



Welcome to the Autumn 2011 edition of the North Yorkshire LSCB Newsletter - Working together to make life safer for children and young people.

## View from the Chair



The Board must remain vigilant to ensure that children's safeguarding has the highest priority, at a time of significant changes in the organisation of the Health Service, the setting up of GP Commissioning Consortia, changes to Children's Social Care and Education and the challenges brought on by reductions in public expenditure.

The Board must also respond to any changes arising from the Review of Child Protection Services by Professor Eileen Munro. Commissioned by the Government, Professor Munro sees a significant role for Local Safeguarding Children Boards in ensuring that high standards of safeguarding are maintained when any changes are made. In the last newsletter we reported on the recommendations made by the Munro Review in May 2011. In this edition we report of the Government's response and the implications for practice.

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board remains committed to ensuring that the high standards of safeguarding in the county are maintained, and is grateful for the support of all partner agencies enabling this to happen.

**Nancy Palmer**  
Independent Chair

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# The Munro Review – The government's response

The government agrees with Professor Munro that the system has become too focused on compliance with rules and procedures and has lost its focus on the needs and experiences of children and young people. Her recommendations need to be considered in the round and in partnership with other services.

## **Valuing professional expertise (Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Government has agreed to oversee a reduction in the amount of regulation. It will revise the statutory framework to place greater emphasis on the value of direct work with children and their families and for more evidence based practice.

Performance information will be used more intelligently. External inspection will focus on the effectiveness of help provided, and children and families' experiences, and will be conducted on an unannounced basis.

Government will try to capitalise on opportunities for existing IT systems to be used to improve information sharing in child protection practice.

## **Sharing responsibility for the provision of early help (Recommendations 8, 10 and 13)**

Government will work with partners to create change in how local agencies coordinate their work in order to maximise existing resources and increase the number of preventive services offered. Local arrangements will be more transparent. The report notes that early intervention for teenagers will be given the same importance as for young children, and a non ring-fenced early intervention grant has been made available.

## **Developing social work and supporting effective social work practice (Recommendations 11, 12, 14 and 15)**

Government agrees social workers should be more concerned with the effectiveness of help and there is a need to improve their knowledge, skills and expertise throughout their careers. Government will work with the Social Work Reform Board (SWRB) to incorporate the development of specific capabilities necessary for

child and family social work into the professional capabilities framework.

From 2012 these capabilities will explicitly inform social work training, professional development and performance appraisal. The need for a career path allowing for ongoing work with children and families and a stronger voice for practitioners in management and government is acknowledged.

## **Strengthening accountabilities and creating a learning system (Recommendations 5, 6, 7 and 9)**

Government agrees that multi-agency working is critical for accurate needs assessment and provision of the right help, and that clear lines of accountability are vital.

The child protection system will need to become better at monitoring, learning and adapting, and to this end government propose to work towards revising the statutory guidance on the role of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services and to consider the methodology used by local safeguarding children's boards (LSCBs) when serious case reviews are undertaken.

Better dissemination of local good practice will be explored.

## **Serious case reviews (Recommendation 9)**

All of the recommendations are agreed, or agreed in principle, apart from recommendation 9 which states that LSCBs should use systems methodology when undertaking serious case reviews (SCRs) – further consideration is needed.

Consideration will also be given to ending the evaluation of SCRs in their current form.

The full version of the Munro Review – Final Report can be downloaded on: <http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/Munrointerimreport.pdf>

The full version of the government's response to the Munro Review is available on: <http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/GovernmentResponsetoMunro.pdf>

# NSPCC launch free texting service

The NSPCC Helpline has launched a mobile phone texting service which will allow members of the public to contact the Helpline by texting **88858**.

Members of the public can use the text service to seek advice and assistance and also to report concerns that may need follow up action or investigation. The service will be run on a pilot basis in the first instance until the end of 2011.

The public can send a text anonymously if they wish at no cost to themselves. On receipt of the text the Helpline will send an immediate automated confirmation response and then a specific response to their enquiry from a Helpline practitioner within three hours.

Other ways of contacting the NSPCC Helpline are: telephone (**0808 800 5000**), email ([help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)) and reporting on line (at [www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline)). All these services are available free to users and on a 24-hour basis.

Queries about the texting initiative should be sent to [jcameron@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:jcameron@nspcc.org.uk) or phone **020 7825 2801**.

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## Child Sexual Exploitation: The North Yorkshire Protocol

A protocol has been agreed by key agencies in North Yorkshire about how they will work together to manage concerns about child sexual exploitation. The protocol covers different situations ranging from where young people are being coerced or manipulated by older boyfriends/girlfriends in sexual activities to where adults are making profit out of the exploitation of young people.

The protocol can be found on the website and will be supported by training and awareness raising events.

