

Child Protection Newsletter

THE CHILD PROTECTION NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED
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CFE restructure

As you are all no doubt aware we are all going through a major reorganisation and review of service provision. This is happening both at national and local level. The aim as always will be to maintain a responsive and effective service. We are maintaining the current level of Children's Officer posts. As a Team however we will need to undertake some additional responsibilities and as a result have been reviewing our service provision.

The changes affecting the Team are

Change of name from Children's Safeguards Unit to Education Safeguarding Team.

- An updated list giving contact details for Team is attached. We aim to ensure that during the working day there will always be a Children's Officer available for consultations on safeguarding matters.
- The administration of centralised training (ie DCPC courses) becomes the responsibility of CPD team from September 2010. Changes to accessing safeguarding training are detailed below
- We have taken on responsibility for the provision of safeguarding support and training for the Children's Centres
- We have taken on responsibility for providing the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role for allegations management for the whole of the children's workforce in Kent
- Our Care Standards responsibilities have been expanded to include KCC children's homes

Training

There will be some changes to the bespoke services the Team has previously offered to schools and settings. This is particularly in the area of whole school staff training which many of you will be aware we have currently phased out. It is and always has been the responsibility of the DCPC to ensure this training takes place. To assist with this DCPCs receive a comprehensive range of training materials and information as part of their training.

In addition, DCPCs who have undertaken recent training will be aware of the initiative to provide 'train the trainer' resources to enable Designated Staff to deliver "in house" CP training and induction for their staff group. This will be developed on a local level. Please contact your Area Children's Officers if you would like to discuss this.

It is intended that more centralised training for DCPCs will be facilitated over this academic year in response to the Ofsted requirement for more than one person to be trained in the DCPC role in all schools. As with last year we expect demand to remain high.

All central training provided by the Education Safeguards Team will now be administered via CPD online. All those of you who are on waiting lists for DCPC courses will have been allocated places on courses running this term.

All new requests for DCPC training should be made using CPD on-line. You are reminded that due to demand, bookings for each course should be made on a one person per school basis. This is stated on the CPD information but has not deterred some schools from booking several people at the same time! We would ask that you do not do this please as you may be depriving another school of a place. If you feel there are exceptional circumstances where DCPC training is required urgently, please email your Area Children's Officer directly.

Staffing changes

The Restructure has resulted in a number of staffing changes for the Team. Tracey Scott and Afifa Ali, Area Children's Officers (Early Years) for Mid and East Kent have been successful in securing alternative posts within Children, Families and Education. Tracey has moved to her new post from her previous secondment and Afifa leaves us in October to take up her new post. We wish them all the very best in their new roles.

Within in our Admin Team we have said goodbye to Kerry Oliver and Jill Taylor who provided PA Support in East and Mid Kent. We will also be saying good bye in October to Celia Swain who has been our stalwart training organiser for many years.

The contributions of Kerry, Jill and Celia to our Team have been immense. We wish them all the very best of luck in their new roles.

Ofsted Section 5 Inspection issues

As you are aware, the new inspection framework for safeguarding, that now applies a 'limiting judgement' was introduced in September 2009. Since that time schools and local authority advisers have raised concerns about the inconsistent application of inspection criteria adopted by some Ofsted Inspectors. In particular issues relating to evidencing CRB checks on the single central record, vetting of visiting staff, access to confidential CP records and site security have presented many challenges for schools and raised anxiety levels during the inspection process.

In response to this the local authority has been collating evidence and examples of the issues and Rosalind Turner (Managing Director of CFE) wrote to Christine Gilbert (HM Chief Inspector) on 8 March 2010. If you are interested in accessing this letter and the Ofsted response that was received on 7 April 2010 please go to the following link where correspondence can be viewed.

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/safeguards_policy.cfm

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010

This document has been in existence for many years with the last revision in 2006. The document sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. These acts are the primary legislation from which "Working Together" derives its statutory basis.

The latest revision of Working Together follows the publication of Lord Laming's report "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report" (March 2009); the acceptance by the government of all of his recommendations and their detailed response and action plan published in May 2009. Twenty three of the fifty eight recommendations made by Lord Laming are addressed in the guidance.

The guidance is divided into two main parts. Chapters 1-8 cover statutory guidance (with chapter 5 being the key to understanding the child protection process). Chapters 9-12 cover non statutory guidance. This includes good practice guidance.

Chapter 2 of Working Together to Safeguard Children offers a few brief paragraphs about the role of schools and FE colleges and refers to existing statutory guidance specific to education. There is little change from the 2006 version. However a greater emphasis is placed on the need for the school curriculum to address child protection issues. This includes domestic abuse and sex and relationship teaching, cyberbullying and risks from drug and alcohol misuse.

The role of schools in respect of children with disabilities is also emphasised, particularly with regard to understanding individual children's methods of communication. This section also acknowledges the high level of support that special schools offer families.

The new Working Together guidance can be downloaded at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/workingtogether. It is an important document for education staff who have child protection responsibilities both to staff and for practice in school.

