



KSCB Newsletter

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KSCB

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Welcome to the first of a series of regular newsletters aimed to communicate the work of Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB).

This Newsletter forms part of our commitment to promoting an understanding that safeguarding children & young people is everybody's responsibility. 'It is also a key part of the Board's communication strategy and is aimed to complement the work progressing on our new website which will be launched in September 2007.

We aim to provide you with an overview of important safeguarding developments on a national, regional and local level and give a flavour of some of the work of Kent Safeguarding Children Board as it continues to evolve.

The Board's key focus of activity will be to ensure that child protection arrangements in Kent are effective and well co-ordinated – working together arrangements across all agencies to help those children who have suffered, or who are at

continuing risk of suffering harm. It will do this in the context of adopting a broader safeguarding agenda – working with communities and across agencies to identify and act upon concerns about children's safety and welfare.



Graham Badman
Chair of KSCB

Developments Planned for 2007/08

- ✿ New Child Protection Procedures
- ✿ Establishment of Safe Recruitment & Employment Group to support safer working practices
- ✿ 'New specialist
- Child Protection courses such as 'Risk Assessments'; 'Sex Offenders'; and Serious Case Reviews
- ✿ Launch of the KSCB website
- ✿ Child Death Review Panel
- ✿ Establishment of Publication & Communication Group
- ✿ KSCB Conference in the Autumn

What do you think?

The current Kent Safeguarding Children Board Website was developed a number of years ago by the Kent Child Protection Committee, the predecessor to KSCB.

The Board has identified that a new site needs to be designed and this is currently in development.

The new website will provide information not only for professionals but also parents/carers, children and young people on the work of the board and on safeguarding in general.

A users' feedback form has now been posted on the present site asking for comments on what the new website should look like, how we should modernise it and

bring it up to date and what should be included.

Please visit the website and complete the questionnaire.

Recent National Serious Case Reviews

Duncan & Harte were convicted for cruelty towards their 4-year old daughter with cerebral palsy. She had been taken into care by **Westminster** Council but was then returned to her parents.

"the professionals in this case were too parent-focussed, and whilst the children were undoubtedly the focus of professional concern, they were not generally the focus of professional interventions"

The serious case review criticised the professionals for being "inappropriately optimistic" and "adult-focused". [Westminster Executive Summary](#)

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board reviewed the case of 18-year-old Paul Smith, convicted of the murder of 10-year-old Rosie May Storrie in 2003. The Family contributed to the review [SCR - Paul James Smith](#)

Peterborough LSCB reviewed two children who died in a house fire believed to be started by the oldest child whilst left unsupervised [Peterborough March 07](#)

"Whilst the Social Worker may take the lead in conducting Assessments, the involvement of the agencies who also know & work with the family, is essential. The commitment by all relevant to engage in the assessment process must therefore be reinforced in practice"

Schedule One Offender is Released

The Department of Education and Skills have asked us all to stop using the term Schedule One Offender and to use instead the term "risk to children". This should be based on all available information including that provided by relevant agencies, such as assessments of risk made by probation, police, health, whether individually or via the multi-agency public protection arrangements.

The reason for this change is that 'Schedule One Offender' does not describe the level of risk the offender may present to children, and the Government want to promote the practice of assessing situations as they arise and making judgements about risk based on that assessment. The term 'Schedule One Offender' is a label that lasts for life and that takes no consideration of the circumstances of the offence, a childhood conviction for instance for a playground fight may be

subjected to scrutiny all their life, regardless of the likelihood of re-offending against children. There is a concern that this practice may well be subject to human rights challenge in the future.

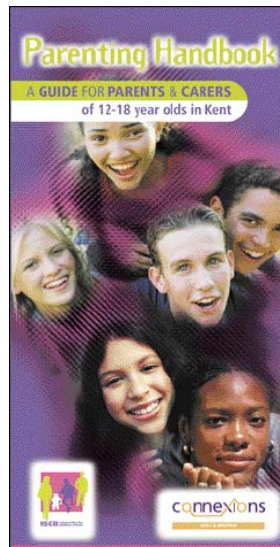
The revised procedures reflect this change and give clear guidance about how to manage situations where there are adults or young people who are a risk, or a potential risk, to children. Home Office Circular 16/2005

Teenage Parenting Handbook has arrived!

A parenting handbook offering advice and guidance to parents is being distributed by KSCB as part of the latest in a series of initiatives designed to offer more support for parents, carers and their families across the County. Every family experiences difficulty from time to time and this can test the best of parents. At these times it may be hard to think about what help or information you might need.

