



CUMBRIA LSCB

CUMBRIA LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD



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Issue 2

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WELCOME to the 2nd edition of the Cumbria Local Children Safeguarding Board Newsletter.

The theme of the last LSCB meeting was Domestic Violence. Annette Hennessy, Assistance Chief Probation Officer, and Chair of the Cumbria Domestic Violence Strategic Management Board gave a presentation on the work of the Cumbria Domestic Violence Partnership.

In Cumbria

The Partnership Business Plan incorporates the elements of the Coordinated Community Response, the Government's plan to tackle domestic abuse, by focusing on:

- Enhancing the safety of victims of domestic violence/abuse and their children throughout Cumbria and improving services for them
- Holding perpetrators accountable for their actions and supporting them to change their behaviour
- Education and awareness raising about domestic abuse in schools and with young people
- Promoting community responsibility for challenging domestic violence at every level

Domestic Violence in Cumbria, statistics showed that there had been

- 30 children accommodated by the women's refuge from April 07- April 07
- 500 referrals to the Let Go Domestic Violence Service since January 2005
- 60 children identified by the first four Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and
- on average women will be assaulted 35 times before reporting it to the police.

The National Picture

- 30% of children at any given time on the local child protection register have been affected by domestic violence
- One in every two children living with a mother experiencing repeat domestic violence will also be directly abused by the man
- For half of the children subject to care proceedings – domestic violence is a significant factor
- Approximately two thirds of children placed for adoption are from families where there was domestic violence
- In a study carried out in Ayrshire, 32% of pupils wrote that they were experiencing domestic violence.



THE CHAIRS OF THE LSCB SUB GROUPS ARE:

Policy and procedures

Joan Hetherington - Connexions

Practice and outcomes

Helen Smith – Children's Services

Training

Lorraine Davison -Health

Performance

Charles Proctor – Children's Services

Communications

Annette Hennessy – National Probation Service

Serious Case review

Ian Gopsill - CAF/CASS

Child Death Overview panel

Anne Ridgway - Health



Training Strategy and Training Programme

Liz Cook, Multi Agency Trainer, attended the Board meeting to give a presentation on the Cumbria LSCB Training Strategy from April 2007 to March 2008 and Training Programme.

A key concern is the large numbers of staff awaiting Level 2 training, around 1,200 in total. The Training Group hoped to develop a pool of trainers within their agencies who could deliver multi and inter-agency training.

The Board agreed that the Training Programme presented an immense task for one trainer and options needed to be considered such as whether a programme of training for trainers should be introduced or whether a trainer needed to be brought in to get rid of the backlog.

It was noted that these issues would be considered further by the Training Sub-Group and the Executive Group

Case Conference Processes

Barbara Cruden, submitted a final report to the LSCB based on the data obtained from children, young people and parents and carers who took part in a survey about their experiences of Safeguarding Services.

The survey had covered experiences of child protection processes; of participation and engagement in case conferences and core group processes and level of satisfaction on services being received.

Key issues to be addressed from the findings would be:-

- finding ways of routinely and systematically gathering young people's views on their experiences and regular systems for evaluation of this, perhaps by an independent Chair;
- improving participation of young people in the processes and decisions that affect their lives;
- helping families to feel better engaged at the child protection conference;
- helping staff to make sure they have the time to engage and respond to families in a supportive way.

Staying Safe Consultation

Staying Safe was a major consultation which provided the opportunity for the government to consult with parents, children, young people, our partners and the children's workforce on children's safety.

The Staying Safe aims are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding children and young people
- Promote better understanding of safeguarding issues, encouraging a change in behaviour towards children and young people, and their safety and welfare
- Ensure work in this area is coherent, and effectively coordinated across government, by outlining existing work in this area
- Reinforce existing activity by proposing new actions to plug gaps and improve linkages

The consultation, which closed on 31 October, included a range of activities for practitioners; parents; children and young people, and the general public to give their views. For more information read the [Staying Safe Documents](#)



Cumbria Safeguarding and Domestic Violence Conference

13 March 2008

Carlisle Racecourse

Domestic Violence is one of the biggest threats to children achieving the five outcomes of Every Child Matters. It is widespread, hidden, and has significant impact on children's safety and potential.

Join us in making this conference a **real credible** effort to make the lives of children better, healthier, and safer. Please put this date in your diary and commit you and your staff to attend. Keep an eye on the Cumbria LSCB website for further Information www.cumbrialscb.com