



2010/11 ANNUAL REPORT and 2011/12 BUSINESS PLAN

Funding Partners:

Peterborough City Council
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
NHS Peterborough
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Probation Trust
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)

Board Partners:

As above
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust
Peterborough Community Services
Adult Social Care
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue
Schools and Educational Establishments
Young Lives representing the Voluntary sector

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INTRODUCTION:

I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB), the annual report for 2010/11.

Nationally, this has been another year of significant change in respect of safeguarding. Firstly, the revised interagency statutory Guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' was published in March 2010, following the publication of Lord Laming's report 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report', a year earlier. The PSCB ensured that its multi agency procedures were revised in line with the new version and hosted a number of workshops for practitioners to attend.

In June 2010, the new Secretary of State for Education commissioned Professor Eileen Munro to conduct a review of child protection in England. Two interim reports were published in October and February examining firstly how the current child protection system had evolved and secondly the child's journey through the child protection system. The final report was published in May containing 16 recommendations which together propose a fundamental change to the systems currently in place to safeguard children. The Government's response to the review and the subsequent changes required of the PSCB and its partner agencies will be the focus of much of our work in the coming year.

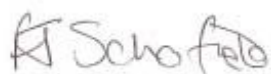
I took over as Chair in May 2010 at the beginning of a challenging year both because of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review and subsequent reductions in resources and the disappointing judgement from the Ofsted inspection of services for safeguarding and looked after children. However, the Safeguarding Board has responded positively to the issues raised by the inspection and I believe we have made significant progress over the last 12 months.

Specifically we have established a closer working relationship with the Cambridgeshire local Safeguarding Children Board, combining three of our subcommittees and sharing a far greater proportion of our training and development. This approach has been particularly welcomed by those agencies that cover both safeguarding board areas and is a more efficient use of our scarce resources.

We have stepped up our focus on performance management, agreeing an overarching framework in January which sets out the Board's expectations with regard to both quantitative and qualitative reporting. We also signed off the outstanding actions from serious case reviews completed in previous years and learnt some important lessons about the need for realistic action plans, which we intend to apply to the serious case review we are currently undertaking.

A business planning half day in February identified the priorities for the coming year and these are set out in the 11/12 Business Plan, which is an appendix to this annual report.

I should like to thank both partner agencies and the PSCB staff for their time, enthusiasm and commitment over the last 12 months in supporting the work of the Board and its sub committees.



Felicity Schofield
Chair

Statutory Basis

The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) is established under section 13 of the Children Act 2004 which required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) by the 1 April 2006. Detailed guidance, issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, is contained in Working Together to Safeguard Children; Chapter 3 (revised 2010). The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 has introduced a requirement for LSCB's to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

Purpose

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board's purpose is to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of local arrangements and services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment; and
- preventing impairment of children's health and development; and
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Protecting children from maltreatment is important in preventing the impairment of health or development though that in itself maybe insufficient to ensure that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care. These aspects of safeguarding and promoting welfare are cumulative and all contribute to the five "Every Child Matters" outcomes.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm. (Working Together, Ch1, paras 1.20, 1.21, 1.22, 1.23 and 1.24)

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board undertakes its work mindful of the diverse needs of children and will promote equality of opportunity.

In order to promote the highest standards of safeguarding work Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board fosters a culture of constructive challenge and continuous improvement by and between member organisations.

Vision

Our vision is to safeguard and protect all the children of Peterborough.

Scope

The purpose of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board is achieved through:

- Engaging in activities that safeguard all children and aim to identify and prevent maltreatment or impairment of health and development
- Leading and co-ordinating proactive work that aims to target particular groups
- Leading and co-ordinating arrangements for responsive work to protect children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering, maltreatment.

Chair

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board has an Independent Chair and has done so since its inception in 2006. The membership of the board and groups are listed at Appendix 1.

Attendance

Attendance at Board and all groups is strictly monitored and poor attendance is taken up by the Chair. The monitoring of the Board reveals good attendance with the use of named deputies when required. Membership of groups has been reviewed as there have been some gaps in agency representation most frequently as a result of staff moving on to other jobs or other organisations.

Overarching Strategic Objective

To scrutinise and challenge the effectiveness of the agencies in meeting their safeguarding standards in order for children and young people to be safe and achieve positive outcomes

Strategic Priorities 2010/11

The business plan for 2010-2011 highlighted the following priorities –

- 1) Performance management
- 2) Improve processes and procedures
- 3) Improve practice
- 4) Training
- 5) Raise public awareness

Each of the groups responsible for these strategic priorities have highlighted the work of their groups during the financial year 2010-2011 below

Quality Assurance Group

A number of significant actions have taken place within and for the LSCB QA group in this year.

The meeting was chaired for much of the year by an interim chair person. During her period as chair person an audit was undertaken in respect of unborn babies. This multi agency audit examined 25 unborn baby cases and produced an action plan which includes a re-audit of unborn baby cases in October 2011.

In January 2011 the Children's Social Care Service Manager for the Integrated Safeguarding Service took over as the permanent chair of QA group. Since then the group has written a quality assurance and performance management framework which was agreed by the Board in January and has set out clear terms of reference for the group.

Part of each meeting is used to review an agreed data set so that we can identify trends and follow up on areas that are either 'stuck' or declining, for example the QA group had a presentation and report from the Safeguarding Manager in Children's Social Care in respect of the increased number of children with a second or subsequent child protection plan. This reassured the group that this target was being carefully monitored and that the reasons were understood and acceptable.

The group also has feedback on audit activity in each agency and identifies trends and themes. Any concerns or themes that the QA group consider necessary are shared with the Board to ensure that the Board has oversight and is kept updated.

During this year, the QA group was responsible for the Section 11 audit. All agencies returned their audits and the findings were analysed by a number of the QA group members. From this we have asked the Safer Recruitment Group and the Strategic Learning and Development Group to take on relevant actions and feed back to the QA group. The QA group will also undertake a relevant audit either as a result of the Section 11 return or in relation to the current serious case review.

Policy Practice and Procedures Group

This has been a year of change for the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire groups which amalgamated on 25th January 2011, and is chaired by the Police Head of Child Abuse Investigations.

The initial meetings focussed on the setting of terms of reference; review and rationalisation of work streams and of the structure of attendees for the joint group. This has ensured a cohesive transition to the new group; extended the membership to create a deeper pool of expertise and a new centralised venue has assisted in the efficient and effective utilisation of the attendee's time.

Within the work plan the group has;

- developed a cross border protocol which has now been implemented across all agencies,
- the escalation policy has been reviewed, strengthened and is now implemented
- New Arrivals Communities research forwarded to Munro review as good practice
- Working Together briefing papers prepared and circulated

The group has reviewed the policies and guidance that is available via the LSCB's and identified those that need reviewing. These have been prioritised and an initial tranche of four have been allocated to small sub groups for scrutiny and updating if

applicable in light of any legislative, individual agency policy or practice changes to ensure compatibility and compliance with those areas.

Strategic Learning and Development Group

Over the past 12 months the SLDG has been very active and has been well attended by members of the PSCB partner agencies. The group has focussed on ensuring consistency and quality of safeguarding training across Peterborough.

Working Together levels of training have been mapped and implemented consistently across all of the partner agencies. Health colleagues are required to work to the training levels contained in the Health Intercollegiate document but these have also been mapped against those contained in Working Together 2010. Work is currently being undertaken to ensure that safeguarding training outcomes are consistent across the city.

A tool has been designed that will measure the impact that safeguarding training has on practice. Once the tool has been signed off by the SLDG it will be used by all member agencies to produce a twice yearly report on the impact of their training.

A number of audits around safeguarding training have been undertaken over the past year. The results of these audits have been used to amend and influence the training programme and content of courses.

The SLDG continues to be responsible for the validation of single agency safeguarding training. A number of courses have been validated over the past year and a few have been refused validation as they were not fit for purpose and did not meet the standards that had been set by the validation panel. Whilst there has been an increase in the number of agencies who have applied to have their training validated in 2010-2011, a lot of agencies have still not put their training through the validation panel. This will need to be addressed by the SLDG IN 2011-2012.

A training pool is being re-established to assist in the delivery of single agency basic safeguarding training. A train the trainer course is being run in June 2011 in conjunction with Cambridgeshire LSCB to give people the skills that they need to deliver training within their own agency. A standard basic safeguarding training pack will be devised by the SLDG in 2011-2012. This pack will be agreed by all partner agencies and will be used when they deliver basic safeguarding training. It is recognised that agencies have differing needs so the training pack will have a standard core content that all agencies must deliver but each agency can add their own content to the course to ensure that agency specific information is addressed

Communications and Information Group

The group has extended its membership to include a representative from the police and has endeavoured to include representation from agencies who can contribute the views of young people. This remains an objective for 2011-12

The main piece of work has been to develop a communication strategy to reflect the responsibilities of the Board and to raise public and professional awareness of the importance of safeguarding and the work of the Board and its partner agencies.

