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Edition 3



# NPT SCB NEWS

[www.nptsafeguardingchildren.org](http://www.nptsafeguardingchildren.org)

## *Neath Port Talbot Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter*

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### Note from the Editorial Panel

We hope that you are still finding the Newsletter useful.

Our Editor in Chief Julia Jenkins, who is the Business Manager for the SCB will be leaving us in April for a short while to have a baby. In her absence it has been agreed that the other members of the editorial panel will be producing the next 2 editions of NPT SCB News.

We hope to bring you more news on the future of the Board and its

possible merger with Swansea and Bridgend SCBs.

Also we will keep you updated with the progress of the 2 ongoing Serious Case Reviews and the case we are reviewing under the new Child Practice Review procedures.

The work that BAAF has been carrying out on following up some of the recommendations from SCR E will be coming to an end in March and a report will be going to

SCB on 30<sup>th</sup> April. We will bring you more on this in the next edition.

Please let us know if you have anything you would like to feature in NPT SCB News. If you send any information to Becky Evans [r.f.evans@npt.gov.uk](mailto:r.f.evans@npt.gov.uk) who provides the business support for the Board, she will make sure the Panel are notified.

**Many thanks**

**The NPT SCB News  
Editorial Panel**

### From 22 to 6 – Regionalisation of SCBs

In October 2011 Gwenda Thomas made a statement regarding the future of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in relation to the Welsh Government bringing forward a Social Services (Wales) Bill in 2012 to deliver a coherent Welsh legal framework for social services. The Bill will create a new legal framework for 'people' and will provide a delivery mechanism for implementing key aspects of a safeguarding and protection agenda. The Bill will include a statutory framework for protecting

people (adults and children).

The Bill will be used to establish on a statutory footing an independently chaired National Safeguarding Board.

The Bill will also be used to require the establishment of Safeguarding & Protection Boards to replace the current LSCBs and non statutory adult protection committees. The functions of the Boards will be subject to consultation in 2012, but will encompass the existing statutory functions

of LSCBs including developing policies and procedures to co-ordinate work, disseminate best practice, awareness raising and undertaking research and the scope of the adult protection committees. Evidence presented by CSSIW and other inspectorate bodies has suggested that LSCBs are not working as effectively as hoped. The Independent Commission and the Safeguarding Children Forum saw merit in reconfiguring the current structure of LSCBs to align with the current Local Health

**Regionalisation – cont.....**

Board footprint. It has been decided that the new Safeguarding and Protection Boards should be match the proposed Public Service Delivery footprint of six across Wales.

In advance of the legislation, the expectation

is that LSCBs will begin planning for the change and move onto a collaborative model as soon as possible.

Discussions have commenced regarding the regionalisation of NPT, Swansea and Bridgend SCBs following the outline

proposals from WG. A workshop has been timetabled for 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 where members from all 3 Boards will start to look at what a regional Board may look like.

We will keep you informed via the Newsletter of any progress with these plans.

**SCB Business Plan 2012**

Normally at this time of year work is underway to develop a new SCB Business Plan for the forthcoming financial year.

The Board and Management Group met on 30<sup>th</sup> January for its annual business planning session. It was decided that due to the regionalisation plans there was no merit in creating a whole new business plan and action plan when a regional Board could be in place by the end of the year. This regional Board will need to develop a business plan of its own. Therefore the current business plan will be extended until December 2012 and a new Action Plan will developed to include new and carried forward actions from the current action plan.

Also at this session Board members looked at a survey that has been designed to capture baseline data from partner agencies to start to measure the new key outcomes for the SCB.

This survey will be circulated to Board members for completion during April 2012.

The Purpose and Vision for the SCB is:

*Neath Port Talbot Safeguarding Children Board aims to ensure that all agencies are working effectively together so that every child and young person is secure and safe from harm*

The Board will do this by:

1. Engaging all agencies working with Children and Young People to participate and commit to the work of the Board.
2. Developing multi agency policies, procedures and guidance to assist all agencies working with children, young people and their families to reduce harm and assist in improving a range of outcomes for children and

3. Communicating effectively with all agencies involved in the safeguarding of children and young people
4. Ensuring that the local workforce is equipped to meet the local safeguarding challenges and that staff and volunteers are appropriately recruited, trained and supported.
5. Monitoring and auditing the work of partner agencies in the delivery of safeguarding services
6. Taking into account the views and experiences of children, young people and their families.

The information gathered from partners from the survey plus information we already hold will be used to measure the Board's performance against these outcomes.

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*“The current business plan will be extended until December 2012 and a new Action Plan will be developed to include new and carried forward actions from the current action plan”*



## NPT SCB rides The Wave

During the run up to the festive period and into the New Year we joined forces with Swansea SCB and our local radio station The Wave to highlight the dangers of co-sleeping and issues of hidden harm for children whose parents misuse alcohol and other substances.

