

# Perth & Kinross Child Protection Newsletter



## Issue 4 - December 2008

Welcome to the final edition of the Child Protection Committee Newsletter for 2008 which has been a busy year for us all. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has been leading a strong agenda to improve outcomes for all children in Perth and Kinross through their vision of supporting all our children to be the best they can be and child protection services are a key aspect of this.

In child protection particularly, this year has seen a continued rise in demand to meet the challenge of parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and Child Exploitation and Online Protection. Hopefully, communication between Child Protection Committee, professionals and the public has improved with an enhanced website and renewed public information materials but any suggestions about how we can share the work of the Child Protection Committee will be welcomed.

Child protection work has again been in the spotlight nationally over the last few weeks, with the tragedy in Haringey and the very poor HMle inspection of Child Protection Services in Aberdeen. Over this period I have been greatly reassured by the response of Chief Executives, Elected Members and Board members who have stressed the importance of supporting frontline staff over those difficult times, recognising the very complex work they are undertaking daily in very challenging circumstances. The Child Protection Committee are keen to stress that if any staff do not feel supported in their child protection work we would want to hear from them.

In 2009 it looks like we will be continuing the pace of the last 12 months as we work to deliver an improvement plan developed from the self-evaluation exercise. We start the year with the second phase of the HMle inspection and that too will provide us with a number of important areas to work on over the next 12 months.

I hope a good Christmas and New Year break will set you up for this challenge.

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*Perth & Kinross Child Protection Committee would like this newsletter to be as representative of Services, Practitioners, children and young people as possible. If you have any news or views to share, or would like to suggest a topic for future issues, then please contact us at the Editorial Team. Similarly if you would like further copies of this newsletter sent via email, please contact the Editorial Team via Gordon McKay tel 01738 476880 or email GRMcKay@pkc.gov.uk*

## Stop Press...

- *The one day Inter Agency Child Protection Training Course has been restructured and refreshed. It now involves more interaction with practitioners, more discussion time and greater use of the well acclaimed Pantayside Training Consortium Multi Media resource with thought provoking video clips stimulating lively group work.*

# Child Protection Posters Go Mobile

The publicity campaign which was launched around the time of the last edition of the Child Protection Newsletter has proved to be a great success with willingness from all voluntary and statutory agencies to promote the initiative and place the posters prominently about their offices and buildings and other high profile public locations.

This simple but clear message appears to be



well received and we have had our first referral as a direct result of the campaign.

The campaign is now moving into a new phase with four local authority Green and Paper Waste Vehicles displaying all four posters as they travel the highways and byways of Perth and Kinross. This mobile reminder of what to do if you have a concern about a child moved into gear on Tuesday 2 December and with the vehicles on the roads working from 7.00 am to 4.00 pm seven days a week the message is expected to visit the vast majority of the 67,000 doorsteps in Perth and Kinross on a very regular basis over a monthly cycle.

Future expansion is planned to locate the posters on other council vehicles which have different routes and potentially different audiences. Posters in A2, A3 and A4 size are still available should any reader wish additional supplies.

In the light of recent national publicity and public debate on child protection we are keen to engage with the public to encourage informed debate and information on the subject. We have produced leaflets which we are sharing with the public in different public venues and we are considering other ways of encouraging debate with the public of Perth and Kinross.

If you have any suggestions of alternative methods of achieving this important aim please contact Gordon McKay Development Officer on [GRMcKay@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:GRMcKay@pkc.gov.uk)



## CE-OP

CE-OP is a National Law Enforcement Agency focused on Child Protection. CE-OP aims to protect young people from the fear of sexual abuse, both in the real world and on-line. CE-OP unites law enforcement, charities and industry to work together to protect, enforce and educate through national and international channels.

## Thinkuknow

CE-OP has developed a national education and awareness programme for children, young people, teaching professionals, parents and carers. CE-OP has devised cohesive and age appropriate awareness campaigns directed at children and young people in 3 different age groups 5-7, 8-10 and 11-16 years. A variety of different interactive awareness media including films, flash presentations and games as well as complementary offline printed materials have been developed to engage and empower these target groups. It provides them with the information they need to make informed decisions regarding internet safety and security.