We have also developed a flowchart and accompanying guidance on the response to media attention following a serious safeguarding incident or a Serious Case Review

The website and newsletter continue to be effective tools in disseminating information to a wide audience. The website has been regularly updated to reflect changing legislation, research and practice

The board hosted an effective and successful presentation made by young people on a subject of concern of their own choosing. This was about "Sexting" and has been made into a DVD which it is intended to be made available to Peterborough Schools

Safer Employment Group

The group has continued to promote safer employment standards across Board partner agencies and to provide safer employment training. We have also raised awareness of safe working practice across the Children's Workforce including those transporting children and those working in faith settings

The Vetting and Barring Scheme and Criminal Records Bureau Review have now been published and key information has been disseminated to partner agencies. Recruitment policies previously developed by the group will need further amendment to reflect the changes, once more detail becomes available

The group has established a multiagency interview pool for the use of any partners who are required to undertake a "personal" interview. The group has also received the six monthly Local Authority Designated Officer report for their information and comment

Safe recruitment related topics comprised a significant component of the Section 11 audit the Board partner agencies have completed. The group has undertaken some preliminary analysis of the returns and has been commissioned by the QA group to review partner agencies employment standards in greater detail and report back to the Board by October 2011

Some members have also contributed to a Peterborough City Council Safe Recruitment Task and Finish Group and when completed this work will be available to partner agencies for their use or amendment as appropriate

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Child Death Overview Panel

The Cambridgeshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a subgroup of both the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) and the Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (CLSCB). It was established in April 2009 and complies with the statutory requirements set out in Chapter 7 of "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2010. Its statutory function is to review all child deaths in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. There are two interrelated processes for reviewing child deaths, the paper based review of all the details by fixed core membership panel and the rapid response team.

The purpose of the review is to assess whether the death was preventable, which might prompt action to prevent future such deaths or to identify any patterns or trends in the local data and report these to the LSCB

In the past twelve months, 58 children died in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and 58 children have been reviewed, 38 from Cambridgeshire and 20 from Peterborough. The Annual report can be found on our website and relates to information about deaths reviewed in the last year, not deaths in this calendar year. Of deaths

reviewed, 20 were unexpected, 3 had Serious Case Reviews (SCR) completed, for another a health management review was completed, and for another a SCR was considered but not deemed necessary following a post mortem report. Of the children reviewed, modifiable factors were identified for 7, which could potentially reduce deaths in the future.

Whilst there may be many adverse conditions or events leading to a death of a child, the main areas where modifications could make a difference were:

- Road related deaths.
- Self-harm.
- Drowning,
- and deaths of infants or babies with correlating factors, for example deprivation, young parents, chaotic lifestyles, mental health problems.

New Developments and Good News

Escalation

In May 2010, a strengthened escalation policy was approved in order to assist all partners in resolving disagreements/issues in work relating to the protection of children & young people.

The key principle underpinning the policy is “it is every professional’s responsibility to ‘problem solve’. The aim must be to resolve a professional disagreement at the earliest possible stage as smoothly as possible, always keeping in mind that the child and young person’s safety and welfare is the paramount consideration.

Front Door arrangements

A very useful workshop was held in December 2010 to consider the experience of agencies’ use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and referrals to Children’s Social Care. 20 representatives from Health, Education, Schools, Social Care, Youth Offending, CAF/CASS and Integrated Youth Support debated the issue.

The Board is now receiving information regarding outcomes from the CAF process from the integrated processes project group. In addition Peterborough City Council is launching a new integrated front office for Children’s Social Care.

Road Safety Research

In March 2010 the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Child Death Overview Panel approached Young Lives to carry out some research with young people looking at; what makes a good road safety message? How should road safety messages be delivered? and where should they be delivered?

Acknowledging the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Team already have a programme they run in schools, we were asked to work with young people not in mainstream education to collect their thoughts and ideas. In total 34 young people from 5 different groups took part in this research project. The full report can be viewed here:

http://young-lives.org.uk/content_page.php?cid=225&osCsid=a50b03290882df6e189e4090b9ddbba8

Young Lives

What worries young people?

Peterborough City Council wanted to commission a project that not only addressed the current issues that young people face, but that also engaged them in a fun activity and gave them a means of expressing themselves and developing skills. As a professional actor/director Rosie Jones from Blumint Media was asked to work with the young people, discover what concerned them, and then devise a piece of theatre relating to those issues.

They developed a short piece called "Sexting: Privates in Public". It deals with young people sending images of themselves via text message and the possible harmful outcomes. It was very well-received by the Council and Safeguarding Boards, and Rosie is currently arranging to take the show to various schools and colleges in the area. The show is best suited for Year 10 (but would also be fine for years 9 and 11) and is approximately 15 minutes in length.

Voluntary Sector Conference: There is no excuse for Child Abuse

In January 2011 Young Lives held an event entitled "There's no Excuse for Child Abuse". The presenters were Donald Findlater from Stop it Now, both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO), Richard Oliver from the Paedophile Investigations and High Tech Crime Unit, both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Training Managers and Flick Schofield Chair of both Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LSCB's.

The event was well attended with 43 attendees from a wide range of organisations.

An example of positive working together: Police and Social Care

The Child Abuse Investigations Unit, have had another productive year ensuring that the police's responsibilities to protect children are addressed. Here is an example to illustrate this work:

Following a disclosure from a young girl that a relative was sexually abusing her and the perpetrator had potential access to other children, police acted quickly and arrested the suspect. In conjunction with Children's Social Care the Police set about identifying and protecting other children that may have also been at risk from this person. He suggested that the allegations were all made up, inferring that the victim had had a troubled childhood and that he would never have abused her. By securing physical evidence, further information was obtained of the abuse. The perpetrator denied any involvement, even suggesting that other relatives could have been involved. Again, through diligent and detailed investigations, the only person that could have committed the offences disclosed by the victim was the suspect. He was subsequently charged and received a custodial sentence and on release will be subject to Sexual Offences Prevention Order, which will restrict his contact with children in the future.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The Named Nurse, Assistant Named Nurse and the Named Midwife are now situated within one office in the new Peterborough hospital, which is a very positive move resulting in improved team working.

Following the visit to Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust by the Care Quality Commission in November 2009, the trust set up a Children and Adults Safeguarding Committee. The success of this committee has been shown in the improvement of all safeguarding children's services within the trust and this has been backed up by the improved Section 11 report which was completed in January 2011.

The maternity team from Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundation Trust celebrated after being highly commended in an award from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Maternity (APPGM).

The team, based in Peterborough's maternity unit, was recognised in the 'inclusive services for disadvantaged groups and communities' category at the awards, which acknowledge inspiring or innovative work in improving local maternity services. They were presented at the APPGM summer reception on Monday (19 July) at the Terrace Pavilion, Houses of Parliament.

The APPGM, which is serviced by the NCT charity, is a cross-party group whose aim is to highlight maternity issues within Parliament and bring together health professionals and service users with politicians.

The team was rewarded for its work with vulnerable women.

Some of the aims of the initiative were to reduce non-attendance at appointments; provide outreach services to vulnerable women, including those who have suffered abuse, have addiction problems, learning needs or mental health issues; provide a one-stop shop model for antenatal care; whilst providing individualised care to woman and their families and working in partnership with other agencies.

In October 2011 the Named Midwife was the winner of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust living the Values Award (Caring) for her work within Safeguarding and caring for Vulnerable Women. This all falls within the values of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust of Caring Creatively for Families in the Community.

Health Safeguarding Groups

In 2010/11 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Safeguarding Children groups have combined to form a county wide forum.

The county wide group ensures the promotion of best practise consistently across the health economy and is a sub group of both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Boards.

The meeting is attended by Designated and Named Safeguarding Children Professionals, Designated professionals for Looked After Children, Lead Commissioners for children, young people and maternity services, Managers with lead responsibility for safeguarding.

The group meets bi – monthly and has a range of objectives which include

- Sharing best practise
- Planning of training.

- Monitoring and reviewing recommendations from audits inspections and serious case reviews
- Promoting ways of working with agencies.
- Discussing new and updated policies produced by the LSCB.

Our priorities for 2011/12 are

- Maintaining focus on integrated collaborative safeguarding working practices during organisational changes across the agencies – sharing the lessons.
- Implications from the Eileen Munroe report.
- Promoting outcome focused auditing.

It has remained our priority to ensure that Safeguarding Children is at the heart of all commissioning and provider arrangements.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust

The safeguarding team have created a number of new resources to help staff develop their knowledge and competence in identifying and managing safeguarding concerns. This includes a new handbook and a range of staff briefings on subjects from e-safety to dealing with disclosures. A new e-learning module has significantly improved staff uptake of mandatory training. Significant work has gone into developing clear guidance for women during the peri-natal period and for children displaying sexualised behaviours. The safeguarding team look forward to exciting opportunities resulting from working with new colleagues from Peterborough Children's Services.