A series of adverts and trailers recorded by 2 of the stations favourite presenters were broadcast over a month period. The Wave also created a micro-site that could be accessed via [thewave.co.uk](http://thewave.co.uk) during the campaign to provide information for listeners who may have concerns.

There were also more hits registered on the NPT SCB website during the campaign.

For more information on co-sleeping:

Foundation for Sudden Infant Deaths  
[www.fsid.org.uk](http://www.fsid.org.uk)

The Baby Friendly Initiative  
[www.unicef.org.uk/BabyFriendly/Parents/Resources/Resources-for-parents/Sharing-a-Bed-With-Your-Baby/](http://www.unicef.org.uk/BabyFriendly/Parents/Resources/Resources-for-parents/Sharing-a-Bed-With-Your-Baby/)

National Breastfeeding Helpline  
[www.nationalbreastfeedinghelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationalbreastfeedinghelpline.org.uk)

NHS Breastfeeding information - Information on breastfeeding from the NHS.  
[www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk](http://www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk)

For more information on hidden harm and substance and alcohol misuse:

SMART (substance misuse assessment & referral team) – 01639

862872 (all enquiries and initial assessment point) SMART  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/documents/245/smart44leaflet.pdf>

WGCADA is a registered charity and limited company founded in 1979. It aims to prevent, treat and reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs to individuals, their families and the community.  
<http://www.wgcada.org/>

WGCADA (harm reduction) P.T. – 01639 890863

WGCADA (harm reduction) Neath – 01639 633630

WGCADA (abstinence) Neath – 01639 620222

CDAT (community drug and alcohol team) - 01639 862872

## Keeping Children Safe in Sport

The NSPCC has developed a framework for safeguarding and protecting children in and through sport in Wales.

It was developed in order to help safeguard and protect children and young people in sport. The framework is based on current good practice and is informed by legislation and guidance, evidence from research and experience of what works, drawing from the field of safeguarding and sport.

In order to meet the framework, organisations will identify actions for

implementation. Each of these actions will be promoted and supported through effective communication and safeguarding training opportunities that will benefit the organisation. When implemented fully the framework should provide parents with increased confidence and peace of mind. Most important of all, they should help create safer environments for children, where they can enjoy and get the very best from their involvement in sport in Wales.

The framework is intended

to be relevant for all sports at all levels. It relates to sporting activity that takes place in an organised setting. Organisations such as funding, controlling and umbrella bodies may use them for a variety of purposes, for example, to raise standards, to assist in decision making or for enforcement purposes.

### Purpose of the Framework:

- to help create a safe sporting environment for children and young people and protect them from harm



## Safeguarding Children in Sport cont.....

- to provide a benchmark to assist those involved in sport to make informed decisions
- to promote good practice and challenge practice that is harmful to children
- to provide clarity for all those involved in sport about how to recognise and respond to concerns.

### Principles:

- children and young people have a right to enjoy sport, free from all forms of abuse and exploitation
- everybody has a responsibility to support the care and protection of children and young people
- sporting organisations have a duty of care to children and young people who take part in

sport.

Currently the attainment of the standards outlined in the Framework are not a mandatory requirement for funding for the sport's national governing bodies in Wales.

### The safeguarding framework

The framework consists of five areas of action that a sports organisation should be able to demonstrate it undertakes at all levels of its sport. Each of these actions will be promoted and supported through effective communication with all those benefiting from the safeguarding activities of the sports organisation:

- policy
- procedures
- practices
- education and

training

- implementing and monitoring.

The full Framework can be found here [http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Information/cpsu/resources/publications/FrameworkForSafeguardingEnglish\\_wdf65596.pdf](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Information/cpsu/resources/publications/FrameworkForSafeguardingEnglish_wdf65596.pdf)

For general information on the framework please contact the Child Protection in Sport Unit Wales.

Telephone **029 20 267000** or email [cpsuwales@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsuwales@nspcc.org.uk).

If want more specific information about safeguarding children in sport in Neath Port Talbot please contact **Neil Thomas, Coordinator For Sport Culture And Active Living, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council** on [n.g.thomas@npt.gov.uk](mailto:n.g.thomas@npt.gov.uk) 01639 861106

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*“The framework is intended to be relevant for all sports at all levels. It relates to sporting activity that takes place in an organised setting.”*

## Moving on from Serious Case Reviews

In February 2011, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, announced the intention to develop a new national programme for reviewing and learning from cases involving serious abuse or neglect of children from which child protection arrangements can be improved.

As part of the new Child Practice Review (CPR) framework, different types of reviews will be undertaken dependent on the nature of the incident and the circumstances of the child involved. These are defined as ‘concise’ and ‘extended’ reviews and they will be

underpinned by continuous multi-agency professional forums. The new arrangements also have a much clearer focus for family involvement in the review process. The arrangements for multi-agency CPRs have been developed with support from practitioners, including Local Safeguarding Children Boards, which have been piloting the new arrangements.

