WDSCB Training Sub-committee has just completed its Annual Report and Training Programme for the year 2006/7. The Training Programme lists the standard courses being offered by the WDSCB in the coming financial year and is available (as is the Training Annual Report) on the Wakefield Council's website. Paper copies are also available from Jean Durham at the Family Services Child Protection Unit, 01924 302626.

## E-learning

### Course participants Please Note:

It has been decided that lunches will no longer be provided on WDSCB Courses. This brings us into line with most single agency training events, where lunch is also not provided.

The WDSCB has started to develop its first e-learning package for basic Child Protection Training. The course will provide information regarding the signs and symptoms of abuse and what to do about it. Participants are then asked to complete some basic questions to show they have understanding. The course will enable practitioners from a wide range of settings to complete the course via the internet and be issued with WDSCB certificates. This course will be one vehicle for the WDSCB to meet some of the requirements outlined in the new Working Together to Safeguard Children (DFES 2006). The course is in the process of being developed and will become available later in the year. Details of how to access the course will be available on the WDSCB website - [www.wakefield.gov.uk / safeguarding](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/safeguarding)

## Sexual Exploitation Training

Course aims: To assist workers in how to work effectively with cases of sexual exploitation. Workers would have undertaken the 1 day multi-agency course on sexual exploitation as a pre-requisite.

Objectives:

1. To assist workers in carrying out risk assessments in cases of sexual exploitation
2. To develop good practice when working with young people who are being exploited
3. To provide workers with a toolkit for working with young people
4. To help workers devise exit strategies for working with young people
5. To consider ways of engaging with other agencies when working with young people

Two one day courses on Sexual Exploitation were run on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006. These courses were well attended and evaluations were very positive. Feedback included:

- ***“excellent – very informative”***
- ***“excellent – but emotionally draining”***
- ***“feel more confident with supporting families by being able to give them this information & give them more choices”***
- ***“will make me a more effective worker & provide a better service/practice”***

Further courses will be held in the near future, watch out for dates. There will also be a more in depth course for those who work with young people experiencing sexual exploitation.

## Core Groups and Child Protection Plans Training

A one day course on the above issues will be run in the near future.

Course aims: To assist workers in undertaking core groups.

*Learning Outcomes:*

At the end of the training attendees should be able to:

- Understand the relationship between the initial case conference and the core group
- Know how to engage children and families by establishing a working and written agreement with the child and family
- Translate the outline child protection plan to a working plan
- Be clear about the purpose and benefits of the core group
- Make a clear agenda of work for the core group members
- Know how to manage conflict within the core group
- Explore how children and families may be involved in the core group
- Identify criteria for exclusion of family members from the core group
- Make clear assessment of risk and put plans in place to manage it.

# The WDSCB Standing Conference

The WDSCB held its second Standing Conference this January with the theme of 'Learning the Lessons'. The Conference had presentations from 7 different agencies. Presentations focused on the findings of the recent Serious Case Review undertaken by the WDSCB, as well as presentations of good practice in inter-agency working.

*The executive summary of the Serious Case Review is now available on the website.*

Presentations of Good Practice	
Youth Offending Team and New Hall Prison	Rezina Hossain and Richard Smith on joint working in YOT AND New Hall Prison
Multi-agency working with children in the looked after system	Gill Marchant, Designated Nurse Looked After Children and Jayne Mullin, Benson Lane, Diane Shaw, REACH Team
Sure Start	Gail Faulkner, Hemsworth Sure Start Manager and Liz Hirst, Senior Supporting Families Worker
School Based	Jonathon Cooper, PSHE Citizenship Adviser

## Multi-Agency Working with Children in the Looked After System: A Case Study

Gill Marchant, Named Nurse LAC, EWPCT  
Jayne Mullin, Residential Social Worker, Benson Lane Residential Home  
Diane Shaw, Education Support Worker, REACH Team,

The presentation focussed on work with Sarah, aged 15, who had been abused physically, emotionally and sexually over a number of years before she was received into care and described positive impact which joint work with partner agencies has had on her life.