The handbook offers ideas, advice, information and helpful contacts for a range of topics includ-

ing Adolescence & puberty;



Bullying; Eating disorders; tell-tale signs; Internet abuse & exploitation; Missing from home & running away; Sexual health; and other areas relating to the Government's 'Every Child Matters' framework of key themes: Enjoy and Achieve, Be Healthy, Make a Positive Contribution, Achieve Economic Well-being, Staying Safe. For parents issues like coping with demands; untidiness & helping at home and how teens test your patience is also covered.

E-Safety

The release of these posters coincides with Kent County Council running two Safeguarding Children Online conferences, in partnership with Kent Police, for head teachers, e-Safety and child protection co-ordinators and ICT co-ordinators.

The training day, which took place on 19 March at Kent Police College, informed teachers about the international threat the internet poses, the KCC e-safety policy, and how to protect children online and appropriate messages to give to students.

Rebecca Chapman, e-safety officer at Kent County Council: 'We're delighted with the response to the conferences from schools across the county. We hope that the e-safety conference, the revised e-safety policy for schools and the publication of posters will encourage students and teachers to think about the risks online and learn about the

steps that can be taken to minimise these online threats.

'A co-ordinated approach is needed to tackle online risks in our schools and Kent County Council is committed to ensuring that our children and young people are educated about online risks and know how to deal with incidents of online abuse. This means working with teachers, parents, students and local and national agencies to provide information about risks and practical advice and guidance about what can be done to control our own online experiences.'

Young people, their parents and teachers can find out more about these threats and safeguarding against them by visiting sites the following sites:

www.kent.police.uk

www.clusterweb.org.uk?

esafetyblog

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.childnet-int.org

www.internetsafetyzone.com

www.bbc.co.uk/chatguide

A further training day will be held on the 11th May at Kent Police College



Who's watching **your** children?



Once you send a picture you can **never** get it back.



New Child Protection Procedures Coming

The current Kent & Medway Child in Need/Child Protection Procedures were written in April 2001. These can be accessed by following link: [KSCB Website](#)

Since then, there have been enormous developments in Safeguarding Children and the Kent

Safeguarding Children Board has decided with Medway Council to commission an Independent Company to help us update them.

Children Act Enterprise (CAE) who have many years experience working with local authorities and

significant knowledge on child protection policies, was selected for this mammoth task.

The Policy & Procedures Sub-group is due to meet on 27th April 2007 to progress further the work that that will need to be completed for the launch in the Autumn.

Snippets!

New legal powers for teachers and schools in England have come into effect. The 2006 Education and Inspections Act sets out teachers' right to break up fights, restrain and discipline unruly pupils and to confiscate items like mobile phones. It is also hoped the legislation will help tackle cyber-bullying via mobiles and the internet. <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2006/20060040.htm> Education and Inspections Act 2006

The NSPCC has published the latest edition of Exchange - a newsletter of information and analysis to support the work of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. [Exchange 3](#)

Ofsted took over responsibility for inspecting children's services, schools and colleges on 1 April 2007. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills will handle all reports from the Children's Rights Director for England.

The DfES has given the information sharing index the name

"Contact Point". ContactPoint is a basic online directory to help practitioners find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier to deliver more coordinated support. [ECM ContactPoint](#)

The DfES has published NSPCC research into ways of measuring how well children and young people are being kept safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation. [Towards a public service agreement on safeguarding](#)