CAFCASS

The Private Law process has become standardised for efficiency through the Cafcass national Business Centre located in Coventry. All new applications in Private Law –Residence and Contact, are progressed in accordance with the president's Renewed Interim Guidance (1st April 2010) and in line with the Practice Direction (effective from 1st April 2010). Applications are screened within 24 hours of receipt – requests are made for checks with the police and the local authority.

On 1 October 2010, a new Early Intervention Team was implemented to ensure all applications to the Court have been assessed for any risk issues and these safeguarding assessments are filed in a letter to the Court prior to the first directions appointment. The Early Intervention team ensure that all checks are returned and the parties are interviewed by telephone. Cafcass Practitioners attend at the all first directions appointment to advice the Court and assist with ensuring that any decisions taking for progressing the matter are safe.

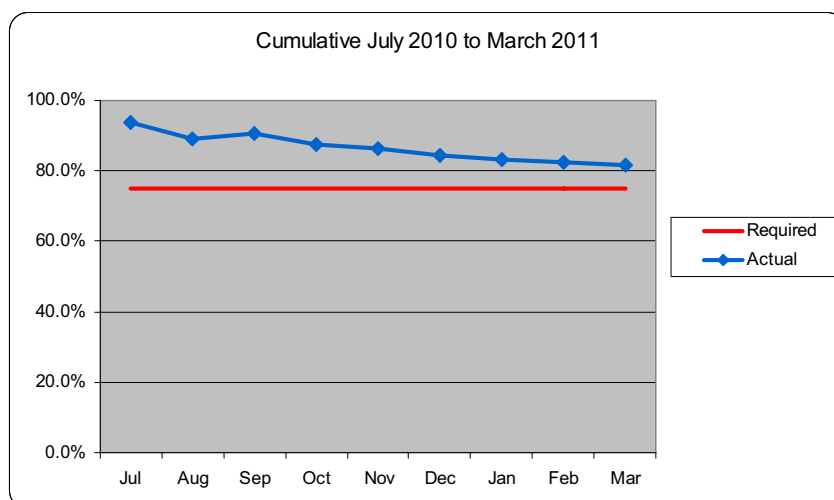
Post Ofsted Inspection

Following on from the Inspection by Ofsted of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services in March 2010, an improvement notice was served on the City Council which resulted in an action plan being developed. A Project Management Board was established and the Board monitors the improvement notice targets. The Chair of PSCB is a member of that Management Board.

The following information shows the end of year performance against the targets set by the Department of Children, Schools and Families, now the Department for Education. It demonstrates improvement in all the identified areas over the year. In addition the Chair and Business Manager from the PSCB have undertaken audits on aspects of multi agency work such as the assessments of unborn babies and initial and review child protection conferences. In this way the Board is able to demonstrate a more robust approach to scrutiny.

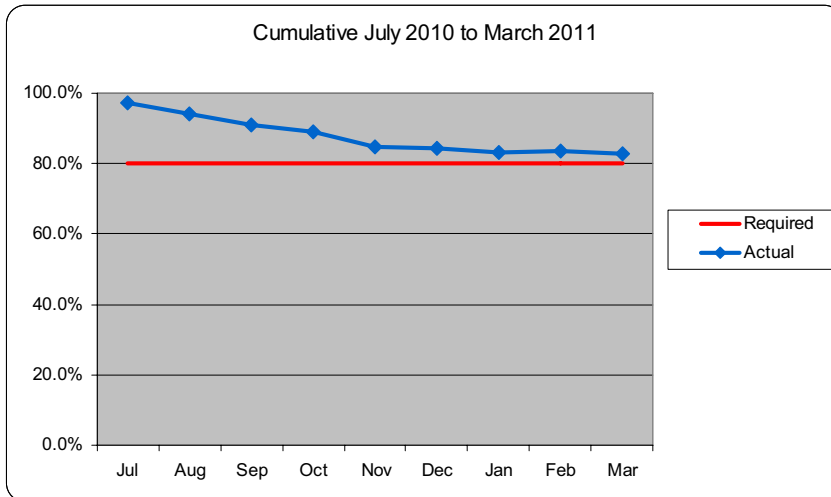
1. 75% Initial Assessments completed within 7 working days.

no. completed	no. within time	% within time
854	696	81.5%



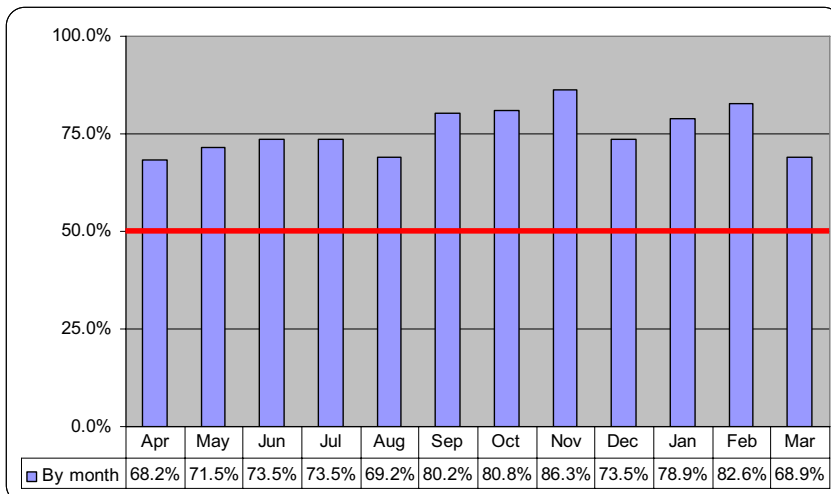
2. 80% Core assessments completed within 35 working days.

no. completed	no. within time	% within time
286	237	82.9%



3. Percentage of children referred to Children's Social Care which went on to an initial assessment does not drop below 50% in any given reporting month

68.2%



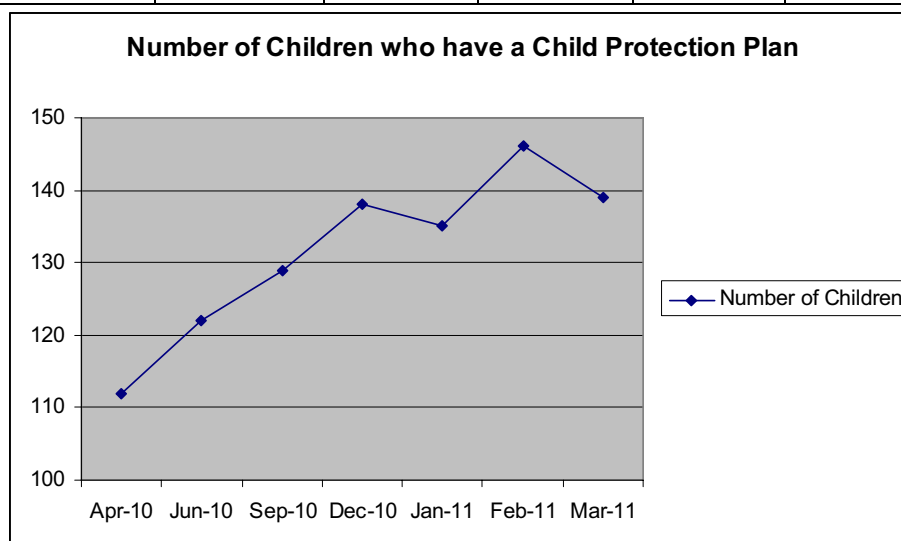
SUMMARY OF RELEVANT CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board receives a 3 monthly report on relevant child protection activity from the Safeguarding Team Manager.

Below is a summary for the year April 2010 – March 2011.

Number of children who have a child protection plan

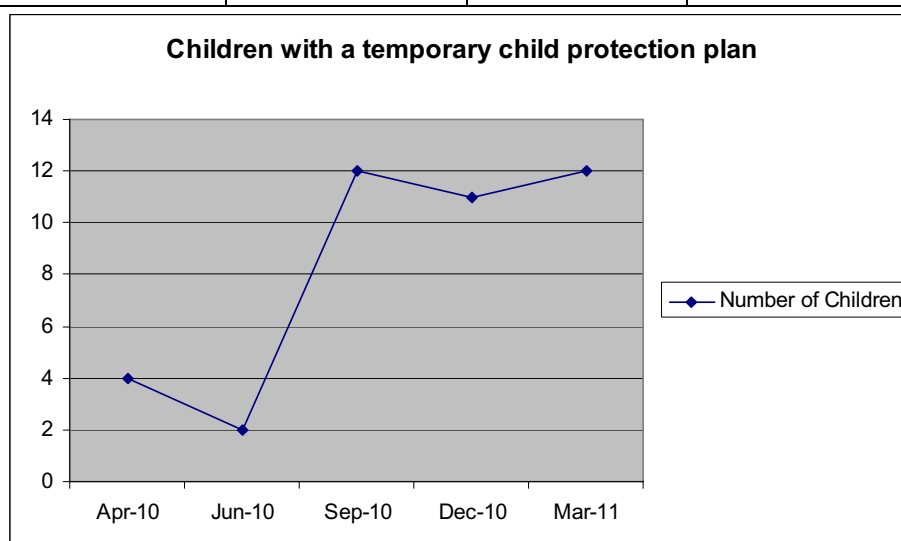
April 2010	June 2010	Sep 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	March 2011
112	122	129	138	135	136	139



This increase in Peterborough is broadly in line with the reported increase nationally.