The full draft guidance on CPRs can be found here <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/childrenandyoungpeople/agency/?lang=en> WG have also opened the guidance out for

consultation. You can leave your views on the new proposals on this webpage also (closing date 2<sup>nd</sup> April 12).

In light of these changes the NPT SCB Serious Case Review Sub Group has rebranded itself as the Child Practice Review Sub Group and at its last meeting considered a case which it is recommending for an ‘extended review’ under the new system. This review will commence in March.

The SCB had previously identified another case dealing with the issues of co-sleeping as meeting the criteria for a ‘multi

## Moving on From Serious Case Reviews cont.....

agency professional forum'. This forum will be taking place during mid April; professionals involved with the case will be invited to review their agencies involvement with the case and to learn lessons which will be shared with all professionals in Neath Port Talbot.

The SCB still has 2 ongoing SCRs under the current system. FP and DR are nearing completion. It is hoped that the overview reports will be recommended to the SCB in April. It is unlikely that they will be able to be published until details of criminal proceedings have been finalised.

### SCR EQ

Since the last edition of the Newsletter the SCB has published 1 new Serious Case Review. The case of EQ was published in November 2011.

Child EQ was born in 2008 Mother was reported to be a childcare worker.

Between the ages of 3 and 9½ months, Child EQ had 25 separate medical assessments including 8 admissions to hospital and 7 Out of Hours emergencies including presentations at A&E. The presenting concerns included vomiting, diarrhoea, skin rashes, possible lactose intolerance, wheezes and coughs, possible asthma.

At 9 ½ months Child EQ was taken to hospital by ambulance following a convulsion (fit). A

toxicology report on Child EQ indicated the presence of prescription medication, which would be for adult use only.

Child EQ was then accommodated with foster carers with the parents' agreement under section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

Child EQ's Mother and Father were arrested in 2009.

A Police investigation conducted was unable to establish a burden of proof sufficient to meet the thresholds for a criminal prosecution.

Following the outcome of the care proceedings and the associated findings of fact hearing in 2009 against the mother, the father was exonerated. South Wales Police reviewed their original investigation but still concluded that the burden of proof did not meet the threshold for criminal proceedings.

The professional investigation of the circumstances leading to this review identified that EQ was the victim of Fabricated and/or Induced Illness – this is when a parent or other caregiver gains attention from medical professionals by repeatedly causing or fabrication illness symptoms in a child.

Child EQ is now safe and well.

### Outcomes of the Review

#### **Reminders of Existing Good Practice**

- The Neath Port Talbot

Safeguarding Children Board needs to ensure that records held across agencies accurately reflect the chronological history of the child and that this information is shared according to guidance and protocol

- In cases of suspected Fabricated and/or Induced Illness it is important that in the Child Protection planning, all agencies, including the potential multiple health professionals are involved, and that information is recorded appropriately
- Cases involving suspected Fabricated Induced Illness are likely to require 'out of hours' action/ supervision, it is important that agencies are mindful of this in determining arrangements for identification, assessment and case management.
- All agencies should ensure that adequate supervision and support arrangements are available to practitioners and that supervision is robust, flexible and accessible.

#### **Recommendations to all agencies**

- To ensure that the lessons from this case are disseminated to all staff through multi and single agency training on the issues involved with Fabricated and/or Induced Illness consideration should be given by strategic managers to provide this specialist training as part of the mandatory Child Protection Training

*"The professional investigation of the circumstances leading to this review identified that EQ was the victim of Fabricated and/or Induced Illness – this is when a parent or other caregiver gains attention from medical professionals by repeatedly causing or fabrication illness symptoms in a child"*

### Interesting Facts

#### Co-sleeping

- The national cot death charity, The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID), has called for the collection and publication of local infant death data, as a new post-mortem study reveals that almost two thirds of babies in UK died while they were sleeping with a parent.
- The latest study from a specialist team at Great Ormond Street Hospital, published in the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, reveals that over a 10-year period, almost two thirds of babies who were referred to the hospital for post mortem were sleeping with a parent when they died.
- Over 300 babies still die every year as cot deaths in the UK.

## Supporting a child who tells about abuse

- Stay calm
- Ensure that the child is, and feels safe
- Seek necessary medical treatment without delay
- Tell the child they are not to blame – it's not their fault
- Tell and show the child that they are being taken seriously
- Explain to the child that they have done the right thing to tell you
- Do not promise that you will be able to keep secret the things the child has told you – be honest and explain that it will be necessary to tell someone else
- Keep questions to a minimum and ask only open questions
- Use the child's own words but check out with the child what they mean if this is unclear (for example, the child may have particular words for parts of the body)
- Repeat back to the child (as accurately as possible) what you have heard to check your understanding of what the child has told you
- Ask the child if he/she has told their mum/dad/other person these things
- Any child old enough to communicate directly should be asked how he/she hurt himself/herself. In younger children it is perfectly normal to ask the parent/carer what happened where an injury is clearly visible.
- Tell the child what will happen next and what you intend to do
- Write down what the child has told you as soon as possible after the event. Ensure that records are recorded factually and signed and dated. They should be countersigned by the designated person for child protection in your setting.