This Thinkuknow presentation focuses on three key messages; how to have fun on-line, how to stay in control and how to report a problem. It has already been piloted successfully in Perth High School and that model of delivery will be applied where suitable in other educational establishments across the local authority area.

Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee in collaboration with Education and Children's Services plan to deliver this programme by rolling out training for trainers over a series of several separate events planned for early in the New Year. It will target primary and secondary school staff identified as appropriate for this training. The detailed timetable for this initiative can be found on the rear page of this newsletter. After this initial phase of training teachers and appropriate others, the intention is to cascade the Thinkuknow product to all school children in the term 2009 - 2010.

The CE-OP experience is not exclusively for school staff however, and anyone who has an interest in On Line protection for children should visit the CE-OP website on [www.CEOP.gov.uk](http://www.CEOP.gov.uk) for advice guidance and assistance.



My name is June Doull and I am the newly appointed Senior Nurse Child Protection for Perth and Kinross. There are currently five Senior Nurses in Tayside, two for Dundee, one in Angus and one that covers the acute services and Hospitals. Our Team is led by Consultant Nurse in Safeguarding children and vulnerable families, Lindsey Ferguson.

My interest in protecting children began many years ago as a young nurse working in the Children's Hospital in Edinburgh and continued when I qualified as a Health Visitor fifteen years ago. This led to my gaining a Post Graduate Diploma in Child Protection Studies from the University of Dundee.

My role is to support, advise and offer clinical and Case Supervision to NHS community staff. This can include Health Visitors, School Nurses, Dental Practitioners; Young Peoples' nurses, Drug and Alcohol workers, family planning staff and GPs. Child Protection often causes staff a great deal of anxiety and it is important that they have a contact for advise and support. Childcare social workers are well used to having Case Supervision where a Social Worker will discuss cases with their seniors. This is a relatively new concept within Health. To date I have supervised a number of Health Visitors and School Nurses and the verbal feedback has been positive. Staff feel they have "time out" to reflect on their input with families and have been reassured that they are doing a good job. For a few it has been the catalyst to move forward with a family by placing the child's needs at the centre, as in some cases workers can be distracted by the parents' difficulties.

A typical week could include chairing two or three Professional Workers meetings for Unborn Babies in Need. Referrals come directly to me via the Unborn Baby Protocol. This is generally Health led as when a pregnancy is confirmed the midwifery staff are usually the first point of contact, although referrals can come through Social Workers and Substance Misuse staff.

There are a number of factors that may affect a parent or carers ability to adequately care for their child/ children eg Drug or alcohol misuse, poor parental mental health, Domestic violence, parental learning difficulties and of course the parents own negative childhood experience such as poor attachment to their own parents. Any of these factors may lead to the child being at risk of significant harm of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Any risk can be identified and assessed as early as possible prior to the birth of the baby. This process has been fairly successful in identifying vulnerable parents who may have difficulties early and any support and intervention can be offered following an agreed action plan. This is a multi-agency meeting that usually involves the Senior Social Worker from Child Protection Duty Team, police colleagues from the Public Protection Unit and of course health staff, midwifery, Health Visitors, Drug/ alcohol workers, Paediatricians etc.

As the Senior Nurse Child Protection I am also invited to all the Child Protection Case Conferences. I attend to support staff, and share information related to the child's health, development and wellbeing. It is also an opportunity to advise on predicted health problems if the child was to continue living with the same level of risk and that may also include self-harming behaviours displayed by the child.

I have a remit for delivering single and multi-agency Training and to keep staff informed of any opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in protecting children.

