Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Newsletter

This newsletter highlights the most recent updates to Child Protection Procedures and also recaps on things you may have missed!

THE SCOTTISH BORDERS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE AUDIT

New Children and Families referrals that do not meet the threshold for an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD)

One of the regular Audits of the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee is to consider children and families referrals which have not been subject to IRD. It is part of our responsibility to ensure that the right children are coming into the Child Protection system and to ensure that the most appropriate response is given. Since it is a repeat audit, a small sample of 26 new referrals from November 2018 were considered. Overall the findings were very encouraging - showing a continued multi-agency commitment to raise appropriate concerns for children and young people.

The audit also highlighted that a more consistent approach with screening would be helpful along with documenting the use of the chronology. This would support children where there has been long standing professional involvement so that focus is kept on the child’s life as a whole rather than seeing incidents in isolation.

The recommendation is Duty Workers ensure:

- There is a clear expectation of what questions need to be asked and when a Chronology should come with a referral.
- What tools need to be considered/used at the point of referral.
- Expectation of advising referrers about feedback / referrers asking for or being provided with feedback. If you don’t get feedback please phone and ask for it!

What’s in this Issue...

- Child Protection Audit
- “Always be Wary”
- Neglect Toolkit
- Wellbeing Web
- New Guidance for CPC and Chief Officers
- Information on Procedural Changes
- Care Inspectorate Review of Inspections
- Child Trafficking
- Training Opportunities

... And much more!

Always Be Wary

Always Be Wary is an educational resource developed by a group of secondary pupils from Galashiels Academy on behalf of the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (SBCPC). The aim of the resource is to raise young peoples’ awareness about grooming as well as to promote the message of them telling a trusted adult if they have a worry or concern.

Each secondary school will be issued with an Always Be Wary toolkit which includes an animation, posters, discussion suggestions and use of the #alwaysbewary hashtag. The animation can be viewed at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/alwaysbewary

Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Website - http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc
THE NEGLECT TOOLKIT

ADDITIONAL NEGLECT TOOLKIT GUIDANCE

- Professionals can access and print the Neglect Toolkit and Evaluation forms. Access to the forms can be found [http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc/neglect-toolkit](http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc/neglect-toolkit)

- Professionals are welcome to change the scoring to Red / Amber / Green if this is preferred.

WELLBEING WEB

Workers have made us aware that some children are saying they are being asked to complete the wellbeing web too often. As a result the CP procedure has changed to advise that the wellbeing web should be used for CPCCs, unless the young person would prefer a different tool to help them give their views. It is extremely important that we can clearly evidence that we have listened to the views of the child. One size does not always fit all and we should be using what works best for each child.

WHAT DIFFERENCE IS ITS USE MAKING TO OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

The Neglect Toolkit has now been widely rolled out to targeted practitioners in all agencies who are encouraged to consider its use when there is a concern about childhood neglect. The purpose of the Neglect Tool is to support the early identification, understanding and effective response to concerns around childhood neglect. It can be used in full with families or by professionals to help them identify neglect to help them identify if what they are concerned about does constitute neglect.

We need your feedback to know whether the Neglect Toolkit is making a difference to our children and young people who are experiencing childhood neglect.

A reminder of the Neglect Toolkit evaluation...

Who needs to complete a Neglect Toolkit short evaluation?

If you are the practitioner taking the lead in completing the Toolkit with the family please take the lead in completing the evaluations.

If you are involved in supporting the completion of the Toolkit please support the practitioner who is taking the lead with this piece of work, but you can still provide individual feedback.

You can find our short forms here: [http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc/neglect-toolkit](http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc/neglect-toolkit)

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Fiona Jones fiona.jones@scotborders.gov.uk

CHILD TRAFFICKING

A great deal of awareness raising of Child Sexual Exploitation has been in the public eye recently. We should also be vigilant that children are also trafficked within the UK for crime or labour. PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN!
REFLECTIVE REVIEW
MEETING AROUND THE CHILD

CHANGE IN PROCEDURE

The Reflective Review Meetings Around the Child (MAC) was originally developed in October 2016 to address instances where outcomes for the child were not being met, with the situation considered stuck. The purpose of the Reflective Review MAC was to offer an experienced reviewer, not involved with the case, to chair a professionals meeting to provide opportunity for objectivity, reflection, and insight. Our Scottish Borders Child's Planning Manual is currently being updated and will include the new procedure and paperwork. If you would like further information please contact your agency GIRFEC lead:

- Education: Christine Brown
- Health: Dawn Moss
- Early Years: Marjorie Hutton
- Social Work: Marcia Connor

CORE GROUP PROCESS
CHANGE IN PROCEDURE

As a result of the review work done by the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee, it became apparent that some children were requiring to be re-registered within a fairly short timescale. In order to address this the procedures have been changed to ensure that every final Core Group meeting must consider the child remaining in the MAC process and the child having a Lead Professional. This must be reflected in the Child’s Plan and in the minute of the meeting.

