



A quarterly safeguarding newsletter brought to you by the Stockport Safeguarding Unit.

Issue number: 3

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Who should read this Newsletter?

Welcome to the third issue of the Stockport Safeguarding newsletter.

This newsletter is for anyone who has an interest in safeguarding, or works in safeguarding.

We hope you will find the content informative and useful to your roles and we welcome any feedback or suggestions for future content to lsb@stockport.gov.uk

Message from the Independent Chair

It is a pleasure to introduce our third newsletter. The views of professionals and service users are important to us so if you do have any ideas/articles for inclusion in future editions please tell us about it, contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Gill Frame



Changes to Stockport Safeguarding Children Board

Why are we making changes?

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) set out provisions which will replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) with new, more flexible working arrangements led by 3 safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police and clinical commissioning groups), and places a duty on those partners to make arrangements to work together with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the area.

Under the new legislation, the responsibility for Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) has also changed. They will now be referred to as Serious Child Safeguarding Cases and the responsibility will move to a National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel).

The Panel will commission and publish reviews of serious child safeguarding cases which it thinks raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The Local safeguarding partners will still be required to complete local reviews where the partners believe there are lessons to be learned much like our multi agency learning.

What will the new arrangements look like in Stockport?

Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership will replace the Stockport Safeguarding Children Board. Its governance and structure will be streamlined to make sure we utilise resources in the most efficient ways whilst ensuring that the partnership is continuously driving improvements in practice and focused on demonstrating improved outcomes for children and families.

Our proposal is to have a more streamlined structure and it has been agreed that the Safeguarding Children Partnership will consist of an Executive Group supported by a Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Partnership and a Practice Improvement Partnership. There will be 3 Joint Partnership Working Groups (Adults and Childrens) that will support the partnership to deliver its priorities and business plan –namely:

- Complex Safeguarding
- Early Help and Prevention
- Training and Development

We want to maintain our close alignment with the Adult Safeguarding Board. The detail as to which partner agencies will sit on each group is still being worked through.

A Rapid Review Panel (that will oversee referrals for Serious Child Safeguarding Cases and local reviews) will be in place.

Our approach is to strengthen the engagement with front line practitioners in order to keep you informed and involved with the work of the safeguarding partnership and for the strategic leads to get your view on safeguarding on the front line. We want to introduce locality engagement sessions to keep you informed of the work of the partnership and to share good practice, learning and what works well; along with re-establishing the newsletters.

When will the changes take place?

Our new arrangements have now been published on the new website, [click here](#).

What difference will it make to you in your role?

You will not see much change. You will still be able to contact the Safeguarding Partnership through our Business Unit. Our website will be updated with our new name but will contain the same useful information <http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk/> and we'll continue to offer the same training opportunities that we always have <http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk/practitioners/training/> and the multi-agency policies will continue to be in place and updated as previously <http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk/practitioners/policies-and-procedures/> .

Taxi drivers accused of serious sex crimes

Fears have been raised that taxi drivers are "shopping around" England to find the easiest way to obtain a licence.

Recently, the government has said it was tightening taxi safety guidelines and considering stopping drivers from operating hundreds of miles away from where they were licensed. Click on the link provided to read the full report: [Wolverhampton taxi drivers accused of serious sex crimes](#)

Knife Crime

As part of the Home Office's work to reduce knife crime among young people, the #Knifefree campaign has been relaunched.

There are a series of adverts showing real-life young people who have turned their lives around after deciding to go knife free. There is a dedicated #Knifefree website which can be accessed at www.knifefree.co.uk and provides advice, signposts support services and highlights activities to empower young people to change their behavior.

Educational resources can also be accessed [here](#) by professionals working with young people to educate them about the dangers of knife crime.

Resolving Professional Disagreements/Escalation Policy

It is every professional's responsibility to 'problem solve'. Communication is extremely important and is the key to resolving professional misunderstandings or disagreements. For further information and guidance on disagreement and resolutions, [click here](#).

SAR Briefing Sessions

We have recently delivered five SAR briefing sessions that were all well attended by various professionals from both children's and adult's services. The sessions were well received with access to learning resources such like, 7 minute briefing papers and the SAR reports.



Access to the SAR reports and briefing papers can be found here: [SAB website](#). Click on the subheading "safeguarding adults reviews".

Alert - Recruitment of interpreters for the purpose of re-trafficking victims

We have been notified by our colleagues of the following situation: *"One of the customers of another language services, who supports victims of trafficking, has alerted them that gangs may be recruiting interpreters for the purpose of re-trafficking victims during face to face appointments. A situation has occurred with one of their victims in London and hence they wanted to alert all relevant networks to be vigilant when using interpreters in case this is not a one off issue."*

Some tips on how to be observant when using interpreters:

- Never leave the interpreter alone with a victim, especially in waiting rooms or reception areas.
- This includes not just visually but also within earshot to ensure no subtle communication is taking place.
- Please ensure victims leave at different times to an interpreter.
- Be wary of any interpreting activity that seems out of the norm or not in keeping with what is being asked to be interpreted.
- If a victim looks distressed in the presence of an interpreter, cease the session immediately.

Unfortunately, even interpreters with full references, qualifications and DBS checks may still be involved in trafficking gangs, so if you have any doubts or hesitation about the quality of an interpreter, please tell your language service provider immediately.”

Calendar of events

Please take the time to look at the [Calendar of events for 2019](#). The calendar is for people and organisations to use for planning throughout 2019.

Information, guidance and websites

The next Safeguarding Newsletter will be circulated in the Autumn. If you have any news to share we would like to hear from you. Please call Lee Woolfe on 0161 474 3590 or email lsb@stockport.gov.uk



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