Children with a temporary child protection plan

April 2010	June 2010	Sep 2010	Dec 2010	Mar 2011
4	2	12	11	12



There continues to be an increase in the number of children and young people who have a temporary child protection plan as shown above. From these temporary plans 14 children from 5 families subsequently settled and have child protection plans in the city.

AGE AND GENDER

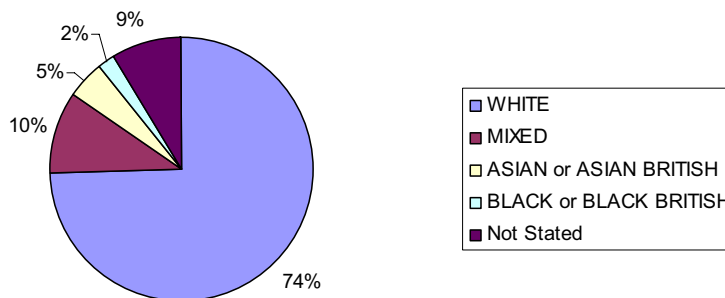
By the end of March 2011, 46.7% of children subject to a child protection plan were under 5 years old. This remains higher than general trends in other local authorities who see approximately 1/3rd in each age range. There remains a higher rate of males subject to a child protection plan than females.

Age	April	June	Sept	Dec	Jan 11	Feb 11	March 11
Under 1	12	16	19	14	13	14	11
1 - 4	38	43	42	49	52	51	54
5 - 9	30	29	32	41	35	35	42
10 - 15	32	34	35	29	31	33	29
16 +			1	5	4	3	3
Gender							
Male	66	69	75	73	74	72	77
Female	46	53	54	65	61	64	62

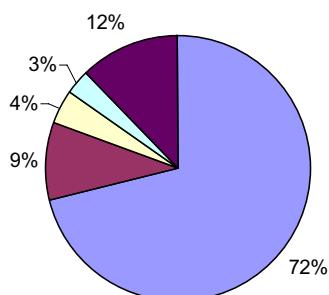
ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN WITH A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

There have been some minor changes in the ethnic breakdown of children with a child protection plan but this remains generally consistent with data from last year when each month recorded similar figures.

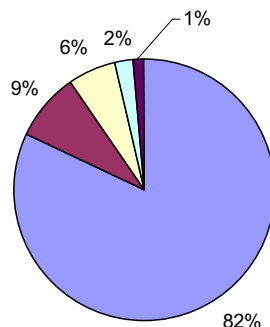
Ethnic Background June 2010



Ethnic Background Dec 2010



Ethnic Background March 2011



CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

There had been a practice in Peterborough of using a combination of categories. This is not in line with guidance in Working Together. This was addressed in September. The following table shows a continued reduction in the use of multiple categories.

Category of abuse or neglect which triggered the Child Protection Plan

	April	June	Sept	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Neglect	31	37	32	49	57	59	66
Physical	1	1	1	11	10	11	15
Sexual	20	16	11	2			
Emotional	19	20	27	35	34	38	38
Combination	42	48	58	41	34	28	20

Category of abuse as a % nationally. (Taken from the 2011 presentation "A World of Change in Child Protection" by R Sneddon & M Calder, Calder Training and Consultancy.)

	1997	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Neglect	36%	39%	41%	43%	43%	44%	45%	45%	43%
Physical	36%	19%	19%	18%	16%	15%	15%	15%	14%
Sexual	21%	10%	9%	9%	8%	7%	7%	6%	5%
Emotional	14%	18%	18%	19%	21%	23%	25%	25%	28%
Combination	1%	15%	14%	12%	11%	10%	7%	9%	10%

The table below shows how the Peterborough figures for 2010 - 2011 compare with the National Figures given over.

	2010 National %	March 2011 Peterborough
Neglect	43%	48%
Physical	14%	11%
Sexual	5%	0%
Emotional	28%	27%
Combination	10%	14%

This suggests that we are now broadly in line with the national figures in the categories used.

NEW AND DISCONTINUED CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

Month	New Child Protection Plans	Discontinued Child Protection Plans	Variance
April	15	17	-2
June	20	13	7
Sept	11	11	0
Dec	11	4	7
Jan 11	10	14	-4
Feb 11	6	6	0
Mar 11	11	14	3

LENGTH OF TIME THAT CHILDREN ARE SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

On 31st March 2011 the number of children with a child protection plan for 12 months or more was 18 children (from 9 families). There were 2 children (from 1 family) who had a child protection plan for 2 years or more.

The Child Protection Co-ordinators have a robust process in place for monitoring those children that have had 3 Child Protection Conferences, i.e. 15 months with a Child Protection Plan. This ensures that the effectiveness of the plan is reviewed and monitored in order to be satisfied that successful interventions are being achieved to reduce or mitigate potential harm and to assure a sustainable plan.

With regard to reviews of child protection cases held within timescale Peterborough has continued to achieve 100% against this target.

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Parental Feedback

The Safeguarding Team have developed a questionnaire that will be used when a child protection plan has been removed as a result of positive work with the family and the risk being reduced.. This was implemented in 1st February 2011.

The feedback from families will be used to develop the service and the results will be included in the regular reports to the Safeguarding Board.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The service is very aware that it needs to develop the way in which children and young people are enabled to participate in the child protection process. The Child Protection Coordinators are working with Social Workers, from the point of referral to the Safeguarding Service, to help them be clear about how a child or young person's views will be heard by conference. The Coordinators are supporting the view that there should be a very good reason why there would not be a referral to the advocacy service for a young person, rather than a referral to advocacy was the exception. Coordinators are also now during the opening of a conference asking, and recording, whether any young person has had the opportunity to attend the conference, why they are not present and how their views will be represented.

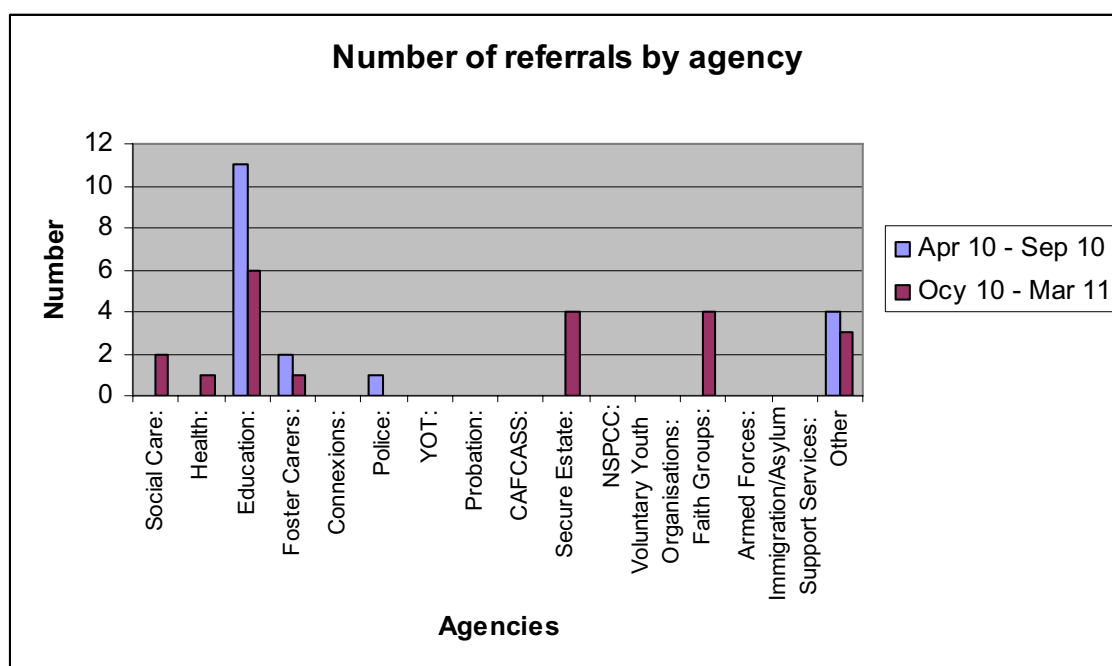
This is a beginning in engaging young people in the process and the service will continue to develop this in the coming months.