REVIEW OF FINDINGS JOINT INSPECTION
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
2012 - 2017

The latest report on the inspections of services to children has been published. In the report the care inspectorate bring together the learning from inspections for all local authority areas. The Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee will be taking forward some of the recommendations from the review and others will be progressed by the C&YP Leadership Group. The report is a lengthy document, but please take time to read the “Summary of Key Findings” on page 44 as it contains a lot of important messages.

Link to the Care Inspectorate overview report:
A very warm welcome to Joanne Thomson – the newest member of the Child Protection Training and Development team for CPC based at SBC.

Joanne Thomson, Child Protection Training and Development Officer
“I’m delighted to join the Child Protection Training and Development team at SBC and look forward to delivering updates and training across the authority. Coming from an educational background, I join other multi agency team members focusing on improving safety and wellbeing outcomes across sectors for all SBC young people.”

ONLINE SAFETY
SBC and the Scottish Government, Directorate of Children and Families are providing free training for frontline practitioners from any agency on “Online Safety” which will also give attendees access to online resources.

This will take place on Wednesday 9th October 2019, between 9.00am and 11.30am at Selkirk Rugby Club, Ettrickhaugh Road, Selkirk

For more details and to book your place visit www.onlinesafetylive.com

SAFE AND TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

CORE TRAINING FROM 23RD TO 26TH SEPTEMBER 2019
OVERVIEW EVENT ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2019

The Safe and Together Model is a Scottish Government supported suite of tools and interventions designed to help professionals and partner services to make safe decisions for children experiencing domestic abuse. This child-centred model derives its name from the concept that children are best served when we can work towards keeping them safe. This means supporting the non-abusing parent and holding the perpetrator to account and making his or her behaviour visible. The training is aimed at front line staff and first line managers and will cover Assessment, Interviewing, Documentation and Case Planning, using an experiential hands-on approach based on the principles and components of the Safe and Together Model. The Overview Event will also be led by an experienced trainer from the Safe and Together Institute. The event will provide an introduction to the model and the wider context through invited guest speakers.

For more information:
https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/
http://endingviolence.com/our-programs/safe-together/safe-together-overview/
https://www.youtube.com/user/SafeandTogetherModel/videos
CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND CHIEF OFFICER IN CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE

There is new guidance available which clarifies the role of the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee and Chief Officers in Child Protection.


Members of the Child Protection Committee

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Batty</td>
<td>Child Protection Committee Independent Chair</td>
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<td>Stuart Easingwood</td>
<td>Chief Social Work Officer Public Protection, SBC</td>
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<td>Matt Paden</td>
<td>DCI Police Scotland</td>
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<td>Nicky Berry</td>
<td>Director of Nursing, NHS Borders</td>
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<td>Dawn Moss</td>
<td>Nurse Consultant Vulnerable Children, NHS Borders</td>
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<td>Clare Ketteridge</td>
<td>Consultant Paediatrician, NHS Borders</td>
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<td>Lesley Siewert</td>
<td>Locality Reporter Manager, Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration</td>
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<td>Michelle Strong</td>
<td>Chief Officer, Education Services, SBC</td>
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<td>Christina Donald</td>
<td>Legal Services, SBC</td>
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<td>Anna O’Reilly</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Children 1st</td>
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<td>Gillian Nicol</td>
<td>Child Protection Lead Officer, SBC</td>
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<td>Robert McCulloch</td>
<td>Chief Officer, Health &amp; Social Care Integration, SBC</td>
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<td>Graham</td>
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<td>David Kemp</td>
<td>Homelessness and Financial Support Manager, SBC</td>
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<td>David Brands</td>
<td>Interim Chief Officer C&amp;F SW, SBC</td>
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<td>Marcia Connor</td>
<td>Group Manager, SW LTT East, SBC</td>
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EYES WIDE OPEN CAMPAIGN
PUBLIC URGED TO KEEP EYES OPEN FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

Everyone in the Scottish Borders is being encouraged to keep their Eyes Open for children at risk during the school holidays. As schools prepare to ring the end of term bell for the summer break, a national child protection organisation is urging everyone to be extra observant to help protect potentially vulnerable children while school’s out.

Child Protection Committees nation-wide grouping of child protection professionals hopes that members of the public will keep their eyes open and play a part to keep children safe from harm during the long break in the school routine.

The web link for this campaign which went live on Monday 24th June 2019 is now available. Please use this link in any media activity you are using locally, (e.g. Twitter) and this will provide the public with a “go-to” place for information about protecting children and young people.

Link to the Eyes Wide Open Campaign: http://www.celcis.org/eyes-open-2019

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

CONTACT THE C&F DUTY TEAM: 01896 662787

OUT OF HOURS: 01896 752 111
Police – 101 and in Emergency 999

IF A CHILD IS OPEN TO A LONG TERM TEAM (LTT) CONTACT:
Galashiels: 01896 664158 (West LTT)
Duns: 01361 886115 (East LTT)
Peebles: 01721 726310 (West LTT)
Hawick: 01450 364777 (East LTT)