

Creating Stronger Communities (CSC)

The CSC Programme started in April 2015 via the Social Care Innovation fund is seeing something of a culture change in how we work more restoratively in partnership with children and families needing support. Since starting we have introduced:

Outcome Based Accountability (OBA): we have trained 187 managers, established an OBA Champions Network, identified a whole population outcome framework and promoted the use of OBA Scorecards across all of NELC operations.

Restorative Practice: We have trained 137 managers and teaching staff at six schools in Restorative Practice (previously piloted with student Social Workers at Hull University). The training has received positive feedback, particularly in how this will improve the approach to staff management.

Signs Of Safety (SoS): We have now trained 1,400 staff and established a SoS practice lead group. The Single Assessment Tool (replacing CAF) has been designed and launched with an overwhelmingly positive reaction regarding the benefits of using SoS and its impact on engagement with families.

Family Group Conferencing: We have established a fully functioning unit of six Family Group Conference Coordinators and to date engaged with 44 families who are already in or moving up into statutory provision. Of the 23 cases that have successfully completed FGC, all have positively reduced the level of need, with some stepping down to universal provision.

Safe Sleeping in Warm Weather

Given the recent warm weather, the LSCB issued advice for practitioners to share with parents about safe sleeping for babies. The key messages can be found on the LSCB website.

Although for most of us, warm weather is something to enjoy, sadly it can also cause babies to over-heat, and on occasions has been associated with unexpected child deaths. This risk is further increased by various factors that can make sleeping arrangements for babies more risky or 'unsafe'. The key messages put out by the LSCB included the importance of:

- Ensuring babies are kept at comfortable temperatures, not too hot or too cold;
- Alerting parents that overheating increases the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and that excess wrapping may prevent babies from cooling down and can cause heat-stress;
- Avoiding co-sleeping with babies, advising parents not to sleep in the same bed and never to sleep on a sofa or armchair with babies as this too increases the risk of SIDS;
- Keeping baby's room temperature at 16-20°C, with light bedding or a *lightweight* well-fitting baby sleeping bag and using room thermometers in the rooms where babies sleep;
- Maintaining air flow by keeping internal doors and windows open and creating a natural breeze whilst avoiding air conditioning which can be dehydrating and 'dry babies out'.

Families First Access Point (FFAP)



The FFAP continues to progress and is being reviewed within Families First 0-19 commissioning programme 'Building on Success' workstream. Weekly FFAP/MASH monthly challenge meetings are proving positive in developing relationships and a shared understanding of thresholds across the teams.

In terms of gauging impact, it is still early days, but feedback from families over the quarter seems to show we are on the right track! For example, in one case, *both parents said that they really liked the fact that they had developed a safety plan themselves and felt this was important because it meant something to them and their children. They understood why services were involved and what the agencies were worried about although the children were too young to understand this.*

Learning from Serious Case Review (SCR)

When a child dies and abuse or neglect is known or suspected the LSCB should always conduct an SCR into the involvement of organisations and professionals in the life of the child and their family. NEL LSCB is committed to sharing learning from SCRs to inform and improve practice and has identified a number of issues that also emerge from multi-agency audits including:

Challenge/ Escalation

The term *challenge* is frequently used in multi-agency work, yet SCRs indicate professionals are unsure what challenge is, how to challenge, and why it is necessary in practice. Where there is disagreement between agencies in respect of decision making the “*LSCB Concern and Conflict Resolution Escalation Procedure*” should be used.

- **Challenge** helps provide safety mechanisms and must be part of day to day professional practice
- Practitioners need to understand and be confident of the need for robust challenge based on assessment of risk and need
- Records of concerns, discussions, decisions, actions and outcomes should be timely, clear and in line with your agencies record keeping protocols.

Self -Reporting

Practitioners failing to exercise Professional Curiosity was a key issue in SCRs. A common example is where workers making assessments accept what parents tell them at *face-value*. Where parents *disguise their compliance* workers can be misled by self-reports to deflect away from the concerns

- Assume nothing, check everything out.
- Triangulate information provided by parents with other info, facts and evidence
- Develop a more questioning attitude
- Test out observations and think the unthinkable.
- Consider impact significant family history on analysis of risk and need.

Child L Serious Case Review

The Child ‘L’ SCR was published in August 2016. An LSCB interagency action plan has been implemented

Audit and Quality Assurance Programme

Multi Agency audit is a key element of quality assuring practice and continues to be overseen by the Quality Assurance and Best Practice Sub Group, coordinating themed inter agency audits of key areas of safeguarding areas such as Domestic Abuse, Neglect, Prevention and Early Intervention and Child sexual Exploitation. This enables us to ensure we are applying safeguarding procedures and identify good practice alongside areas for development and learning to improve practice.

Future in Mind

A key element of the LSCB Business Plan is for the LSCB to be satisfied that effective partnership arrangements are in place for the best possible care to be received by children and young people for their emotional health and wellbeing. Vulnerability can be increased where children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing is affected by complex family problems.

‘Future in Mind’ is the programme working alongside Child and Adolescent Mental Health provision to promote, protect and improve our children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing. The aim is to provide an integrated whole systems approach to children’s emotional health and wellbeing, including health promotion and prevention, interventions for children and young people who have existing or emerging mental health problems. Future in Mind has undertaken a needs survey and will continue to report regularly to the LSCB on emerging issues and progress.

Safeguarding Adults

The chairing arrangements for the SAB have been combined with the LSCB so that cross cutting themes such as adult mental health, Prevent and FGM can be shared between both partnership boards, to avoid duplication and capitalise on expertise and learning.

North East Lincolnshire
LSCB
Local Safeguarding
Children Board