

Kent Safeguarding Children Board

# KSCB Newsletter



## Welcome by Police Lead on KSCB

My name is Lee Catling, Detective Superintendent in the Public Protection Unit and Serious Case Review Unit in Kent Police. I am a full member of the KSCB and am delighted to be given the opportunity to compose the foreword for this 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

My portfolio responsibilities includes the management of; the Public Protection Crime Unit, a pro-active investigative team who deal with child exploitation on-line and force wide investigations into paedophile activity, institutionalised child abuse and the broader issues that affect my area of business. A further addition to my portfolio includes; the Serious Case Review Team, who have traditionally dealt with 'Cold Case' review of homicide and 'stranger rapes' but have now a broader portfolio to include the Serious Case Reviews of child abuse specifically, but including reviews of vulnerable adult abuse, domestic abuse, missing persons and the new MAPPA Serious Case Reviews.

In covering such a broad portfolio I am a standing member of a large number of County and National Boards external from the Police service including

KSCB, KMDVSG, MAPPA, Family Justice Council, as well as a representative on the ACPO Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Boards to name a few!

Within the Force I have developed an Audit and Inspection regime, which is now in its second phase. This is designed to be the mechanism by which management information can be collected and actual operational work can be inspected to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the department's work. Whilst I am the strategic lead at Force Headquarters, the service delivery occurs on the six policing areas across the County within their respective Public Protection Units. These units are accountable not only to me, but to their Area Police Commanders.

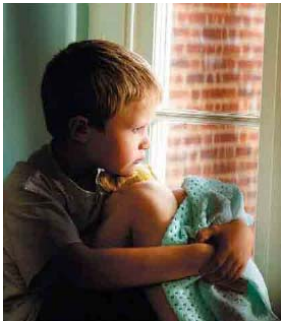
Kent Police invest heavily in the work of protecting vulnerable people and specifically children and value very highly their relationships with partner agencies, particularly the KSCB. I see my role as vital in ensuring Kent Police actively engage with partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensure our statutory responsibilities are discharged,

Much work has been undertaken in recent times by all agencies under the umbrella of the KSCB and I am pleased to be part of a dynamic and energised Board. I know there is commitment for the challenges ahead in discharging our responsibilities within the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006. There are some pressing issues approaching around matters such as; Child Death Review Panels, Allegations Management and Safer Working Practices to mention but a few. I am confident that as a Board we are well placed to meet those challenges and look forward to being part of the team that drives this business forward and ultimately delivers better outcomes for children in Kent and beyond.



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## Leaving Children Alone

Following the disappearance of Madeleine McCann whilst on holiday with her parents in Portugal, people have expressed concern as to what is legal with regard to leaving children. The law does not in fact actually specify a minimum age at which a child can be left,

however, it is an offence to leave a child alone when by doing so puts them at risk. The NSPCC have developed an very good leaflet on this entitled *Home Alone* which can be found on their website. [www.nspcc.org.uk/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/)

## New KSCB Website

### KSCB Website

The new KSCB website became operational on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and can be accessed for the new Safeguarding Procedures.



The website is a living website and will evolve as time goes on. Currently it contains details of the KSCB and its sub-groups, upcoming events, accessing training events, hyperlinks to other local/national government policies and guidance and will be the 'One Stop Shop' for all KSCB information and matters. There is a information for parents and carers as well as children and young people.

For any further information on the above items or any other matters please contact Penny Davies, Safeguarding Board

Manager to the KSCB on

[penny.davies@kent.gov.uk](mailto:penny.davies@kent.gov.uk) or telephone – 01622 694856



## Know IT All for Parents



How to be safer on-line

## Internet Safety - Guidance for Parents

Childnet International has issued a CD-ROM for parents called 'Know it All for Parents' it is a straight forward guide for parent about getting the most out of the internet and keeping children safe at the same time. The Kent Safeguarding Children Board has free copies of the CD-ROM and it has been issued to all Kent County Council Foster Carers.

Copies have also been made available to parents via schools and were also available at the Kent Safeguarding Children Board

Conference in November. Agencies can obtained copies from the Kent Safeguarding Children Board Administrators.

For further information about Childnet International go to [www.childnet-int.org](http://www.childnet-int.org)

# National Serious Case Reviews

**Executive summary of serious case review concerning 'A' d.o.b. 22.3.96 - d.o.d. 18.4.06.**

The Report commissioned by Bristol LSCB summarises the Serious Case Review into the

death of child "A" who died after falling into a bath of scalding hot water at her home.

The report looks at the issues of neglect which surrounded the case and presents conclu-

sions and recommendations arising from it.

The Overview Panel was chaired by NSPCC Children's Services Manager, Elizabeth Morris.