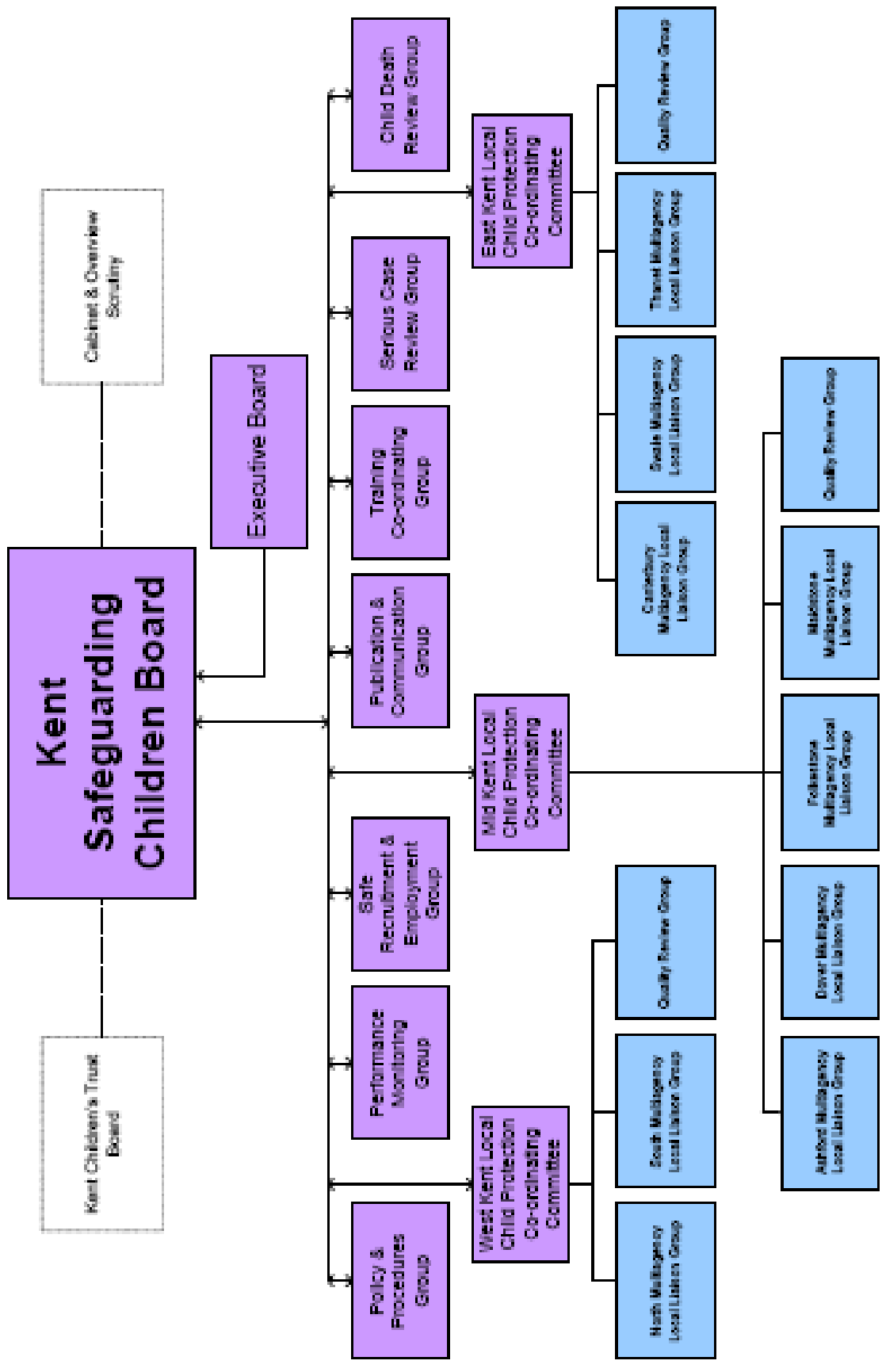
There are an estimated 5,000 sex slaves in Britain aged under-16s, according to research for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It also found that trafficking into the UK for sexual or domestic labour involves hundreds or even thousands of women and children. [Modern Slavery in the UK](#)

Research in Practice has published its latest update. It includes reviews of articles on care proceedings; emergency

powers; sexually exploited young people; and recurrence of maltreatment. [Research in Practice](#)

A joint protocol on dealing with cases involving abuse or serious concerns about the welfare of a child has been agreed by the DfES, DH, CSCI, the Healthcare Commission and Ofsted. Available online [Protocol for Managing Serious Incidents](#)

The DfES has published updated statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004. This version published on the 18th April 2007 replaces the 2005 version. <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/5D626022D46F04B8D25452A991B06D2E.pdf> This guidance on the duty to cooperate is part of an interlocking set of [guidance on the Children Act 2004](#).



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KSCB newsletter

We're on the Web!
www.kscb.org.uk



What do you think?

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of KSCB Newsletter and found it informative – please share it with anyone who you feel will benefit from reading it.

If you have any comments, queries or suggestions for articles for future issues, or a new title for the KSCB Newsletter, please contact the KSCB Manager: Penny Davies email Penny.davies@kent.gov.uk or telephone 01622 694856 or address as above.

All articles not otherwise attributed are by Penny Davies, KSCB Manager.

Action Needed To Prevent Accidents To Children

A more coherent approach is overdue at a local level to help prevent accidental injuries to children, according to a new joint report published today by the Audit Commission and the Healthcare Commission.

Better Safe Than Sorry: Preventing Unintentional Injury to Children says that each year there are approximately two million attendances by children at hospital accident and emergency (A&E) departments as the result of accidents. Many of these accidents could be prevented.

The accidents cost the NHS approximately £146 million per year and the most recent figures show that accidental injuries kill three children in every 100,000 each year – a similar rate to cancer.

Injuries such as those caused by burns, falling down stairs at home, slipping on railway embankments and poisoning, are a leading cause of death and illness in children aged 1-14, and account for approximately 120,000 admissions to hospital a

year.

However, understanding of the underlying causes of children's injury is patchy and the actual number of injuries each year is unknown.

Although the overall number of deaths has fallen, the report shows that there are persistent and widening differences between socio-economic groups. Children of parents who have never worked, or who have been unemployed for a long time, are 13 times more likely to die from unintentional injury than children of parents in higher managerial and professional occupations.

[Better Safe Than Sorry link](#)

