

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board

Newsletter

Issue 4

BITESIZE PIECES

NSPCC had 16,000 contacts to their helpline last year about neglect. A neglectful home can be a significant push factor for young people & this could put them at greater risk of CSE

Research among children under 13 suggests grooming is taking place on an "industrial scale" ...The finding came as the NSPCC revealed that 38 police forces in England and Wales had recorded 3,186 sex crimes against children in 2015/16 which involved offenders using the internet.



Child protection concerns always require a new referral. Child protection referrals should always be made to the local authority in the area where the child is placed using the appropriate LSCB referral form. This is in addition to notifying the allocated social worker for the looked after child.

To access the full annual report please go to:
<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wscb>

WCSB Multi-Agency Training Event 'Crashing'



On 23rd June 2016 AlterEgo Creative solutions delivered 3 performances of **Crashing** to multi-agency professionals across Warwickshire. '**Crashing**' is an innovative and powerful new play and tells the story of Eddie. At 15 years old he lost his mom to cancer, lost his dad to depression and found himself out on the street. Whilst sleeping in a shop doorway Eddie was approached by Michael. Michael was kind, good fun and owned a shop with an empty flat above it. He offered Eddie the chance to stay there until he got back on his feet, but unfortunately Michael had another agenda". The performances were seen by more than 150 professionals from agencies including police, mental health team, children and families social care, education and school settings, probation services, PSCo's, school nurses and many more. The performance was commissioned by WCSB as part of the Nation Youth Workers Conference. The core training offer from WCSB has resulted in over 3000 professionals from across Warwickshire having received CSE training with support from Barnardos Project Worker, Katy Shipley. The annual report this year evidences good progress in embedding sound practice in relation to CSE, with the numbers of children receiving services increasing suggesting professionals are noticing indicators of CSE and what to do about it.



WCSB Annual Report 2016

This years annual report was presented to WCSB in July, the full annual report is available from the WCSB webpage. In a successful safeguarding system, all children have an equal chance of having their needs recognised, and effective early help results in a reduction over time in the number of children needing child protection plans. Where they are used, child protection plans are not prolonged, resulting in sustained improvement or decisive care proceedings. During 201516 there has been encouraging progress in relation to the length of plans, with fewer being over 2 years, and fewer repeated plans for individual children. This suggests improving effectiveness of child protection plans. It is much harder to read the progress in relation to children coming into the child protection system.

Reasonable progress has also been made in relation to the Neglect priority through developing structures for early help, however our learning activity suggests that we still have some work to do in this area, particularly around supporting professionals in identifying when help is not being effective, and higher level services are required.

The report also offers flags changes in child protection activity over the last four years across the districts and boroughs and evidences that influences other than demography of the different areas are impacting on safeguarding activity in Warwickshire.

Child Protection Referrals and children looked after—A note for practitioners

Background:

This briefing note has been produced to explain an ambiguity that has come to light in a Warwickshire case review commissioned by WSCB.

It concerns a child looked after who was admitted to hospital after becoming seriously unwell.

Upon admission the nurse was alerted to the child being looked after as the child was brought in to hospital by their foster carer.

Context:

When a child is looked after the local authority is the 'corporate parent' and therefore needs to be given information about the child just as any other parent would. When this particular child was brought into hospital a nurse appropriately and notified the allocated social worker (from the placing authority) about the child's condition.

This action enabled the social worker to alert the child's mother and make arrangements for the child to be supported in hospital.

The hospital later identified child protection concerns about the child.

Overview:

Agencies need to be aware that child protection concerns always require a new referral, where the concerns relate to a child looked after, the referral should be made to the local authority of the placement address. While the 'corporate parent' should of course be kept in the loop, the referral will need to be directed to the local authority in which the child is placed.

Professionals need to be very clear about the difference between providing updates to the social work team responsible for the child's care plan and referring child protection concerns to the appropriate duty service. Professionals need to be aware that this may involve two separate tasks to ensure the information is clearly received and the correct processes instigated.

Action:

Child protection referrals should always be made to the local authority in the area where the child is placed using the appropriate LSCB referral form. This is in addition to notifying the allocated social worker for the looked after child.



WSCB Training Courses:

8th September 2016—WSCB Child Protection Awareness (non statutory agencies)

19th October 2016—WSCB Working together to achieve effective referrals

Watch this space for multi-agency prevent training—dates coming soon.

Register a place—<https://warwickshire.learningpool.com/login/index.php>