

Issue 5

Summer 2007



NEWSLETTER

West Yorkshire Inter-agency Safeguarding Children Procedures

The Wakefield & District Safeguarding Children Board has been working with our colleagues in Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale Safeguarding Children Boards to develop one set of safeguarding procedures which apply across the four LSCB areas. Currently, each of the West Yorkshire authorities, made-up of Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Kirklees and Calderdale, have their own Child Protection Procedures. This means that agencies which work across geographical boundaries, such as West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Probation, West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, are working to five sets of procedures. Developing one set of procedures across four of the five LSCBs is seen as a major step forward towards safeguarding children.

The new procedures will be available on the WDSCB website from 2nd July 2007. They are intended to be accessed electronically and paper versions will **not** be available.

The benefits of the new procedures include:

- consistency across most local authorities in West Yorkshire – especially useful when working with families who move across geographical boundaries and for agencies who work across West Yorkshire, e.g. Police, Ambulance Service, Probation Board
- professionals who move jobs within West Yorkshire will have a standard set of procedures to work from
- updates to procedures will be done on-line – meaning everyone is working from the most up-to-date version and amendments can be done more quickly
- the on-line version means easy navigation between sections and easier means of finding specific sections

The new procedures were implemented on 2nd July 2007. All other paper copies should be destroyed and will not be in use from this date.

Two briefing sessions took place on 18th June to publicise the new procedures. These two sessions were attended by around 140 people from a range of agencies and disciplines. On the whole the new procedures have been well received.

This issue will cover:

- West Yorkshire Interagency Procedure
- Key Changes to Procedure
- WDSCB Annual Report and Business Plan
- Allegations against professionals
- Safe Recruitment and Selection
- E-Learning
- And More...



Key changes to Procedures

Many of the changes outlined in Working Together (HM Gov 2006) were already in the last version of the Wakefield & District Safeguarding Board procedures issued in September 2006. This means that for professionals in the Wakefield area there are few major differences. However in working with other Local Safeguarding Children Boards we have been able to share good practice and take the best from each of the four LSCBs. In spite of there being few changes it is strongly recommended that professionals familiarise themselves with the new procedures as the format is very different.

Visit our website for more information about the board at:
www.wakefield.gov.uk
 search for 'safeguarding'.

Specific changes in dealing with individual cases:

New	Old
Children who are at continuing risk of significant harm will become children who are the subject of a child protection plan	Children were placed on the child protection register
Referrals pre-birth can result in the unborn child becoming the subject of a child protection plan	Previously we could not register children before their birth
Social work reports to initial case conference must be shared with the family 2 days before the conference and the chair one day before	Social work reports to initial case conference were shared with the chair 3 days before (no timescale for families)
Social work reports to case conference review must be shared with the family 3 days before the conference and the chair 2 days before	Social work reports to case conference review were shared with the chair 2 days before (no timescales for families)
Other agency reports should be shared with the family before the conference and with the chair one day	Other agencies had to provide reports but no timescales were in place

New or extended Sections

- ⇒ Safe recruitment and selection
- ⇒ Children at risk where the parent has a learning disability
- ⇒ Children at risk where the parent has a mental health problem
- ⇒ Children of alcohol misusing parents
- ⇒ Domestic Abuse
- ⇒ Complaints and appeals
- ⇒ Resolving professional disagreement
- ⇒ Reluctant or Hostile Families

To follow sections

- Unexpected child deaths
- Individuals who pose a risk to children
- Sexual exploitation (Wakefield's protocol will remain in place until the new West Yorkshire protocol is agreed)
- Children's visits to specialist/psychiatric hospitals

Protocols which have been included

- Children and young people who go missing
- Investigation for harbourers of children and young people
- How Social Services Enquiries and Associated Police should be conducted
- Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale Information sharing Protocol

Procedures which are still the same

- Substance Misuse Procedures
- Failure to thrive procedures
- Voluntary sector procedures
- Sports & recreation procedures
- Armed forces procedures
- CAFCASS procedures
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The new procedures will be available are now available on the website:

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/lscb>

If you have any difficulty accessing the new procedures or find any faults/amendments or corrections please contact the WDSCB on wdsbc@wakefield.gov.uk

Think Family



Annual Report and
Business Plan
2007/10

wakefield
City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

WDSCB Annual Report & Business Plan

The WDSCB has now signed off its annual report and business plan. The report includes information on the work of the various sub-committees (Training and Quality & Performance), the child death review panel and the serious case review panel. It provides summary information on the WDSCB performance management report including training attendance figures. Copies of this document are available on the WDSCB website.