SUMMARY OF DETAILS PERTAINING TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO)

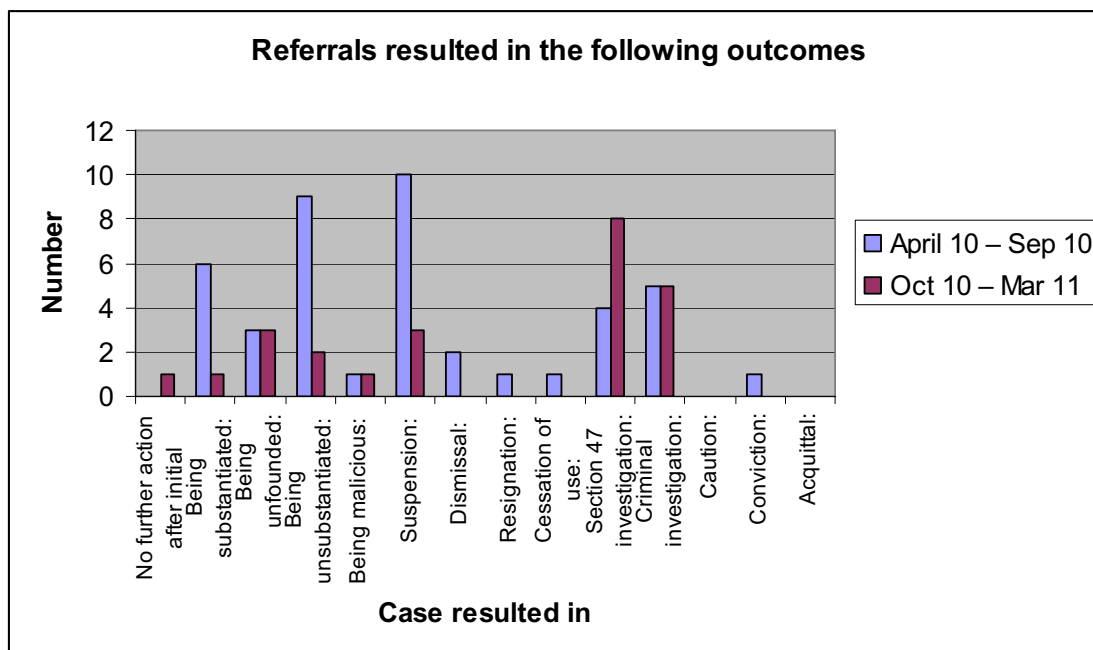
As with child protection activity Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board receives a 6 monthly report. Below is a summary for the year April 2010 – March 2011.

Working Together 2006 introduced the concept of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who has the responsibility to have oversight of all allegations against a professional working with children from beginning to end, (subsequently updated by Working Together 2010). The LADO must also provide advice to employers, liaise with the police and other agencies, monitor the progress of cases, collect relevant data and report on this data. The LSCB has a responsibility within this guidance for ensuring that there is effective inter-agency procedures in place for dealing with allegations against people who work with children, and for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of these procedures.

Total number of allegations referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)		
Number of Allegations	Apr 10 – Sep 10:	Oct 10 – Mar 11:
	19	21



The highest number of referrals came from those groups that have the most direct contact with children and young people and the highest percentage of allegations concern physical abuse, followed by sexual abuse.



Resolution:

Working Together 2010 at 6.33 states:

In evaluating the effectiveness of local procedures LSCBs should have regard to the need to complete cases expeditiously. Data about allegations made against education staff show this it is reasonable to expect that 80% of cases should be resolved within 1 month, 90% within three months and that all but the most exceptional cases should be completed within 12 months, although it is unlikely that cases require a criminal prosecution or a complex police investigation can be completed in less than three months.

It goes on to state at Appendix 5; 11:

Indicative target timescales are shown..... Those are not performance indicators: the time taken to investigate and resolve individual cases depends on a variety of factors including the nature, seriousness and complexity of the allegation, but they provide useful targets to aim for that are achievable in many cases.

Resolution Data:

Resolution time:	April 10 – March 11
Concluded within 1 month	17 (41.5%)
Concluded within 3 months	5 (12.2%)
Concluded within 12 months	3 (7.3%)
Concluded within 12+ months	1 (2.4%)
Ongoing	15 (36.6%)
Total	41

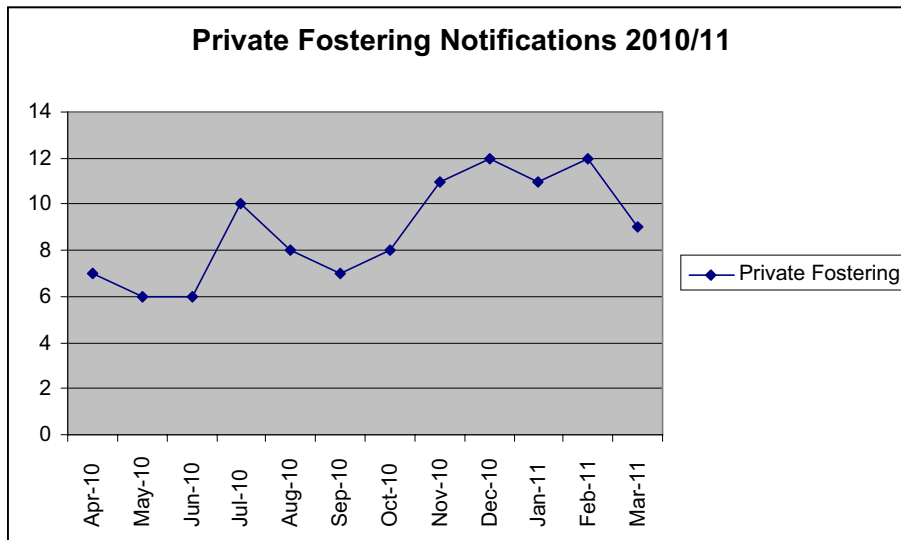
This data reveals Peterborough's service is in line with expected timescales.

The LADO is working closely with regional colleagues to begin to understand each others thresholds, to inform and fuller discussions about LADO practices and to develop greater consistency in practices across the Eastern Region.

PRIVATE FOSTERING

WHAT IS PRIVATE FOSTERING?

If you are under 16 (or 18, if you are disabled) and you are looked after by someone else who is not a close relative (your brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, legal guardian or step-parent), for more than 28 days, then you are being privately fostered. The person who is looking after you is a private foster carer and the law says that Children's Services must be told, because it is their job to make sure that children and young people are looked after properly.



The private fostering officer has continued to raise the profile of private fostering within the City. This is an ongoing process, and all partners are asked to be vigilant in assisting in recognising situations which are private fostering.

BUDGET 2010 - 11:

Contributions from partner agencies:

Income in £ from Agency	2010 - 11
Peterborough City Council:	68,915
Children's Social Care	
Learning & Skills	
Youth Offending Service	
Young People's Service	
Health	54,642
Police	39,741
Probation	11,044
CAFCASS	550
TOTAL	174,892

Costs:

Staff Costs (inc. on costs)	110,765
Independent Chairing – LSCB	29,192
Printing & Publications includes translations	15,549
Website	5,340
Consultants (Overview Authors and trainers)	9,890
Training venues & refreshments	7,853
Other Supplies and Services (includes photocopying, stationery etc)	2,817
TOTAL	181,406

Business Plan 2011-2012

Our overarching strategic objective remains to scrutinise and challenge the effectiveness of services delivered to children and families in Peterborough in order for children and young people to be safe and achieve positive outcomes.
Each group is responsible for their delivering their own work plan to progress their objectives

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

	Objective	Lead	Actions & Timescales	Outcome
1.	Embedded performance management framework	QA group	See Framework in Appendix 2	Board members have sufficient knowledge and understanding to challenge individual agencies as appropriate

IMPROVE PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

	Objective	Lead	Actions & Timescales	Outcome
2.	Ensure a confident and effective workforce through safe recruitment practices	SEOG group QA group	Implement training and procedures Audit HR files Detailed on group workplan	Action plan following audit
3.	Implement and embed recommendations from the Munro report and the Government's response to it	PSCB Chairs group	Deliver multi-agency workshops Following publication of report (May 2011)	LSCB meets revised requirements

IMPROVE PRACTICE

	Objective	Lead	Actions & Timescales	Outcome
4.	<p>Ensure PSCB policies, procedures and practice guidance are developed, reviewed and implemented and compliant with Equalities Legislation In particular review and update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for working with sexually active young people • Guidance for working with families experiencing domestic violence • Joint mental health protocol • Provision of therapy for child witnesses • E-Safety guidance • Updating the pre-birth procedures • Children missing from home and care protocol 	<p>Joint PPP group</p> <p>QA group</p> <p>E-Safety group</p>	<p>Detailed on the PPP work plan</p>	<p>Updated practice guidance available on website</p>
5.	<p>Work more closely with the adult safeguarding board regarding areas of joint interest (single delivery plan)</p>	<p>LSCB Chair & PSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>Combine Communications subcommittees September 2011</p> <p>Identify areas for joint work October 2011</p>	<p>Raised awareness of safeguarding in the community</p>

