



# Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSSCB) Newsletter



February 2020

**W**elcome to the February Edition of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSSCB) Newsletter. This bulletin is aimed at raising your awareness of national and local safeguarding children issues and has been developed for all agencies that work with

children and young people in Staffordshire. This edition includes updates on the Boards development plans for 2020, news from the sub-groups, new members, innovation plus lots more. If you find this newsletter useful please let us know at [SSSCB.communications@staffordshire.gov](mailto:SSSCB.communications@staffordshire.gov).

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## SSSCB Priorities 2020

- Child Exploitation
- Neglect
- Mental Health in children



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## Update from the Board

The Board attended a development day on January 23, led by Lorraine Parker, National Policing Coordinator for the Multi Agency Child Safeguarding Reform and Mark Gurrey, Independent Chair of Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership and a member of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Mark recently conducted a review into the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Arrangements which was commissioned by the Department of Education Children's Commissioner for Stoke-on-Trent, Eleanor Brazil, and is intended to be linked to her overall review of children's services. Mark presented recommendations that the partnership review the governance and accelerate the arrangements for the delivery of independent scrutiny, the quality assurance work and to set out how rapid reviews and individual case reviews are conducted so that together they can enable the safeguarding partners in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire to have more detailed knowledge and greater influence over the delivery of services to children and families in their areas.

The purpose of the day was to discuss the statutory responsibilities of Working Together 2018, the role of the board with its partners and its geographical positioning with regards to the escalation and resolution process. Discussions were held with regards to redirecting the Boards attention to assessing the quality and assurance of the children's systems, focusing on solutions rather than process and developing one multi-agency safeguarding arrangement.

A further development workshop with the Board and Partnership took place on February 11 which led to detailed discussions about the responsibilities of the two governance groups along with identifying priorities across all agencies leading to a multi agency business plan focusing on lessons learnt and direction of travel. Further work will now continue on the creation and implementation of the plan. More updates to follow.

## Review of Restraint at Werrington Young Offenders Institute Update

The review of restraint at Werrington Youth Offending Institute Task Group have developed its Terms of Reference which outline its core aims. These include helping to ensure that relevant agencies in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire work together to promote the welfare and safety of all children and young people in secure settings, raising the awareness of how to improve current practice, fulfilling statutory safeguarding children responsibilities.

The SSSCB Review of Restraint Task Group will be responsible for scrutiny and provide assurance to the Partnership and Board around the appropriate use of restraint in accordance with national guidance. The group will ensure staff in the secure estate are trained in behaviour and de-escalation techniques and put in place appropriate monitoring arrangements to protect vulnerable young people.

The group is attended by representatives from the Board, Werrington Young Offenders Institute, children's social care, education service, health service, Staffordshire's Youth Offending Service and the SSSCB business team.

## Child Death Overview Panel Update

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) presented an update to the partnership on Tuesday, January 21 outlining lessons learnt from reviews, areas of concern and plans for the coming year.

Currently CDOP are supporting a Cyber Bullying campaign being rolled out by Staffordshire Police. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2HmFndz>.

New arrangements for reviewing child deaths are evolving which will be overseen by panel members consisting of Designated Doctor for Unexpected Deaths, CDOP Nurse Practitioners and panel co-ordinator.

CDOP members within the paediatric settings shared concerns about the rise in growing numbers of children suicides and serious attempts of suicide. It was reported that in 2019 there have been 5 suicides in the county. The suicide prevention strategy is to be discussed at the next CDOP meeting and commissioning manager- public health and prevention will attend.

The CDOP will make enquires regionally and nationally to see if other areas are seeing a similar picture. What interventions are on-going and discuss a way forward.

Designated Doctors reported that the local flu vaccine take up rate in 2019 had been poor locally and as a result there had been a high number of attendances and admissions with flu. It has been identified that the late roll out of the campaign along with not enough vaccine's, inadequate mop up and parents wanting their children to have the injectable vaccine rather than the nasal one which was not available contributed to this poor takeup. This years immunisation newsletter and communications around flu vaccinations is planned to be rolled out by September and Public Health representative will link in with the communications team for safeguarding to enhance campaign material and distribution, and target identified areas of poor uptake.

For more information of flu vaccine visit <http://bit.ly/2P32HRA>

## Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group Update

The February meeting of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group (CSPR) on 12 February was chaired by Stephanie Nightingale, Designated Nurse for CCG, who takes over the role from Ros Negrycz, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding who retired from the group in January. This is a multi agency group consisting of statutory partners including education and representatives from the acute services, Royal Stoke UHNM etc.

In line with the new arrangements, the group have developed its Terms of Reference (ToR) which were approved at the meeting.

The focus of the group is predominately based on learning from the system and reviews, highlighting good practice as well as areas of improvement and it is the responsibility of the group to improve the system by integrating that learning so we can work together to keep children safe.