## Moving on From Serious Case Reviews cont.....

programme across all partner agencies.

- The Neath Port Talbot Safeguarding Children Board should satisfy itself that Policy and Guidance around Assessment is robust and carried out in a timely fashion.

### Recommendation for WG – Further Education Colleges

- To review the current recruitment procedures for all students undertaking vocational child care courses to include a health questionnaire that can be validated by the Colleges

Occupational Health Department (or equivalent). This questionnaire should include a specific question regarding any historical or current mental ill health, treatment etc. To allow Agencies to make informed decisions regarding the medical suitability of an individual.

### Actions taken to date

- Lesson learning event in relation to FII was held on 19th Jan 12 all agencies were invited.
- Ongoing scrutiny of

practice around Assessment is carried out via monthly audit of cases.

- The matter of reviewing the recruitment procedures of all students undertaking vocational child care courses has been raised with FEC Board in NPT. Legal advice is required as this may conflict with the Equalities Act. The SCR sub Group is to provide FEC Board with further information for consideration.

## Professional Development

The Safeguarding Children Board runs an annual training programme. Courses are available for staff in partner agencies. We will let you know about forthcoming courses in every edition.

### Forthcoming courses

**Child development:**  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>

**Good enough parenting** (two day course):  
June 13-14<sup>th</sup>, Oct 17-18<sup>th</sup>, Feb 6-7<sup>th</sup>

Applications must be made via the training department in advance as places are limited.

You should only attend if you have received confirmation from the training department of your place.

Other planned multi agency training for 2012-2013 includes:

- Attachment
- Court skills
- Domestic abuse
- Introduction to child abuse and neglect
- Safeguarding children – working together
- Trafficking
- Attending child protection conferences/core groups
- Forced marriage and honour based violence
- Information sharing
- Sexual exploitation
- The impact of substance misuse on parenting
- The impact of parental mental ill health
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour in pre-pubescent children
- Dilemmas in working with child

sexual abuse

All dates/venues tbc.

### City & Guilds Level 3 Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS)

The NPT Learning, Training and Development Department will be offering a short teaching qualification (PTLLS) to support organisations in their in house delivery of child protection training. Further information can be obtained from Jayne Kneath (j.kneath2@npt.gov.uk)

For further information and to book on any of the courses please contact:

Children and Young People's Services Training Officer on 01639 685271  
or email r.dixon@npt.gov.uk

## When a Child is Looked After – Agencies Responsibilities and Expectations

One of the recommendations from Serious Case Review E calls for information that sets out the framework of duties and responsibilities that apply when a child is looked after by a local authority to be distributed to all agencies and routinely circulated to individual practitioners who are expected to take part in or contribute to

reviews of cases of looked after children.

The SCB Serious Case Review Sub Group decided that the Newsletter would be an ideal way of getting this information out to staff in all its partner agencies.

Section 3.14 of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 outlines

the roles of professionals at conference. You can download the All Wales Child Protection Procedures from this link: <http://www.awcpp.org.uk/areasofwork/safeguardingchildren/awcpprg/proceduresandprotocols/index.html>

You will need to refer to section 3.14 of the procedures.

## Live Fear Free



**Mike Goldman and Delyth Berni at the Live Fear Free launch**

The Welsh Government is taking a stand against domestic abuse and its perpetrators. The Live Fear Free websites offers victims the help and advice they need to start living life without fear and provides valuable information for the friends and relatives who support them.

<http://www.livefearfree.org.uk/>

In England & Wales, 29% of women and 16% of men, have experienced domestic abuse at some point in their life. But because it happens behind closed doors, the problem is often ignored. The effects of physical

and emotional torment can be far-reaching, having huge impact on the health of the victim and that of any children living in the home.

Children are often the silent victims of domestic violence. They might be traumatised by what they witness and the abuse can have a severe impact on their behaviour, health and educational performance. They may suffer from low self-confidence, withdrawal, anxiety and behavioural difficulties.

The second phase of the Welsh Government's **Live Fear Free** domestic abuse campaign was launched

by First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, supported by Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.

This phase, which runs until the New Year, focuses on the impact of domestic abuse on children.

The SCBs very own Delyth Berni, NPT CBC Safeguarding Manager and Mike Goldman, Manager of the Youth Offending Team showed their support for the campaign by attending the launch.