

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome

I would like to welcome you to our Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board's newsletter, the second we have produced for all those involved in safeguarding children and young people. The newsletter contains a range of useful information reflecting the challenging breadth of the safeguarding agenda both nationally and locally. I hope you find it useful and that the information supports you in your work which can often be complex and demanding.

We know that the KSCB website is increasingly used by staff working with children and I would encourage you to continue to do so. We have put more information on the site for your use including the annual report and the updates regarding Child Sexual Exploitation. In addition there is information about training and development sessions which you can access.

In January KSCB members will be visiting services and teams again. This helps us understand how services are delivered and gives us an opportunity to talk to teams, identify what more we need to do to support your work and look at how services work together. Our findings will inform next year's priorities and actions so we consider the visits an important part of KSCB's work.



Of equal importance, I am pleased to be able to report that we are now able to understand what is important to many young people in Knowsley and the findings of our questionnaire for young people are described below; again, this will inform and influence our priorities.

One of the priorities will, however, remain unchanged as we continue to focus on learning from reviews and I am sure that you will take up opportunities to attend our sessions as we know that this will help us all to improve practice in children's services. Please use the website to ensure your place.

Thank you for your hard work during the last year and I hope you enjoy the festive season and have a peaceful New Year.



**Audrey Williamson**  
Independent Chair  
KSCB

## You Said We Did

**You said** We can't always attend face to face training

**We did** In addition to the 60 minute briefings we now produce regular 7 minute briefings which are cascaded to multi agencies

**You said** We are not always clear of the booking instructions for KSCB training courses

**We did** Working in partnership with the Council we have produced a KSCB Training portal

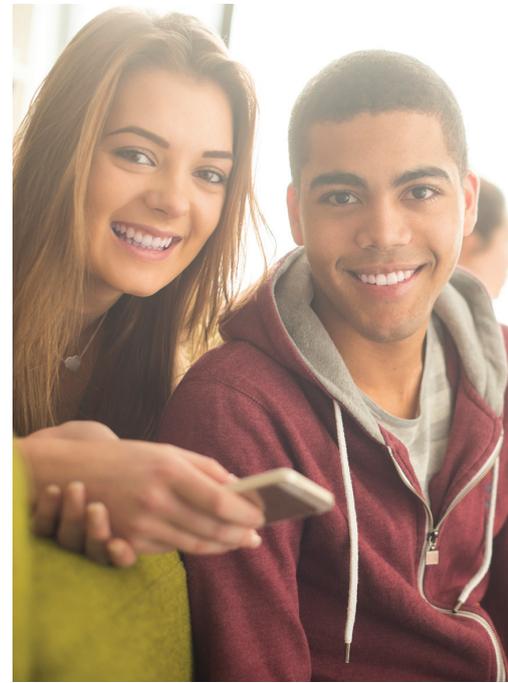
## Launch of Team Shield - the new CSE Team in Knowsley

Knowsley now have a multi-agency team to tackle child sexual exploitation. Knowsley Youth Mutual and the 'Making a Difference Everywhere' Group conducted a mass consultation exercise to choose from a wide range of suggested names from young people for the new team and the group decided on 'SHIELD'. Please **click here** for more information.





# Capturing and Responding to the Voice of the Child



Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board commissioned an organisation called "Voice for Children" to undertake an online questionnaire survey of young people aged 11-18 years old in order to get an insight into what young people think the following priority safeguarding issues: Legal Highs, E- Safety, Domestic Abuse and Positive Relationships, Criminality, CSE and Neglect.

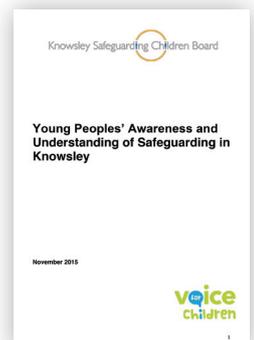
All secondary schools in Knowsley took part in the survey with a total of 1808 young people completing the online questionnaire survey.