"Safeguarding children in Kent - Defending and developing the Service"

The final report of the review undertaken by Peter Gilroy of child protection arrangements in Kent was made available earlier this year. This was commissioned by the County Council in December 2008, following the publication of the urgent Joint Area Review in Haringey carried out in response to the death in 2007 of Baby Peter. The report can be accessed using the following link

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/safeguarding_children_in_kent.aspx

Serious Case Reviews

The Serious case review process has recently gained a higher profile following well publicised cases such as Baby Peter Connelly and Kyra Ishaq. The CSU intend to include the learning from local serious case reviews in our DCPC refresher training and started this in sessions run last year.

For your information, the Kent Safeguarding Children Board undertook four SCRs across the county in the financial year 2009/2010.

Recommendations for education included:-

- School Staff are requested to use the KSCB policy on assessing underage sexual activity (kscb.org policy and procedures)
- Schools should ensure their arrangements for responding to issues of drug/substance misuse are up to date. This will include both incident management and knowing how to access help or support for young people.
- Schools should be aware of the procedures for escalating concerns when unhappy with the response from Children's Social Services (KSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures manual: paragraph 14.6)

- Schools should be aware of the policy and procedures for commissioning therapeutic services. The guidance was initially published in 2005 and is available on Kenttrustweb. It is currently being revised but issues include agreeing joint protocols for reporting, responding to and managing Child Protection issues. This includes the importance of reviewing progress with therapeutic staff (eg counsellors, play therapists) and the need to ensure that information sharing policy of the therapists professional body is in line with school's CP policy.

Child Death Review Process Training

Since April 2008 it has been a statutory requirement for Kent Safeguarding Children Board to review the deaths of every child, up to the age of 18, who live in Kent. This is whether the death was expected or not. There are 4 main purposes of the review; To improve understanding of patterns of childhood death; to improve response to childhood death; to improve recognition of neglect or abuse leading to childhood death and to improve inter-agency working to prevent childhood deaths.

There is now a half day course available to any staff from all agencies which will provide participants with a basic overview of the child death review process, including the legislative background and the procedures to be followed. Please use the link below to book your place.

http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/new_kscb/kscb_training_programme.cfm

Education Safeguarding Team Contacts – Sept 2010

Head Office – Sessions House

Kel Arthur Education Safeguarding Manager	Office No:	01622 696366 07786 191359
Sue Urwin Children's Officer (Care Standards)	Office No:	01622 696366 07717 716861
Mike O'Connell Children's Officer (Training and Development)	Office No:	01622 696366 07740 183807
Kay Ashman Administrative Assistant (P/T)	Office No: Short code:	01622 696366 7000 6366

West Kent – Kings Hill

Helen Windiate Area Children's Officer (Child Protection)	Office No:	01732 525035 07740 183798
Claire Ray Area Children's Officer (Early Years)	Office No:	01732 525381 07920 108828
Linda Funnell Administrative Assistant (P/T)	Office No: Short code:	01732 525097 7003 5097

East Kent – Clover House

Elaine Coutts Area Children's Officer (Child Protection)	Office No:	01227 284682 07786 191601
Afifa Ali Area Children's Officer (Early Years)	Office No:	01227 284684 07545 423450
Vacancy Administrative Assistant (P/T)	Office No: Short Code	01227 284556 7679 4556

Mid Kent – Kroner House

Kate Davis Area Children's Officer (Child Protection)	Office No:	01233 898696 07740 183797
Angela Chapman Area Children's Officer (Early Years)	Office No.	01233 898696 07717 895731
Jane Frances – Temp (Wednesday/Thursday/Friday) Administrative Assistant (P/T)	Office No: Short Code	01233 898696 7001 8696

NB: Situations involving allegations against members of staff must be discussed with one of the above prior to any action being taken.

Contact Addresses Education Safeguarding Team

Kel Arthur: Education Safeguarding Manager
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Helen Windiate: Area Children's Officer (Child Protection) West Kent
17 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4UL

Claire Ray: Area Children's Officer (Early Years) West Kent
Kings Hill

Linda Funnell: Administrative Assistant – West Kent

Elaine Coutts: Area Children's Officer (Child Protection) East Kent
Clover House
John Wilson Business Park
Thanet Way
Whitstable
Kent CT5 3QZ

Afifa Ali: Area Children's Officer (Early Years) East Kent
Clover House

VACANCY: Administrative Assistant (P/T) – East Kent

Kate Davis: Area Children's Officer (Child Protection) Mid Kent
Kroner House

Eurogate Business Park

Ashford
Kent TN24 8XU

Angela Chapman: Area Children's Officer (Early Years) Mid Kent
Kroner House

VACANCY: Administrative Assistant (P/T) – Mid Kent

Mike O'Connell: Children's Officer (Training & Development)
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Sue Urwin: Children's Officer (Care Standards)
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Kay Ashman: Administrative Assistant (P/T) – Sessions House