## Domestic Abuse Safety Planning

Safety planning is frequently used as a way of helping people who are victimised – it cannot stop the abuse (only the abuser can do that) but it can reduce some of the risk to the victims. It helps those affected by domestic abuse think of their different options and plan in advance how they might respond. It is useful also for the children, for example, in letting them know who to contact in a crisis.

Specialist domestic abuse agencies in North Yorkshire are working with NYCC to deliver a package of training in Safety Planning for staff working in children's centres, schools and other venues. The training explores the effects of abuse on children and helps support them effectively. It is especially useful for those who undertake CAFs or other assessments.

Since January 2011, over 200 practitioners have attended the training with four out of five in a recent evaluation stating they felt more confident working with children affected by domestic abuse.

If you would like more information about this training, please contact your local Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator - addresses are at the end of this newsletter.

Also note that the LSCB Practice Guidance for Domestic Abuse has useful information on Safety Planning, including sample tools in the appendices.



# The LSCB Training Programme

Training started again in September following the summer break.

Two new courses are being offered this year in place of Understanding the Child Protection Process. The first - Working Together: From Strategy Meeting to Core Group - is aimed at those working with children and young people who only attend a child protection conference now and again. It will cover the child protection processes from their start to finish.

The second is a set of interlinking courses aimed at practitioners who regularly work with vulnerable children and young people and who regularly take part in child protection meetings. Titled Effective Strategy Meetings, Effective Child Protection Conferences and Effective Child Protection Planning and Core Groups these

courses cover the same information as the one above but in more depth.

Details of these and other courses can be found on [www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

As well as providing multi agency training, the LSCB is required to monitor and quality assure both single agency and multi agency training across North Yorkshire. The Trainers' Task Group has put together a set of training standards on behalf of the LSCB and is currently putting together a system that will enable us to check that practitioners and managers are receiving quality training that meets their needs. If you would like more information about this or any of our courses, please contact Sue Williams on **01609 535189** or [susan.williams@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:susan.williams@northyorks.gov.uk).

## LSCB Missing from Home and Care Panel

The first Missing from Home and Care Panel met in July. Chaired by Alan Critchlow, Education Social Work Service, this is a multi agency Panel made up of practitioners experienced in working with young people.

The aim of the Panel is to take an overview of all the reports that are made to the Police about missing children to see if there are any trends and whether the return interviews now offered are effective - for young people who may go missing once to those who run away many times. The Panel will meet four times a year and report findings back to the LSCB.

The Panel will involve staff from the police, local authority and private children's homes, education and social care services, youth services and district councils.

**Procedures Briefings** - suitable for anyone who works with children - these lunchtime sessions are a new way of learning. We will provide the tea, coffee and training and you can bring your lunch, learn about procedures and meet colleagues working with children in your area.

26.09.11 **Northallerton**

14.10.11 **Skipton**

14.11.11 **Catterick**

16.01.12 **Harrogate**

10.02.12 **Ryedale**

02.03.12 **Selby**

Application must be made online and we look forward to seeing you!

[www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/training-form](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/training-form) - then follow the form to find the course you want to apply for. All of our courses are free to anyone working with children and young people in North Yorkshire (but there is a charge for late cancellations and non-attendance).

# News from the LSCB, Sub Groups and Forums:

## Locality Forums

Changes are likely from April in that the Forums will have a strengthened role in taking forward local safeguarding issues and promoting best local practice. It is now agreed to have two forums to represent Craven and Harrogate – one based in Knaresborough and the other in Skipton. This reflects the different characters of the two areas and will allow the Forums to develop the links with the neighbouring areas of Bradford/ Lancashire and Leeds/ York respectively.

## 'Young people who sexually harm' Task Group

Chaired by Joanne James (CAMHS) and Dallas Frank (Social Care) the group's primary aim is establish specialist assessments for all young people who may sexually harm others so that they can receive intervention tailored to their individual needs. Funding has been obtained to train experienced practitioners in a small number of agencies to complete AIM2 assessments. It is intended that once trained, the practitioners will establish a practice forum and be able to offer specialist advice for agencies in the county.

## Communication Task Group

Chaired by Ellen McMillan (Youth Support Service) the group aims to deliver four newsletters a year. The group is now looking at how best to involve children and their families in shaping safeguarding policy and is scoping what initiatives are already in place in different agencies in the county.

## Serious Case Review (SCR)

There is currently one SCR underway in North Yorkshire. Due for completion later this year, the review will consider issues of working with teenagers.

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The Third Annual CDOP Report on the work of the Panel over 2010-2011 is now on the website with the key lessons learned incorporated into the Child Safety Week Briefing in June 2011. If you missed this briefing, please contact the LSCB Team.

# Contacts

## The LSCB Team

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## Domestic Abuse Coordinators

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## Request for items for the next newsletter!

Do you have any comments to make about this newsletter?

Do you want to publicise any safeguarding or child protection initiatives?

Please contact Liz Carr ([liz.carr@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:liz.carr@northyorks.gov.uk)) or ring **(01609) 536909**.