Moving forward the group will instruct a practitioners event to review the findings from five previous rapid reviews to add to the already extensive learning. These collective areas of process and similarities of circumstances will hopefully lead to better understanding and improved actions moving forward.

## Practice, Development and Training Group Update

Following on from the merger of the two LSCB's into one Board, the training offer has now been revised as a way of consolidating the two previously separate functions of the Board. As a result of this, a new Practice, Development and Training Group (PDT) has emerged and is planning its priorities for the coming year, which includes revising our Working Together training and Child Protection Level one training. The forthcoming meeting on March 4, will see attendees asked to approve the revised Terms of Reference and work together to develop plans moving forward along with discussing proposals for training development sessions, training courses and dates for the coming year.

The training team will also be updating the group on the launch of its new Learning Management System (LMS) which is on track to go live on 1 April, giving access to both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire courses and learning materials on one portal. and will include revised training packages, both face 2 face and eLearning.

The LMS will be more user friendly with immediate access to courses and dates available at first site, making it easier to find the right course for you.

Booking courses will be available online once the new system goes live negating the need for paper forms and emails - more updates to follow.

Plans are in place to develop user tutorials which will be available on the SSSCB and StokeSCB website. For more information contact [ssscb.training@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ssscb.training@staffordshire.gov.uk) or

## New Board Member

This month the board welcomes its new member, Director of Children and Family Services for Stoke-on-Trent, Sarah Parker. Sarah joined the board on February 3, taking over from the previous interim Director Mark Barratt.

When asked about the new role Sarah said;

"I'm very much looking forward to working in Stoke-on-Trent and working hard to put children at the heart of the council. We have a number of significant challenges to address to achieve consistently impactful services for Stoke-on-Trent children. By continually placing children at the heart of everything we do, and working together across the directorate, council and with our partners, with pace, focus and dogged determination we will achieve services we can all be proud of. I have over 25 years experience in children's social care, more recently as Exec Director for People - Children at Dorset Council, and have also worked for London Boroughs and Welsh Authorities

I live in Cheltenham with my family and three chickens, I'm an avid cook and committed vegetarian, I enjoy rowing and I am currently training for the London Marathon. I have a wicked sense of humour and insist on fun in the workplace (especially with the serious and demanding jobs we have) and enjoy a cheeky gin and tonic on a Friday night"

Sarah has already grasped the mantle of the Board by attending and contributing to the recent Board Development Day.



## SSSCB Conference 2020

SSSCB will be holding its annual conference on 17 March 2020 at Yarnfield Training Centre. The conference titled 'Child Criminal Exploitation' will include Vulnerable Adolescents and Adverse Childhood Experiences subject matter and has a great line up of speakers.

Dr Carlene Firmin, MBE, Principal Research Fellow at The International Centre will be speaking about her work into child sexual exploitation along with violence and trafficking. Also joining us will be Mark Gurrey from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to talk about the National Panels first review into 'adolescents in need of State protection from criminal exploitation'.

There will also be a number of workshops discussing 'The vulnerability of the child' and the trauma behind the crime, Pathway Services, and a parents own story about the signs and behavioural indicators of County Lines.

Delegates attending must have undertaken Level One Child Protection Training and work with children and young people.

The conference is now fully subscribed however there will be mop up sessions around the County and the City into specific subject matter. For more information visit the website at [www.staffsscb.org.uk](http://www.staffsscb.org.uk).



## SSSCB new team members

The appointment of two new members of staff agreed by the board have now joined the hub. Jude Russell, Campaigns Officer and Letitia Craven, Business Support Officer joined the department at the beginning of January.



Jude joins us from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and will be looking after all things Comms—website, social media, campaigns and engagement. Jude has over 23 years experience in public sector communications and engagement working with communities and partners. Contact Jude on 01785 854535 or [jude.russell@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jude.russell@staffordshire.gov.uk)



Letitia (Tish) previously from Addiction Dependency Solutions and Families First will be giving administration support to the team. Tish has almost 20 years experience in administration and analysis and will be responsible for general administration duties. Contact Tish on 01785 277151 or [letita.craven@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:letita.craven@staffordshire.gov.uk)

## News and Innovation



The Board have now launched its Twitter account @SSSCBoard. Follow us and keep a look out for further updates, campaigns and events. Please get in touch if you have things to share with our wider partners.

The benefits of social media for our partners and practitioners is timely access to information as soon as it is available, keeping you up to date with what matters to you.

Follow us @SSSCBoard

Following on from the amalgamation of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board, new branding is being designed, with easy to use templates and campaign material. We will also be launching the new joint website this spring. We would love your feedback on the existing websites to help in the development of the new one. Please get in touch if you would like to contribute. Send your comments to [SSSCB.Communications@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SSSCB.Communications@staffordshire.gov.uk). More updates to follow.

Please let us know if you have any comments on this newsletter, working together we can create the right communications to help you deliver the best service for the children of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.