TRAINING

	Objective	Lead	Actions & Timescales	Outcome
6.	Increase effectiveness and efficiency of training delivery	Strategic Learning & Development group	Detailed on work plan	Training evaluations
7.	Ensure all agencies in Peterborough submit their single agency training for validation to PSCB	Strategic Learning & Development group	Arrange regular validation panels - 3 in the year	Agency training is included

RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS

	Objective	Lead	Actions & Timescales	Outcome
8.	Develop a communication strategy to raise awareness. This should include a mechanism to ensure children and young people are involved.	Communication & Information group	Detailed on Comms work plan	Raised awareness of safeguarding across Peterborough

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Role and Responsibilities of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board

The Board has the following members:

Name	Agency
Felicity (Flick) Schofield	Independent Chair from 1 May 2010
John Richards	Director Children's Services & Chair of Children's Trust Executive Group
Jackie Day	Independent Chair - Child Death Overview Panel
Andrew Brunt	Assistant Director Children's Social Care from July 2010
Mel Collins	Assistant Director, Learning & Skills
Sue Mitchell	Associate Director Commissioning for Public Health, Children and Maternity Services, NHS Peterborough until September 2010
Janet Dullaghan	Assistant Director Children's Community Health from July 2010
Alison Reid	Chief Operating Officer, Peterborough Community Services until November 2010
Mandy Renton	Executive Nurse NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from November 2010
Simon Megicks Mark Hopkins	Det.Supt Cambridgeshire Constabulary until January 2011 Assistant Chief Constable Cambridgeshire Constabulary from January 2011
Tim Bryson	Director of Nursing & Quality, Cambs & Peterborough Foundation Trust
Chris Wilkinson	Director of Nursing, Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Margaret Lowe Mike Dyson	Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Cambridgeshire until September 2010 Assistant chief Probation Officer, Cambridgeshire from November 2010
Issy Atkinson	Service Manager, CAFCASS
Lynn Chesterton	Integrated Safeguarding Service Manager, Children's Social Care
Venkat Reddy	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, NHS Peterborough
Julie Darkin Ann Marie Aslett	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children Peterborough NHS until November 2010 Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from March

APPENDIX 1

	2011
Ted Welsh	Team Manager, NSPCC until January 2011
Nick Edwards	Service Manager , NSPCC from March 2011
Nikki Davis	Manager of Entry to Employment, Peterborough Adult Learning Service
Tim Bishop	Assistant Director, Adult Social Care
Wendy Coleman	Community Safety Advisor, Cambs Fire and Rescue Service
Becky Morland	Psychologist Youth Offending Service
Lia Howlett	Young-Lives; representing the voluntary sector until December 2010
Angela Haylock	Young Lives; representing the voluntary sector from January 2011
Kathy McDermott	Head Teacher ;Representing Primary Schools
Georgie Billin	Asst. Principal; Representing Secondary Schools
Cllr John Holdich O.B.E	Lead Member, Education, Skills and University
Cllr Sheila Scott	Lead Member, Children's Services
Elaine Lewis / Marie Southgate	Legal Services Peterborough City Council

Meetings are held bi-monthly.

Role and responsibilities:

- to ensure the PSCB and its Operational groups fulfil the statutory functions as laid out in Working Together 2006 (revised 2010)
- to provide strategic direction, co-ordination and planning in respect of the interagency safeguarding functions of the Board
- to be an effective motivator for setting and maintaining standards for the work of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board
- to undertake the Board's monitoring and inspection role in respect of any partner organisation that is not performing effectively
- to agree the budget for the Board
- to maintain a focus on safeguarding during times of organisational change

Wider Board Membership

These members contribute to the work of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board through applying their expertise to the Operational Groups or time limited task groups

Roles and responsibilities:

- to carry out specific tasks, e.g. reviewing serious cases or identifying inter-agency training needs
- to provide specialist advice, e.g. in respect of children with disabilities or adults who pose a risk to children

APPENDIX 1

- to bring together representatives of a sector to discuss relevant issues, e.g. the voluntary and community sector, faith groups.

Operational Chairs

The **Operational Chairs Group** is drawn from the wider board membership and meets bi-monthly to ensure that the business of the PSCB is coordinated and focussed

Roles and responsibilities:

- to devise the draft PSCB Work Programme based on the priorities agreed by the Board
- to ensure all operational groups establish their own work plan based on the PSCB Work Programme
- to ensure review progress of the work plans
- to identify and coordinate any work which crosses over between groups
- to produce the draft Annual Report
- to bring to the attention of the Board any matter which is a potential challenge to the PSCB achieving its aims.

Serious Case Review Group

The PSCB has the responsibility for:

- managing the process of undertaking a Serious Case Review (SCR)
- appointing an independent SCR panel chair and independent overview writer
- quality assuring the documentation and process
- ensuring Ofsted requirements and national guidance [Working Together] are fulfilled.

The PSCB will lead the reviews of serious cases which may indicate operational safeguarding arrangements within the Children's Trust and across agencies may not be of a satisfactory standard.

The PSCB will co-ordinate and disseminate the lessons to be learned and monitor the effectiveness of the Board and the Children's Trust to deliver against the actions recommended by the SCR.

The PSCB has responsibility for ensuring that the collaborative response of the Children's Trust and the Board for an SCR meets the Ofsted regulatory requirements and inspection standards

Child Death Overview Panel

The PSCB has the responsibility for the statutory Child Death Overview Panel and is working with Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Children Board to ensure a coordinated response to all child deaths across the county. A joint Child Death Review Panel has been established to

- collect and analyse information about the deaths of all children in the area and ensuring any necessary action is taken

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- put in place procedures for ensuring a co-ordinated response by all relevant agencies to the unexpected death of a child and, once those procedures are in place, to monitor their effectiveness
- The PSCB will disseminate the work of the panel to the Children's Trust to inform strategic service development where relevant.

The panel consists of membership from the following:

- Jackie Day, Independent Chair
- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust
- Public Health for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Cambridgeshire County Council (Children and Young People's Service)
- Peterborough City Council Children's Services
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Designated Paediatricians for safeguarding
- Designated Nurses
- A representative from the coroners office
- NHS Peterborough (Commissioning and Provider)
- NHS Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust (Commissioning and Provider)
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Business Managers from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LSCB's
- Other members to be co-opted as and when appropriate to ensure membership reflects the characteristics of the local population, provide a perspective from the independent sector, or contribute to the discussion of certain types of death

The Chair and Vice Chair are accountable to the LSCB Chair

Policy, Practice and Procedure Group

The PSCB has the responsibility for:

- developing and implementing local safeguarding procedures
- ensuring Children's Trust appropriately applies policies, procedures and protocols
- engaging with, receiving, researching and disseminating national guidance, good practice and initiatives e.g. The PSCB would build primary relationship with Government Departments as appropriate.

The PSCB will oversee and identify areas of good practice and areas requiring further practice development and/or protocols for local delivery e.g. recommendations from an SCR on inspection.

The PSCB will "horizon scan" national good practice and new national guidance and will keep the Trust informed of those.

NB: As from Jan 2011 this has become a joint group with Cambridgeshire LSCB

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Communication and Information Group

PSCB has the responsibility for:

- raising public and organisational awareness of safeguarding
- providing information about the work of PSCB, e.g. via leaflets, PSCB website
- providing information for children and parents involved in child protection processes
- consulting on relevant issues with children, young people, parents and carers.
- establishing a media strategy on behalf of the PSCB which includes how safeguarding will be positively marketed and promoted through the media

The PSCB will be responsible for the annual report to the Children's Trust which will comment on safeguarding within the city

Strategic Learning and Development Group

The PSCB has the responsibility for:

- Ensuring there is an effective safeguarding training strategy that is compatible with the children's services Workforce Development Strategy.
- Being assured that the Children's Trust workforce in individual and integrated services are being appropriately trained.
- Reporting to the trust on the effectiveness of training.
- Validating training provided.

Validation and Monitoring of Training

This role for Safeguarding Boards was set out in Working Together 2010. Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Local Safeguarding Children Boards have jointly agreed a validation process that used to validate/endorse basic safeguarding training across the 3 areas. The idea behind the validation is to ensure that safeguarding training that is being delivered is good quality and includes up to date relevant information.

PSCB has been commissioned by the Children's Trust to deliver safeguarding training and at the same time PSCB is statutorily responsible for the quality assurance of training

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board will contribute to, and work within, the framework of the workforce strategy and will advise the Children's Trust of any training and development issues.