**BSCB** Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Executive Director of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Report commissioned by BRISTOL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Executive Director of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Chair of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Chair of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Chair of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Chair of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Chair of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

*"There was a lack of critical analysis of known information with incidents being treated discretely in isolation from each other"*

# Kent & Medway Safeguarding Procedures 2007!

The **new** and comprehensively updated Kent Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Procedures became operational on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007. They replace in their entirety the former Kent Area Child Protection Committee (KCPC) child protection procedures which were issued in 2001. All old Kent KCPC child protection & children in need procedures should be destroyed! The full procedures are over 450 pages long!

KSCB have therefore distributed across the county 30,000 handy pocket practitioner guides, which include all the main chapters people need to know to help keep children and young people safe in Kent. They have been sent out to all the statutory agencies, private and voluntary organisations as well as faith communities. If you have not received yours, contact us!

The full procedures set out the roles and responsibilities of agencies and individuals and how they should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

They are based on the premise that 'safeguarding is everybody's business'. Their target audience is everyone, including you! . Whether you are working in a statutory, voluntary agency or community / faith group you need to know about these and know what to do if you have concerns about a child.

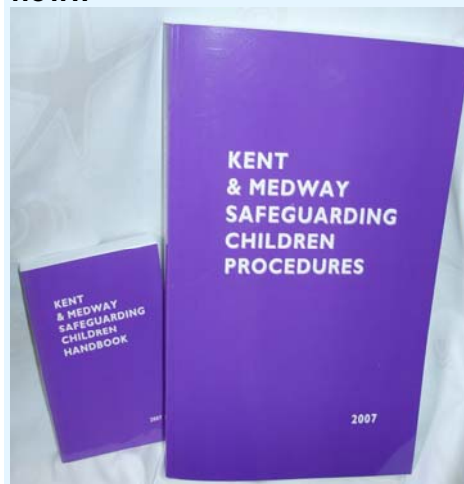
They cover:

- \* roles and responsibilities;
- \* sharing information;
- \* recognition and response;
- \* children in specific circumstances;
- \* referral and assessment;
- \* child protection enquiries;
- \* child protection conferences
- \* implementation of child protection plans;
- \* working with uncooperative families;
- \* mobile children and families;
- \* unexpected death of a child;

- \* risk management of known offenders;
- \* organised and complex abuse; allegations against staff;
- \* supervision and training;
- \* safer recruitment;
- \* LSCBs, quality assurance and conflict resolution;
- \* serious case reviews.

Also includes appendices covering frameworks and other documents.

**Oh yes... and this is where you can access the all-new Kent & Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures 2007, click here now!!**



# The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

This legislation came into force in November 2006 following the recommendations of Sir Michael Richard's Inquiry.

The Act provides the legal framework for the new Independent Safeguarding Authority and the scheme. These are due to be introduced in a phased roll-out from Autumn 2008. Various sections in the Act came into force on the 31st December 2007, 2nd January 2008. Another key date is the 11th February 2008 [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/uksi\\_2007](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/uksi_2007)

Provisions introduced by the Act will include:

The integration of lists: POCA, (Protection of Children Act list), POVA, (Protection of Vulnerable Adults list) and List 99. The Disqualification Order Regime will be replaced by the new scheme.

Creation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority – with the aim of preventing those deemed unsuitable to work with chil-

dren or vulnerable adults from doing so. Ministers will no longer have a role in making decisions on individual cases

Continuous checking – when significant new information comes to light, original decisions will be reviewed and the employer will be notified.

Workforce coverage – an extension from regulated social care settings

Reduced bureaucracy – once in the system employers will be able to check on line free of charge

Wider range of sources of information – including non-conviction information

Further information including a series of 5 fact sheets can be found at <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/independentsafeguardingauthority/>

## Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

### CHAPTER 47

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*I congratulate him on this accolade and all he has achieved for Kent to date." Peter Gilroy*

## Graham Badman, Chair of KSCB awarded CBE

Graham Badman, Kent County Council's Managing Director for Children, Families and Education, has been awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours list.

The honour, given by HM The Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, is for his service to local government. Graham has devoted more than 30 years to public service as teacher, headteacher, Chief Inspector and Director in Avon, Oxfordshire and latterly in Kent.

Graham joined KCC in 2002 as the Strategic Director for KCC's Education and Libraries Directorate and took over the role of Managing Director of Children, Families and Education in 2006."

Graham Badman said: "I am obviously

delighted to be honoured in this way but any leader is only as good as the people who work with him. It is therefore my hope that others will see this as recognition of the work of the whole service and I'd like to express my thanks to all those colleagues in the directorate and beyond who have worked with me since 2002."

Leader of KCC Paul Carter added: "This honour is richly deserved. Graham has given so much of his life to public service, from teaching at a school through to managing the biggest education authority in the country.

