

Report to the Children's Trust Board on Safeguarding Arrangements

1.0 Background and Introduction

1.1 This report forms part of a regular safeguarding update from the WSCB to the Children's Trust Board on key developments locally and nationally on regulatory reform, updates on progress of local Serious Case Reviews and work locally and key challenges for the partnership and agencies.

2.0 National Reform and Statutory Guidance

2.1 Ofsted Inspection arrangements of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

Ofsted have published the inspection framework for the *Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers*. The framework will look closely at the experiences of children and young people and focus on individual journeys from identification of need to receiving timely and appropriate help. The new (3 yearly) inspection cycle begins in November and Wirral will probably be inspected early in 2014.

The inspection framework contains a number of significant differences to previous frameworks including:

- The previous judgement grade of *adequate* will be replaced by *requires improvement*
- Three key judgement areas – experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
 - experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence
 - leadership, management and governance
- A grade of *inadequate* in any key judgement area will result in an overall grade of *inadequate*
- LSCB's will be given a graded judgement of their effectiveness for the first time
- Graded judgement will also be given for quality of adoption service and experience of care leavers

3.0 Joint WSCB and Children's Trust Board Development Day

The Development Day on 6th December for CTB and WSCB members will have a focus on the implementation and implications for agencies of the *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)* statutory guidance and on readiness and preparation for the Ofsted Inspection and review of the effectiveness of the WSCB. The Development Day will be facilitated by Professor Jan Horwath from Sheffield University who led the previous joint day last year and has facilitated sessions for the WSCB over the past few years. A questionnaire has been circulated to ascertain partner views on the effectiveness of the WSCB.

4.0 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) multi-agency sub group of the WSCB has been established and oversees implementation of the CSE action plan. Recent progress includes:

- Launch of the Pan Merseyside and Cheshire CSE Protocol at an event in July
- Agreement of a multi-agency information sharing protocol to support monthly meetings managed by Merseyside police to discuss plans for children identified as at risk of being sexually exploited
- Completion of awareness raising training with police, response, health and youth workers in schools, and foster carers and residential providers
- Planning a community awareness raising project with trading standards which will focus on 'night time economy' workers who may come into contact with vulnerable children including taxi drivers, hoteliers, takeaway/ off licence staff, licensees etc.
- The WSCB have successfully bid for £9,900 from the Public Health outcomes fund to support this activity

Planned work for completion in the next 3-6 months:

- Publication of an online e-learning certificated CSE awareness course designed to be accessed by Wirral Council staff and staff across partner agencies regardless of their role
- Poster/media awareness raising campaign
- Introduction of multi-agency training sessions supported by Catch-22 and Barnardo's
- Commissioning a theatre company to perform *Chelsea's Choice*, a play about the effects of CSE to multi-agency professionals and schools.
- Publication of a new CSE multi-agency procedure
- Development of a catalogue of resources for schools and other agencies
- Further development of disruption tactics and proposals for voluntary licensing reporting of concerns scheme

5.0 Learning from the Daniel Pelka Serious Case Review

The SCR report for Daniel Pelka was published by Coventry LSCB in September 13. Daniel died in March 2012 aged 4 from a head injury caused by his mother and stepfather who were both subsequently convicted of Daniel's murder and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. For a period of at least six months prior to this Daniel had been starved, assaulted, neglected and abused.

Daniel's family were from Poland and his mother had relationships with 3 different partners whilst living in the UK. All of these relationships involved alcohol misuse and domestic abuse. Daniel was seen as an isolated child at school and he presented as thin and hungry and with unexplained bruises and these concerns were raised with his mother who dismissed them as health problems. Daniel was seen by a community paediatrician and his low weight was explained as probably being due to a health condition. The paediatrician was unaware of the schools other concerns.

Findings from the SCR tell us that professionals should:

- Always consider the possibility of child abuse as a potential cause of presenting problems and injuries
- See all injuries in the context of other injuries or bruises
- Balance optimism with objective evidence
- Not just rely on a parent's explanation of events and views
- Place ourselves in the child's shoes to see what things look like for them
- Make sure we hear the voice of the child
- Look at patterns of behaviour and family lifestyle over time

- Work with male partners as much as possible

The learning from the SCR will be shared with agencies through a series of briefings and a briefing note will be disseminated. The learning will also be incorporated into the WSCB training courses.

6.0 Recommendations:

6.1 The Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report.

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