During the course of the week I may attend a number of meetings with colleagues in the multi-agency team. Some of these include developing protocols, and processes, eg we have recently developed a system of sharing information amongst Health, Social Work and Police. I meet with these colleagues every two weeks and we discuss any child concerns that have been noted by Police or referred to Child Protection Duty Team. I will gather any relevant health information that will add to the bigger picture for this child. These are called Initial Referral Discussions and any action plans are agreed and signed off. More often than not it is to offer additional support to the family.

On occasions I will work directly with families with whom there are child protection concerns and who have very entrenched problems. This would be agreed at a planning/core group meeting with the other professionals involved.

Finally I do believe that I should be accessible and for this reason I am based centrally in Drumhar Health Centre. I have an open door policy and if I am in the office staff can pop in (and they often do) to "run something by me". It is important that staff feel supported in their efforts to "Get it Right for Every Child" in Perth and Kinross.

# Conferences and Training

## **PANtayside Child Protection Training**

**Consortium** (Contact Training & Development Unit at Pullar House)

- **Development, Attachment & Resilience:**  
1st Opportunity - 16 February & 2 March 2009;  
2nd Opportunity - 18 February & 4 March 2009; Venues to be confirmed

## **Multi-Agency Training**

(Contact Training & Development Unit at Pullar House)

- **Introduction to Safeguarding Children and Young People:** 1st Opportunity - 3 February 2009; 2nd Opportunity - 3 March 2009
- **One Day Inter-Agency Child Protection Training:**  
1st Opportunity - 13 January 2009;  
2nd Opportunity - 17 March 2009
- **Designated Child Protection Officer Training:**  
24 & 25 February 2009
- **Self Harm Network:** 4 February 2009
- **Child Exploitation - On-Line Protection "Thinkuknow" Programme - Training for Trainers Course - Disclosure Check Requirement:**  
3 February 2009 - 2 Opportunities;  
4 February 2009 - 3 Opportunities;  
9 February 2009 - 2 Opportunities;  
10 February 2009 - 1 Opportunity;  
23 February 2009 - 2 Opportunities

## **Designated Child Protection Officers**

**Network Meeting - 12 February 2009 -**  
McDiarmid Park, Perth - 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm

## **Scottish Woman's Aid**

(Contact Irina Pelc - Tel 01382 434569)

- **Women, Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse - Identifying Needs, Improving Services**  
2 Day Course - 15 and 16 January 2009 -  
Perth Grammar School

## **NHS Tayside Core Child Protection Training**

**Programme** - for further details please contact 01382 527841 or access the NHS Training Database

# Resources and Useful Websites

## **CE-OP - Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre**

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

## **Interagency Child Protection Guidelines**

[www.pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/downloads](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/downloads)

## **Child Protection Web Pages**

[www.pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/webpages](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/webpages)

*Child Protection Committee*

*Membership/Minutes/Messages*

## **Protecting Young People Useful Information**

*Inter-Agency Protocols, Procedures, Guidelines and Assessment, Working with Substance Misusing Parents, Carers and their Children*

[www.pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/downloads](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/downloads)

## **Domestic Abuse**

[www.domesticabuse.co.uk](http://www.domesticabuse.co.uk)

# Useful Telephone Numbers

## **Children and Young People**

Child Protection Duty Team 01738 476768  
Childline 0800 11 11

## **Police**

Police 01738 621141  
Public Protection Unit 01738 892911  
Emergency Services 999

## **Social Work**

Social Work Out of Hours 01382 432270  
Education & Children's Services 01738 476768

## **Substance Misuse**

Social Work Drug & Alcohol Team 01738 444433  
NHS 24 08454 24 24 24  
GUM Clinic 01738 623311  
(Sexually Transmitted Infection)

# Useful Websites

[www.nhstayside.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhstayside.scot.nhs.uk)  
[www.scottishwomensaid.co.uk](http://www.scottishwomensaid.co.uk)  
[www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)  
[www.pkdomesticabuse.co.org](http://www.pkdomesticabuse.co.org)  
[www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)  
[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)  
[www.savethechildren.org.uk/caris](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/caris)

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only, a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting Gordon McKay on 01738 476880.



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