KCC Chief Executive Peter Gilroy commented: "I am delighted that Graham's long and distinguished service in local government has been recognised so highly. ..."

# Snippets!

Law



Believing a child to be 13 or older is not a mitigating factor when sentencing an offender, the Court of Appeal has ruled. The law does not allow a child under 13 to consent to sexual activity in any circumstances.

**0-18 years: guidance for all doctors.** Guidance from the General Medical Council which sets out the responsibilities for all doctors when dealing with children and young people, underlining their duty to safeguard their health and well-being. It provides advice on sensitive and complex issues which doctors may face and outlines legal issues e.g. concerning consent to treatment and confidentiality. Also gives links to further sources of information and advice.

Website: [http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/archive/GMC\\_0-18.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/archive/GMC_0-18.pdf)

**Updated guides help understanding & use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)** The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has announced it has updated and published two guides to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for children and young people. One is aimed at managers working with the CAF and one is tailored for practitioners who are interested in discovering more. Guides available at <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/commonassessmentframework.htm>

**The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)**, a new body set up to help reform vetting practices in England, Wales & Northern Ireland, today announced Adrian McAllister as its first Chief Executive.

**The Court of Appeal has ruled that a local authority owed no direct duty of care to a father in investigations** carried out by social workers into allegations of sexual abuse by him of his daughter. <http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/reports/article3097438.ece> 27

**New crackdown on sex trafficking** A crackdown on human trafficking has been launched by police forces across Britain and the Irish Republic. It aims to rescue women and children forced to work in the sex industry and prosecute gangs who are profiting. Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said she could not



Research

guarantee smuggled victims would not be removed but pledged to give them a 30-day reflection period.

**Talking families, talking communities.** Report of research commissioned by Calor Gas with YouGov into how parents and children communicate and how well families connect with their local communities. Includes advice from ChildLine for parents on talking to children. Also looks at the way families get involved in knowing their neighbours and helping to provide a more secure environment for children. <http://www.calor.co.uk/report/M10997.Final%20Child.Line.Report.v4.pdf>

**Research in Practice** has published its latest research and policy update. It includes commentary on research into looked after children, low-income families as well as notification of forthcoming research on children's research and the vetting and barring scheme. [http://www.rip.org.uk/rpu/rpu\\_current.asp](http://www.rip.org.uk/rpu/rpu_current.asp)



**Involving children and young people in decision-making.** SCIE looks at the participation of children in decisions made about their care and includes messages for practitioners about the competences required by adults and children.

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2007/09/13/105766/involving-children-and-young-people-in-decision-making.html>

**Poverty and parenting.** Examines the research study 'The relationship between parenting and poverty' by Ilan Katz and others, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2007. The research explored the extent to which poverty itself affects parenting and whether other parental characteristics undermine parenting capacity or exacerbate the chances of being poor. The research is available at <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=910>.



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## Safeguarding The Children of Kent

we're on the Web  
[www.kscb.org.uk](http://www.kscb.org.uk)

## Going to Court?

**A step by step guide to being a witness.**

This is an excellent resource of a DVD presentation of an easy-to-follow animation seen through the eyes of a court witness.

It explains why victims and witnesses are so important in the court process and what they will do while at court.

It has separate routes for prosecution and defence witnesses to follow at their own pace and witnesses can also take a tour of a magistrates', Crown, and youth court. It also includes a frequently asked questions section at the end.

The DVD can also be viewed online at: <http://video.direct.gov.uk/goingtocourtvideo/>

## KSCB Training Programme 2008-2009

From April 2008 the Kent Safeguarding Children Board will be introducing significant changes to its well established programme of inter-agency training and development opportunities.

KSCB aims to ensure that all those working with children and young people and their families are aware of their role and responsibilities in safeguarding children and young people and work effectively together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to protect those children and young people who have experienced, or are at risk of, abuse and neglect.

Building on induction and introductory training provided within their own organisations staff and volunteers are invited to consider which level of KSCB training matches the type of responsibilities they have in their work with children and young people and/or their parents/carers.

Staff are advised to obtain agreement from their managers which level of training best meets their

needs and to use the courses on offer as a pathway. For example those attending advanced courses will be required to complete courses at level one and two or provide evidence of their attendance at alternative training events which have met a similar set of learning outcomes.

The Programme will be placed on the website in March. New training courses will include Sexual Exploitation, E-Safety, Serious case Reviews, Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements as well as advanced courses in other safeguarding issues!

Our new 'Safeguarding Children E Learning course', will be available online via the KSCB website from April 2008. Requiring a commitment of 1- 2 hours study, this new format of learning allows for flexible study of some important issues. The course aims to provide a basic safeguarding knowledge for staff and volunteers and it will also be the foundation for those wishing to attend future KSCB inter-agency training events.