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Quality Assurance Group:

The PSCB has the responsibility for monitoring the performance of the Children's Trust

- This will be done through monitoring performance against national indicators, regular audits and joint audits.
- The indicators form part of local area inspections as an integrated approach to measure how well partners serve the local population
- In addition monitoring the organisations with a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, or section 175 or section 157 of the Education Act to ensure they are fulfilling their statutory obligations

This will be the major vehicle for advising the Children's Trust of what the PSCB regards as the challenges for the Children's Trust to address.

Safer Employment Operations Group

This group has the responsibility to establish effective recruitment processes and practice to keep children and young people safe.

It will:

- Promote safe practice
- Challenge peer and unsafe practice
- Support the provision of training
- Contribute to a safer recruitment strategy for children's services.

E-safety group

Peterborough and Cambridgeshire have established a joint group in order to:

- Support agencies in the safer use of Information Technology
- To promote awareness of E-Safety issues
- To develop standards by which agencies can self audit
- To develop procedures for dealing with E-Safety incidents
- To support children and young peoples participation in developing information

Affiliated Groups

The following groups, who have a particular focus on safeguarding within their areas of interest, are affiliated to the PSCB:

- Safeguarding in Education Group
- Peterborough Safeguarding Children Health Group

Task Groups – will be time limited and set up for specific purposes which are outside the remit of any of the Operational Groups. The Chair and members will be selected to meet the needs of the particular task.

APPENDIX 2

PETERBOROUGH LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

1.0 Purpose

To set out the Performance Management Framework for Peterborough LSCB –outlining the principles upon which it is based and how it will be used to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

2.0 Principles

The Performance Management Framework has been developed in accordance with the guidance outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2010) - Chapter 3 and in accordance with the following principles:

- **PSCB has a duty to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements of the local authority and Board partners –**
- **The aim** of all quality assurance is to contribute to improved outcomes for children, young people and their families on the principle of the continuous cycle of improvement.
- **Establish clear leadership** – through the PSCB and through the joint PSCB and Children’s Trust Board three year Safeguarding Strategy 2011 2014.
- **Performance and quality data is a resource** - to support the Board and managers to continuously improve services and to ensure that the Board is informed and able to fulfil its monitoring and evaluation function.
- **Evidence what difference has been made** – using outcome measures, audits, service user feedback and service evaluations. This information will be used to improve performance and learn from both what works well and to identify areas for improvement.

3.0 Elements of the Framework

To guide safeguarding activities in Peterborough, the Performance Management Framework requires:

- **A clear vision statement** – setting the direction of travel, priorities and plans for the Board enshrined in the published business plan for the Board and agreed by partners
- **Shared objectives and local priorities** – guiding the actions of the Board and sub-groups developed in consultation with Board and Trust members and identified in the Safeguarding Strategy
- **SMART targets** - (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time Limited) defining clear milestones for improvement and progress within the Children's Trust data set
- **Resources** – professional contribution from partners by being members of the sub groups - to deliver the priorities

APPENDIX 2

- **Key performance indicators** – to hold partner agencies accountable for compliance with performance standards, the delivery of agreed priorities and the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding
- **PSCB Learning and Development Strategy** – supporting staff across agencies to strengthen their knowledge, skills and abilities to achieve the required performance standards for safeguarding developed within the Strategic Learning and Development Group
- **Local Inter-Agency procedures**- reflecting national legislation, research and guidance.
- **PSCB Communications Strategy** – to include raising awareness of safeguarding successes and managing the perception of safeguarding to staff and members of the public developed within the Communication and Information Group.
- **Monitoring arrangements shared across agencies** –enabling the Board to measure progress as a result of partner agencies all contributing to a greater understanding of compliance with performance standards and supporting the evaluation of safeguarding activities through their own agency audits.

4.0 Quality assurance Framework 2011 - 2013

Subject	Report to/ frequency	Responsible	Purpose
Serious Case Review Action Plans (SCR's)	SCR Group to Chairs Group quarterly and PSCB six monthly	Chair of SCR Group	To enable the Board to monitor progress and impact from recommendations arising from serious case reviews.
S11 Audit	PSCB QA Group quarterly, Chairs Group and PSCB six monthly	PSCB chair person, PSCB Manager & chair of QA Group	To enable the Board to monitor partner agencies' progress in fulfilling their safeguarding duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
Single agency audits and quality assurance data	QA Group to Chairs Group six monthly and Board annually	QA Group	To assure the Board that members are monitoring their own safeguarding practice effectively. Reports to the board will identify any performance area which might be of concern to the Board, together with action being taken by the Agency.
Multi Agency Audits	2 multi agency audits each year as identified in the Business Plan, plus further audits may be undertaken in response to issues identified through	QA Group	To enable the Board to monitor key areas of safeguarding activity as identified in the Business Plan.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious Case Reviews • Section 11 returns • Inspections • Single agency audits <p>Reporting to Chairs Group and PSCB 6 monthly</p>		
PI's	QA Group to Chairs Group and PSCB quarterly	QA Group	To report to the Board on areas of safeguarding performance which the QA group has identified as priorities for the year.
Themed Reports	<p>Child protection conferencing data – quarterly</p> <p>LADO – half yearly</p> <p>Private Fostering – half yearly</p> <p>CAF – half yearly</p> <p>Details of Children and Young People reported missing from home and care</p>	Board Manager	To enable the Board to monitor performance in areas for which it has a statutory responsibility and/or which are identified in the Business Plan as a priority.
PSCB annual report	Chair of PSCB to Board annually	Chair of PSCB and Board Manager	To assure the Board that the PSCB is providing value for money and is effective in overseeing work undertaken and services provided to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
Child Death Overview Data	Chair of CDOP to Chairs Group and PSCB half yearly	Chair of CDOP	

EXTRACT FROM

**A SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY FOR
PETERBOROUGH'S CHILDREN & YOUNG
PEOPLE**

April 2011 – March 2014



ADDENDUM 1

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Peterborough's shared vision for children and young people, as set out in the Children and Young People Plan, which will be reflected in the new Single Delivery Plan is to:

"create an environment where children and young people are safe and healthy, can enjoy what life has to offer them and have ambition and aspirations, where they achieve their goals and make a positive contribution for themselves, their family and their community."

- 1.2 Safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people lies at the heart of this shared vision.
- 1.3 Peterborough's Children's Trust has a major role to play, in partnership with Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board, in safeguarding Peterborough's children and young people and promoting their welfare.
- 1.4 However, the Trust and Safeguarding Board are not the sole bodies with such duties. Awareness of safeguarding issues, as well as the implementation of good practices and robust procedures is the key to effective safeguarding across the city and its communities.
- 1.5 We all have a role to play in keeping children safe.
- 1.6 This strategy sets out how we can continue to improve our performance in safeguarding children and young people and also through members' own actions, encourage and enable other agencies and organisations to make their own required contribution.

2. ABOUT THIS STRATEGY

- 2.1 This document outlines the Children's Trust's and the Safeguarding Board's joint strategic approach to strengthening arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in the city.
- 2.2 The strategy relates to and will involve all Trust and Board member agencies, alongside those provided on behalf of the Trust.
- 2.3 It is also linked with, and contributes to, the aims and activity of several other key local strategies and plans. These include the Safer Peterborough Partnership's community safety plan, Peterborough's Children and Young People Plan (2009-2012), the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board's business plan, the emerging Greater Peterborough Partnership Single Delivery Plan.
- 2.5 It is a broad strategy, taking full account of national and local agendas, such as the development of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), thresholds for needs assessment and service delivery, the Boards Annual Report, Serious Case Reviews and local inspections. The impact of these agendas will be evaluated at appropriate stages and any emergent issues considered and addressed as the strategy is revised and updated.

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3. PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

- 3.1 This strategy has been developed in response to a shared understanding that safeguarding services require continuous attention and improvement, both locally and nationally.
- 3.2 The strategy has been informed by a range of information, including needs data, the views of children and young people, the views of practitioners and partners and the outcomes of inspection and serious case reviews. Consultation has been carried out with all Board and Trust members through the annual joint meeting.
- 3.3 This Safeguarding Strategy covers the period April 2011 – March 2014. It will be regularly reviewed so that it responds to the changing needs of children, young people and families accordingly.
- 3.4 While safeguarding children and young people is everyone's business, there are certain teams and individuals with specific roles and responsibilities, whose work brings them into particular or regular contact with our most vulnerable children and young people. It is these staff groups who are the main focus of this Safeguarding Strategy. These include those people working within:
- ◆ Peterborough City Council children's social care services
 - ◆ Schools, including Governors
 - ◆ NHS Peterborough and Peterborough Community Services
 - ◆ Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
 - ◆ Cambridgeshire Constabulary
 - ◆ Other Peterborough City Council services, including universal and preventative services, neighbourhood services and adult social care services
 - ◆ Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust
 - ◆ Cafcass
 - ◆ Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - ◆ Voluntary and community sector organisations working with children, families and parents

4. BACKGROUND & THE NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING AGENDA

- 4.1 Multi-agency shortcomings when working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children were brought into the spotlight once again with the death of Baby Peter in 2007 and the subsequent second review of safeguarding services, led by Lord Laming.
- 4.2 Lord Laming's progress report made 58 recommendations which were immediately accepted by the Government. In response, Working Together was rewritten and reissued in 2010.
- 4.3 Working Together states that employers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are competent and confident in carrying out their responsibilities for Safeguarding and promoting children's and young people's welfare. In Peterborough the Children's Trust has commissioned the PSCB to deliver Safeguarding training on their behalf.