- Young People seemed to have a good understanding of CSE, particularly its links to social media. We all need to consider what young people's understanding regarding CSE and the law is and we also need to raise their awareness of what agencies are available for help and advice.
- Legal Highs are a growing area of concern and findings from the survey and workforce conference have highlighted that we need raise awareness of the dangers and implications of taking legal highs with not only young people but with parents/carers and professionals.
- The majority of young people surveyed knew how to keep themselves safe online however a small percentage didn't, we will need to continue raising awareness of online safety to ensure all young people know what to do and how to report issues that arise online.

- Young People were asked to consider both what makes an abusive relationship and positive relationship, the majority of young people responded appropriately but a small minority considered abusive behaviours such as 'being made to not see your friends anymore' and 'being hit because you made them angry' as normal highlighting that this is an area of work with young people still requiring further exploration.
- The majority of young people surveyed recognised the signs and symptoms of neglect and would know what to do if they had concerns.
- Young people were asked whether they were involved in a criminal gang or if they had ever been arrested; the majority of young people answered no and stated that they felt safe in the area where they lived.

A 'Capturing and Responding to the Voice of the Child' Workforce Conference was held to share these findings and attendees were given the opportunity to reflect on how they capture the voice of the child within their own settings. The conference concluded with participants recording ideas and actions on how we can respond to the findings and gaps identified within the report.

Please **click here** to download a copy of the full report.



# KSCB Training Opportunities

For all forthcoming training opportunities you can currently access the Training Calendar on the KSCB Website and **book a place via** [steven.hale@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:steven.hale@knowsley.gov.uk). We are, however, in the process of creating a KSCB Training Portal which will allow practitioners and volunteers to create their own profile and book on to future KSCB briefings and training courses. When completed, details of how to access training in this way will be cascaded.

Catch 22 are delivering a number of 2 Hour Briefings on Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing. The briefings aim to resource workers who are supporting young people who go missing from home or care, and/or may be at risk of being sexually exploited and to help identify, understand and respond to the young people's needs and the risk appropriately. The following sessions are available and will all be held at The Early Years Service next to Whiston Willis School:

**Monday 14th Dec** x 2 sessions  
(10am-12 and 1pm-3pm)

**Monday 18th Jan** x 2 sessions  
(10am-12 and 1pm-3pm)

**Wednesday 24th Feb** 5 -7pm

**Monday 21st March** x 2 sessions  
(10am-12 and 1pm-3pm)

The KSCB now provide (1 Day) Child Sexual Exploitation Training for Practitioners. This is facilitated by members of the KSCB, new CSE Team Shield, MASH, RASASC, Barnardos and Catch 22. The next available date is **Tuesday 2nd February 2016 (9:30am – 4:30pm)** at the YOS Training Room, Ground Floor, Nutgrove Villa.

Following a recent local management review the KSCB have established a course regarding what compromises parenting, focusing on Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse and Parental Mental Health. The next available (1/2 day) Compromised Care course is on **Wednesday 16th March 2016 (9:30am – 12:00)**.

## KSCB Communication Strategy

Within the past few months, the KSCB have been committed to improving communication pathways and raising awareness of current themes and initiatives pertinent to the safeguarding of children in Knowsley. The continuation of monthly 60 Minute Briefings and the introduction of regular editions of our 7 Minute Briefings have enabled us to achieve this. Themes such as Trauma and Exploitation, Private Fostering, Neglect and Child Sexual Abuse have been covered, lessons from local management reviews have been shared and we have raised awareness of new initiatives such as the introduction of mandatory reporting regarding Female Genital Mutilation, the new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 guidance and the Graded Care Profile as the agreed tool for assessing neglect in Knowsley. Details of future 60 Minute Briefings can be found on our website. The most recent edition on Knowsley's Step Up Step Down Protocol and all published editions of the 7 Minute Briefings can be accessed **here**. Look out for our forthcoming editions on Legal Highs, Private Fostering and Radicalisation.