At its Away Day in January members of the WDSCB identified three high level objectives that are the basis of its future planning. The new plan identifies priorities for the next three years. Three work groups will be established to work out the detail of how the plan can be achieved.

The three objectives:

Objective 1: Children/parents/carers feel understood and involved in safeguarding services which help them find solutions to family difficulties.

Lead officers: Pat Heron, Partnership Director, Connexions; Rosie Faulkner, WDSCB Business Manager.

Objective 2: Reaching and safeguarding children in need with compromised parenting.

Lead Officers: Catherine Hall, Consultant Nurse Safeguarding Children; Sarah Snell, Governor HMP New Hall

Objective 3: To strategically influence universal services to ensure that the protective influences which prevent children ending up in level 3 – 4 of the CWB model are enhanced, and to reduce the factors which undermine parenting (e.g. domestic abuse, substance/alcohol misuse, poverty, poor mental health).

Lead Officers: Lyn Burns, Acting Assistant Director Children in need Safeguarding; Ron Egan, Headteacher Methodist School.

Allegations against people who work with children

The new procedures regarding allegations against people who work with children are now available as part of the West Yorkshire procedures but have also been available in Wakefield since last September.

A key message which everyone needs to be aware of is that all such allegations must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for dealing with allegations. This person has oversight of all referrals, ensures they are dealt with in a timely and just manner and collates information on allegations for presentation to the Wakefield & District Safeguarding Children Board. A database has recently been developed for this purpose. In addition to this each organisation has a named senior officer within their organisation who has responsibility for ensuring their organisation has procedures and complies with these procedures and a senior manager who has operational responsibility for dealing with allegations.

A list of officers from the key partner agencies is available on the WDSCB website under allegations of abuse against people who work with children. The LADO is based within the Safeguarding Unit at Family Services and can be contacted via Social Care Direct.

Safe recruitment and selection

The new safe recruitment procedures will be available in the near future in the West Yorkshire procedures. All employers should ensure they are compliant with these new procedures which state that all agencies must offer those responsible for recruitment and selection:

- ⇒ Specific training in respect of safe recruitment and selection
- ⇒ Supervised/supported experience of recruitment
- ⇒ Periodic evaluation of performance by their supervisor

It also offers guidance on:

- ⇒ Quality of Job Advertisement, Job Description and Person Specification
- ⇒ References and Checks with Respect to Agency Staff
- ⇒ The Selection Panel
- ⇒ Scrutinising and Short-Listing
- ⇒ Interviews
- ⇒ Offer of Appointment to Successful Candidate
- ⇒ Criminal Record Bureau checks
- ⇒ Persons Prohibited from Working/Seeking Work with Children
- ⇒ Limitations of Disclosures
- ⇒ Evaluation and Management of Disclosure Information
- ⇒ Recording
- ⇒ Induction and review
- ⇒ Supervision and support
- ⇒ Reporting systems for unsuitable staff
- ⇒ Whistle blowing

WDSCB Training

In order to try and improve attendance on courses and to offset the costs caused by places not being taken up, the WDSCB has decided to charge for non-attendance. This will bring us in line with Family Services training and Public Health training who also charge for non-attendance.

The charge will be £50 charged to the team/organisation, not to the individual.

E-learning

The WDSCB was recently commended for its efforts with the basic child protection e-learning programme. Out of a total of 11 local authorities, Wakefield had the highest proportion of people who had completed this programme. This is largely due to the efforts of Neil Stott from Ossett School who has worked hard with teaching staff at a number of schools to sign them up for the programme and support them through it.



The programme provides basic awareness training in child protection and meets the requirements of Working Together for level 1 training. All partner agencies of the WDSCB are invited to take part in this free programme.

Champions have been identified to take it forward in all the agencies:

Jill Marshal	PCT
Geraldine Allen	MYHT
Julie Lodge	SWYMHT
Mark Stead	YOT & YPS
Ann Hodson	Children in Need Services
Neil Stott	Schools
Judy Colquhoun	Early Years
Martin Dooling	Adult Education
Bernie O'Brien	Voluntary sector
Jenny Goodchild	West Yorkshire Probation Board

If you are interested in taking up this training please contact one of the representatives above or contact the WDSCB@wakefield.gov.uk

This programme is provided free for non-profit-making organisations. A small charge will be levied for private companies wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity.

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

Alternatively you can contact:

Jean Durham on 01924 302626

**Rosie Faulkner, WDSCB Business Manager on 01924 302626
rfaulkner@wakefield.gov.uk**

Or for more information visit our website:

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