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5. **WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?**

5.1 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- ◆ *Protecting children from maltreatment;*
- ◆ *Preventing impairment of children's health and development;*
- ◆ *ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;*

and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

The document adds: *"Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should aim proactively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced."*

5.2 The safeguarding agenda applies to, and poses considerable challenges for, *all* organisations and individuals who work or come into contact with children and families, or vulnerable adults who are parents, in the course of their day to day business. The task is not simply focussed on responses to suspected or alleged abuse, although that remains crucial; instead, workers and agencies must think holistically and in terms of what they deliver, *continually, proactively and preventatively* in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

5.3 Safeguarding and promoting welfare must be a common thread which runs throughout every team and service that comes into contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults who are parents, in whatever capacity and under whatever circumstances.

5.4 The underlying principle is that these are 'our' children.

6. **WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY?**

6.1 The overarching aims of the Safeguarding Strategy are:

- a) to ensure, first and foremost, that the city's children and young people are safe and feel safe;
- b) to encourage, embed and maintain the best safeguarding practice across all Trust organisations and services and ensure continuous improvement and compliance with national and local policies; this will be underpinned by the requirement for statutory organisations to comply with S11 of the Children Act 2004 and the Safeguarding Commissioning Standards for the community, voluntary and independent sector.
- c) to raise awareness about safeguarding across Trust partners and within the community;
- d) to reinforce that children and young people must remain the central focus in our work with families;
- e) to ensure that all staff and volunteers in the agencies making up the Trust work in partnership with and contribute to the safeguarding work of the Children's Trust and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board;

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- f) to ensure that preventive services are continuously developed, in order to focus beyond the narrow parameters of 'child protection' - crucial though those processes remain - and think creatively and holistically about their responses to children and young people who are or who may be vulnerable.
- g) see "know your responsibilities" appendix 1

7. **AREAS OF FOCUS**

- 7.1 Through our assessment of need and consultation with key stakeholders, we have identified three overarching areas of focus for the period of this strategy (2011-2014).

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility

- Tackling **bullying**, particularly within the wider community context and amongst vulnerable children and young people (such as those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities).
- **Safer recruitment** – ensuring a confident and effective workforce through safe recruitment and excellent training.
- **E-safety** – ensuring children and young people are safe whilst using technology, including addressing cyber bullying.

Promoting a 'whole family' approach to include parenting support

- Increasing awareness and promoting **alliances between adult and children's** services.
- Delivering a small project supporting **families who place a high demand** on services.
- Ensuring professionals have the skills, knowledge and confidence to work with **resistant families and those who use disguised compliance**.

Focussing our attention on the most vulnerable groups in Peterborough

- Addressing key **adult behaviour** that puts children at risk of harm, including domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and mental health needs.
- Targeting **'invisible' and 'missing' children**, including but not limited to children newly arrived to the city/country, those living in transient families, children missing from education.

- 7.2 The priorities for 2011 – 2012 are:

- Safer recruitment
- E-Safety
- Promoting alliances between adult and children's services
- Addressing key adult behaviour that puts children at risk of harm

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8. GOVERNANCE

- 8.1 This document has been developed jointly by Peterborough's Children's Trust Board and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board. Both the Trust and the Board are, therefore, responsible for ensuring that this strategy is fully and effectively implemented.
- 8.2 The action plan underpinning this strategy sets out clear responsibilities for the delivery of actions. It is the responsibility of the nominated individuals / groups to ensure they deliver those actions which they have agreed to.
- 8.3 The Safeguarding Children Board will be responsible for regularly monitoring the delivery of the strategy. They will provide an update report to the Children's Trust Board every six months and review progress as part of their annual report, to be discussed at the annual joint Board / Trust meeting. Areas of concern will be escalated to the most appropriate person / body.
- 8.4 Lead members responsible for children services will promote discussion of safeguarding issues at cabinet and council meetings and the Director of Children's Services will report regularly on progress made and challenges faced in implementing the strategy and delivering the priorities. The Inequalities and Opportunities Scrutiny Panel will fulfil a scrutiny function with regard to the strategy.
- 8.4 All Chief Executives and Chief Officers are expected to ensure that there is discussion about safeguarding priorities within their agencies, taking account of safe recruitment issues, the need to raise awareness of safeguarding amongst all staff and identifying and meeting their own agency safeguarding targets. The Chief Executive and Children's Services Director will lead the process.
- 8.5 The lead members will, supported by the Chief Executive, take responsibility for promoting careful discussion of safe recruitment and safeguarding training for elected members.
- 8.6 The lead members are members of the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board and the Children's Trust Board and will, in this capacity, take a full share in ensuring council compliance with safeguarding requirements.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 This strategy is intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of all the children in Peterborough. It will be important that all agencies and services, when taking necessary action to deliver the strategy, give particular care to promoting diversity. In the context of safeguarding, this means that all agencies and services must take particular care to ensure that the safety and welfare of vulnerable, marginalised and potentially excluded children is promoted. Meeting the needs and welfare of disabled children, children from minority ethnic groups, all faith groups, those from travelling and highly mobile families and those whose parents have additional needs is central to successful implementation of the strategy.
- 9.2 There will be a differential impact on some children and young people with particular needs who must be protected.

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- 9.3 Improvements to safeguarding arrangements should increase fair access to all children's services and consulting with parents and children who have experienced safeguarding services is intended to positively promote equality and diversity.
- 9.4 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on this strategy.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 This strategy is intended to raise awareness of safeguarding issues across all partner agencies. It is also designed to support improvements in the quality of all services for children and to promote the safety and welfare of the city's children.
- 10.2 If continuous improvements to services are not achieved and, particularly, if all services do not work proactively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the need for targeted services to act to protect children from harm is likely to grow. This would place additional pressure on children's social care and potentially increase the risk to children.
- 10.3 Careful management of the action planning associated with this strategy and ongoing scrutiny of performance against the targets will help to minimise such risks.

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APPENDIX ONE

SAFEGUARDING - KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to ensure children stay safe, it is important that everybody knows their responsibilities around safeguarding. This guide is here to help:

1. Members of public

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child or young person, or that they may be subject to abuse or harm:

- **Don't ignore your concerns** - contact the Police or the Children's Services Referral and Assessment Team (contact details below) who will make appropriate and sensitive enquiries. Your confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- It is better that a nagging doubt is reported, and turns out to be nothing than for nobody to help a child who is suffering harm.

2. Practitioners

All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This duty extends to your private life as well as your professional one.

We would expect you to:

- Be familiar with and follow your organisation's policy and procedures for safeguarding the welfare of children.
- Know who to contact to express concerns about a child's welfare.
- Attend training that raises awareness of safeguarding issues and equips you with the knowledge and skills you need.
- Never ignore a 'nagging doubt' and to report any concerns you have.

3. Organisations

All organisations that work with children and young people need to be aware of how the issues of safeguarding apply to the organisation, staff, volunteers and trustees.

Your organisation needs to make appropriate plans for:

- A member of your staff team reporting concerns about the safety of a child they are working with.
- Your organisation being asked by Children's Social Care or the police to provide information about a child or a family.
- An allegation being made against a member of your staff.
- To help your organisation deal with these issues you should have a safeguarding policy and a set of procedures that all staff, volunteers and trustees must follow. These should be based on the Safeguarding Board's multi agency procedures (see PSCB website www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk).
- Your organisation should provide appropriate training for staff, to ensure they

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have the knowledge and skills they need to keep children safe (see PSCB Workforce Development Brochure on the web site).

- You should ensure that you are recruiting safely, so that checks are made for any staff who may have access to vulnerable people during their work.
- Two key pillars of a safeguarding culture are rigorous risk assessments and a code of conduct. It is essential that everyone involved in your organisation knows what behaviour is acceptable and what is not. Creating a safeguarding culture within an organisation is much easier if everyone is fully aware of the behaviour and conduct that is expected from all.

Useful Contacts:

- Referral & Assessment 01733 864180 (out of hours 01733 561370)
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary 0345 456 4564
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
- Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222
- Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board 01733 863745
- Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board web site
www.peterboroughscb.org.uk
- Peterborough Children's Trust website
www.peterborough.gov.uk/childrenstrust