### *Sarah's problems included:*

- Prolific and sustained self-harming from the age of 12 years
- She presented as being emotionally flat and unable to form relationships with her peers
- She had twice taken an overdose
- She was permanently excluded from a school
- She was refusing to engage with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- She had assaulted a member of staff

### *Building on strengths*

The Community Police Officer discovered that Sarah had ambitions to work as a hairdresser or beautician when she left school

### *Resources provided for Sarah:*

- To complete a course of work experience at a local salon.
- Working with Sarah two mornings a week either on the unit or at the local library
- Negotiations to get Sarah back into mainstream education.
- Return to school on a restricted time table
- Currently receiving support in the Learning Support Centre and was hoping for an Early College Transfer in September to study hair and beauty
- Work done with Sarah around smoking cessation, sexual health and self awareness

**Agencies involved: Community Police, EWPCT, Residential Social Worker, REACH Team, School**

## Results

Sarah has made huge improvements in her self-confidence and self esteem. She is managing to control her self-harming and is looking positively to the future. When Sarah arrived the residential home she had no aspirations and often stated that she wanted to die. She now presents as a lively, confident young woman and has a small circle of friends. There is still a long way to go before Sarah will be ready for independent living but she has made a great start.

## Reminders for good Inter-agency working

Some key problems that frequently recur when making referrals to social care direct

1. Always follow up your telephone referral in writing within 48 hours. This can be either by email, by letter, memo or on the new Integrated children System referral form
2. There is no such thing as an *informal referral*. You can ring and ask SCD for advice on whether you need to make a referral or not – this is ADVICE. If you need to make a referral then it is just that – a REFERRAL.
3. Social Services should let you know the outcome of your referral. If they don't - ring and find out what's happened!

## Information Sharing

Professionals working with children still seem to have difficulties around knowing when to share information with social services. Children are injured and die because we don't share information. You are more likely to do harm by not sharing than by sharing.

It's really quite simple:

1. If you believe a child may be suffering from significant harm **SHARE THE INFORMATION** with Social Services
2. If you are not sure whether to share, you can ask social services for advice but **DON'T DELAY**.

## Voluntary Sector

### Wakefield Voluntary Sector Children's Consortium:

The Voluntary Sector Consortium is establishing itself as the voice of Children's work in the voluntary sector across the Wakefield District and is trying to promote good practice in matter concerning Child Protection. Through joint action for a number of agencies trainers are now available to help groups, however small, to get the basic training required in child protection. The Consortium are concerned that the voice of the voluntary sector should be heard in these areas of community life since much essential work for children and families is done by small community groups who do not find it easy to deal with these issues. We hope that as time goes on and the new agencies and procedures bed in we will all become better informed over what is needed from all perspectives to protect and enable our children and young people to stay safe, be happy and free from fear.

**Barry Cash**

**Chair Voluntary Sector Consortium**

### Voluntary Sector Training Pool

Over the last year a number of people from the VCS have undertaken a Training for Trainers course jointly funded by the WDSCB, Voluntary Action Wakefield District and Children's Fund.

Participants had to undertake both a child protection component and a training component and had to submit portfolios on both parts of the course. The participants are then able to become members of the VCS training pool. These trainers will be provided with support from the WDSCB and their training courses will be quality assured through the training pool.

A small group of trainers have passed both components and are now offering training to groups in the voluntary and community sector on basic child protection. These courses are geared towards those who are not frontline workers with children but who need to be aware of child abuse issues.

For information about how to book a trainer please contact Jean Durham on 01924 302626.

**If any one has any comments, articles or letters for inclusion in the next newsletter please contact us by e-mail at: [WDSCB@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:WDSCB@wakefield.gov.uk)**

**Alternatively you can contact:**

**Jean Durham on 01924 302626**

**Rosie Faulkner, WDSCB Business Manager on 01924 302626  
[rfaulkner@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:rfaulkner@wakefield.gov.uk)**

**Or for more information visit our website:**

**<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/HealthAndSocialCare/ChildrenAndYoungPeople/SafeguardChildren/default.htm>**

### The Role of the Substance Misuse Midwife and Health Visitor

As liaison midwife and health visitor we offer a needs and locality based service to substance misusing women across the Wakefield and Pontefract area. Historically care to this vulnerable group has been stigmatised, fragmented and at times judgemental and as a result some women received sub-optimal care. The well-being of the child will be paramount both from a health and social care point of view and specialised risk assessment will enable us to develop personalised packages of intervention. Service delivery is in collaboration with existing mainstream services and will supplement these where necessary.

The liaison roles will facilitate better inter agency communication to improve outcomes and reduce risk and provide a seamless service. The provision of support and education to all staff will be fundamental to the roles and a training programme is being implemented.

Caroline Weldon, Specialist Midwife  
Substance Misuse Tel: 07930 305587

Sue Brook, Specialist Health Visitor  
Substance Misuse Tel:  
07876575715