## Online Training



The KSCB provides **free** online training regarding a number of key themes regarding safeguarding children. Topics include Harmful Practices, Online Safety, Hidden Harm, Parental Mental Health, Lone Working, Child Sexual Exploitation, Safeguarding Disabled Children, Child Self Harm and Suicide and Extremism. Please **click here** for more information, **available until the end of February 2016!!**

# Messages regarding the Sexual Exploitation of 16-17 Year Olds

(Extract from Community Care)



A recent article in Community Care highlighted that 16- and 17-year-olds affected by child sexual exploitation were “one of the groups we most frequently let down”. A report by The Children’s Society found that victims were afraid they wouldn’t be believed by the justice system and that most young people would not report their experiences of sexual exploitation and abuse to professionals. This was due to a number of factors; including not realising they had anything to report, guilt or shame, and a lack of confidence in practitioners’ responses. Also young people did not consider it worth reporting, feared going to court, or because they did not want the perpetrators punished. The report also highlighted issues around the age of consent.

In her conference address, Leading Researcher Helen Beckett said that practitioners should understand the concept of “constrained choice” where young people’s decisions may seem rational to them. “We need to recognise that a young person can concurrently be making some choices and be a victim,” she added. Beckett also told delegates that they should be aware of discrepancies between the policy definition and legal offence of child sexual exploitation and how this could cause confusion among practitioners. Please [click here](#) for full article.

## The Mental Health Needs of Gang-Affiliated Young People – Public Health England

Preventing gang-related violence is a major government priority in England. While only a minority of young people are involved with gangs, gang members account for disproportionate levels of crime in affected communities and are at increased risk of involvement in violence as both perpetrators and victims. An area that is often overlooked in work to prevent and address gang violence is the strong relationship between gang-affiliation and mental health. Please [click here](#) for more information

## Protecting Children from Harm:

A critical assessment of child sexual abuse in the family network in England and priorities for action. (Extract from the Children’s Commissioner Report; November 2015)

A critical analysis of the scale and nature of this form of child sexual abuse has been published by the Children’s Commissioner. The data gathered highlighted a number of things including that only 1 in 8 victims of sexual abuse come to the attention of the police and children’s services and up to two thirds of all sexual abuse happens in and around the family.

This report of the Inquiry calls for the practice of professionals in identifying children who are being sexually abused to be strengthened, children and young people to be equipped with the knowledge to recognise abuse and access help when they are worried, and processes for the investigation of sexual abuse to be improved to minimise their impact on children and maximise their effectiveness. Please [click here](#) for full article.

## New Duty to Report Victims of Slavery

From 1st November there is a new duty to notify the Home Office of victims of modern slavery - a provision in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires public authorities to notify when they encounter a potential victim of modern slavery. Doctors, GPs, nurses and other healthcare workers are also encouraged to make a voluntary notification, in order to help build the picture of modern slavery in the UK.

Full guidance on how to notify the Home Office, alongside the National Referral Mechanism and notification forms is [here](#).

We hope you find this newsletter useful and if any of you have ideas you would like to see in future issues, please contact [sarah.herron@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.herron@knowsley.gov.uk)



## Follow our **six steps** to safer sleep

Together we can reduce the number of babies dying unexpectedly each year.



# Safer Sleep for Baby Campaign

## Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel

Merseyside's five Safeguarding Children Boards, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral, have come together to create a safe sleeping campaign to help you deliver safer sleep messages. This will be launched on 14th December 2015. The campaign has been designed to support the Merseyside Multi-Agency Safe Sleep Guidance 2015 **click here**. It is based on research recommendations from Lancashire's successful campaign 'Give Me Room to Breathe', which showed that the target audience did not feel that the safer sleep messages were clear enough. Parents also wanted a campaign with a positive 'can do' tone that felt more supportive and understanding.

Safer Sleep for Baby is based around six simple steps, designed to be easy to follow and cover the main risk factors. We want all agencies involved with families to speak in a unified voice to reinforce our messages to parents and carers. You can see the six steps on the appropriate Local Safeguarding Children Board webpage. We also want to acknowledge to parents that every family has different circumstances and people may have more specific questions. Consequently, we want to highlight that there are people in Merseyside who can help, whether this is a health professional, Children's Centre staff or support group and also to signpost people to The Lullaby Trust (previously FSID) helpline. Please **click here** for access to the resources and for more information.

**Multi Agency Child Protection Procedures have now been updated -  
visit [www.knowsleyscb.gov.uk](http://www.knowsleyscb.gov.uk) to find out more**