

Issue 1

Spring 2005



## NEWSLETTER

**W**elcome to the first Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to inform people of the work of the WDSCB and keep them up to date with developments in the child protection field. This is an exciting time for Children's Services with many changes expected in the near future. The Children Act 2004 will affect the way that services are provided and will change the face of Child Protection. In the last month the Wakefield Area Child Protection Committee has begun the change to the Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board.

### This issue will cover:

ACPC Procedure update

Every Child Matters and the main points from the Children Act

The work of the ACPC

The development to WDSCB

Sexual Exploitation

### 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
- Prison
- Youth Offending Team
- CAFCASS
- Voluntary Sector
- Child Protection Co-ordinator
- WDSCB Business Manager

### ACPC Procedures Update

The latest version of the ACPC procedures was completed in August 2004. These are now being updated again to incorporate the change to the WDSCB. The changes last year were to include changes caused by the reorganisation in Social Services and Health which means that all referrals should go through Social Care Direct who will complete initial checks and then, if necessary pass the referral on to the Initial Response Team.

Future updates will include more detailed guidance on the registration of children in the looked after system and what to do when families go missing or are not contactable.

### Five key outcomes for children:

- being healthy,
- staying safe,
- enjoying and achieving,
- making a positive contribution,
- achieving economic well-being.

## Every Child Matters and The Children Act 2004

Every Child Matters: Change for Children is a shared programme of change to improve outcomes for all children and young people. It takes forward the Government's vision of radical reform for children, young people and families. The *Every child matters* Green Paper 2003 was published for consultation in September. It provided the Government's plans for reform. The Children Act 2004 provides the legal framework for the programme of reform.

*Every Child Matters: Change for Children* published in December 2004, brings together all the ways the Government is working to improve outcomes for children, young people and families into a national framework for 150 local-authority-led change programmes.

Better outcomes depend on the integration of universal services with targeted and more specialised help, and on bringing services together around the needs of the child and family. More details are set out in the Choice for parents, the best start for children: a ten year strategy for childcare and in the *Youth Green Paper*. At the same time, schools are increasingly offering pupils learning that is personalised to meet their needs. And children and young people will receive increasingly personalised care from health services in line with the standards of the Department of Health's *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services*.

([www.Everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.Everychildmatters.gov.uk) 8.2.05)

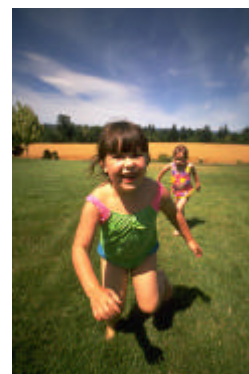
## The Children Act 2004

### Main provisions

- **Children's Commissioner**
- **Director of Children's' services combining Education and Social Services**
- **Lead member for Children's Services**
- **Duty on Local Authorities to co-operate to improve children's well-being**
- **Duty for key agencies to safeguard and promote welfare**
- **Establishment of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards to replace ACPCs**
- **Integrated inspections and joint area reviews**
- **Stronger monitoring of private fostering arrangements**



<b>ACPC SAFEGUARDING BOARDS</b>		
	<b>ACPC</b>	<b>Safeguarding Boards</b>
Legal basis	Duty under Local Authority Act 1974	Statutory under Children Act 2004
Main priority	Child protection	Safeguarding children
Remit	Significant harm	Children in need – but yet to be agreed just how wide
Membership	Representatives of key agencies with child protection knowledge and experience	Representatives of key agencies but emphasis on the need for seniority as well as experience
Power	Promote change through agreement and negotiation	Duty for agencies to cooperate with safeguarding agenda



## Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board

From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005, Wakefield ACPC ceased to exist and the new safeguarding board became operational. The core activities of the WDSCB will be:

Ensuring the multi-disciplinary co-ordination of referral, enquiry, assessment, planning, intervention & case review services

To: Children in Need (Wakefield CWB MODEL level 3 - 4) whose needs are not met due to compromised parenting.

Via: the provision of statutory interagency leadership and governance at strategic, operational and promotional level.

It is proposed that the chair of the WDSCB will be the new Director of Children's Services, when this appointment is made. Actual membership is still to be decided but the act tells us the Local Safeguarding Children Board must include representatives from the following organisations:

Local Authority  
 Police  
 Primary Care Trusts  
 NHS trust  
 Prison  
 Youth Offending Team  
 Probation Service  
 Child and Family Court Advisory Service  
 Education Service

A new logo has been designed and new procedures will be issued under the banner of the WDSCB. The new board will be officially launched in September to mark the raised profile of the board.

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

# Sexual Exploitation

On the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2003, Ian Huntley was convicted of the murders of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells. In the days following Huntley's conviction, there was widespread public disquiet when it became clear that he had been known to the authorities over a period of years. In fact, he had come to the attention of Humberside Police in relation to allegations of eight separate sexual offences from 1995 to 1999 (and had been investigated in yet another). This information had not emerged during the vetting check, carried out by Cambridgeshire Constabulary at the time of Huntley's appointment to Soham Village College late in 2001.

In addition, concerns also arose relating to the handling of a number of related cases by Social Services in North East Lincolnshire between January 1995 and November 2001.

The findings of the Bichard Inquiry relate mainly to the poor state of police intelligence and their computer systems. The Kelly inquiry has more multi-agency implications particularly concerning agencies attitudes to and ways of dealing with young people involved in sexual activities.

The Wakefield ACPC have updated their procedures on Sexual Exploitation to incorporate the findings of these two inquiries. The main changes include:

- Clarity for professional around when to refer to Social care Direct
- A clear view from the ACPC/WDSCB that sexual abuse outside the family should be treated as seriously as if it were familial abuse
- A position statement that regardless of the child's age each case must be assessed on its own merit

A working group has been established by the ACPC to consider sexual exploitation in the Wakefield area. This may lead to further amendments to the procedures. The group will be gathering information on the extent and nature of the problem and from this making proposals for change in the area.

A launch event for the procedures will be held later in the year.

## Next issue of the WDSCB Newsletter (September 2005)

Forced Marriage Procedures  
Domestic Violence

If you have any comments about this issue or would like to submit something for a future issue please contact:

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