

NEWSLETTER

Welcome

I am pleased to introduce our regular KSCB newsletter, which as usual, is full of information. You will see that there continues to be a focus on the Board's priorities, particularly neglect and its impact on children. In the light of the findings from Serious Case Reviews all Board members are clear that our work in this area needs to be strengthened.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Ian Mulcahey, our new and permanent Board manager who joined us in July, I know some of you have met Ian since he arrived in Knowsley and more staff will meet him during the next few months. Ian's background and experience in police work will ensure he makes a strong contribution to our work. I would also like to welcome Lindsay Hughes, our new Quality Assurance Officer. Lindsay will be supporting us through analysis of performance across the partnership and helping us to understand the full picture of safeguarding in Knowsley.

Board members are currently undertaking visits to front line services to listen to the views of staff and understand better what works in multi-agency work and what requires strengthening. If you have not had an opportunity to contribute to this, we are still keen to hear your views. Please email



carly.gebhardt@knowsley.gov.uk with your comments. Once we have completed our visits, a report will come to the Board describing the themes and proposed actions to address areas of concern. Your Board member will feed this back to you and we hope you will see the importance we place on your views as a result.

I am aware that all those working with vulnerable children are busy and demand for services is high. On behalf of the Board I would again like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your work and commitment to vulnerable children and their families.

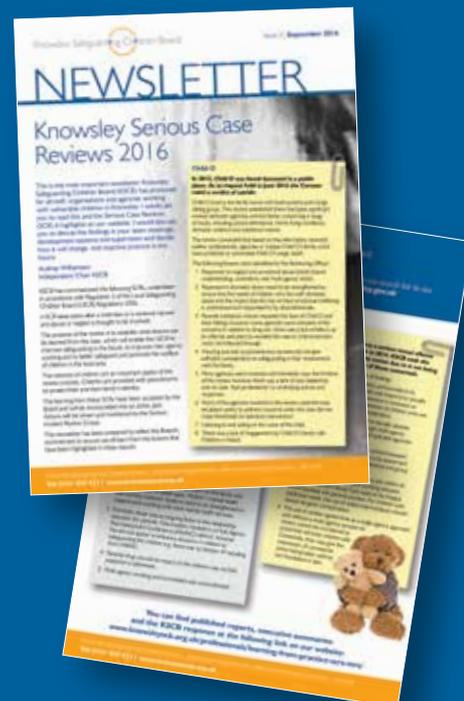


Audrey Williamson
Independent Chair
KSCB

Knowsley Serious Case Review 'Learning the Lessons' Newsletter

In September, the Board produced a newsletter to cascade the learning from recent serious case reviews completed by the Board. Please click on the following link to access this document:

www.knowsleyscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/KSCB-Serious-Case-Review-Learning-the-Lessons-Newsletter.pdf



LOCAL NEWS

July saw the launch of the revised Knowsley's Threshold of Need Guidance and the new Pan Merseyside Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF). The Threshold Guidance has been compiled



by the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board and partners to meet requirements of the Government's statutory guidance "Working together to safeguard children 2015" and replaces all previous threshold information. It is designed to help identify when a threshold - or trigger - has been reached, indicating when a child or family might need support and then to identify where best to get this support from.

A number of our partners work across the Merseyside region, the Pan Merseyside MARF was produced to bring about some consistency and a more harmonised approach when making contacts and referrals regarding the safety and welfare of children. Click on the following links to access these documents:

<https://marf.knowsley.gov.uk/Home>

www.knowsleyscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Knowsley-Threshold-of-Need-Guidance-2016.pdf

You Said We Did

You said: Extend the Operation Encompass initiative to early years providers.

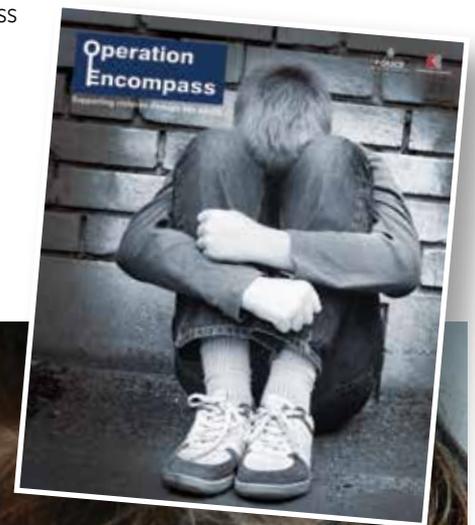
We did: Both Nursery Designated Staff and Childminders have received training regarding the process and are now included within this initiative.

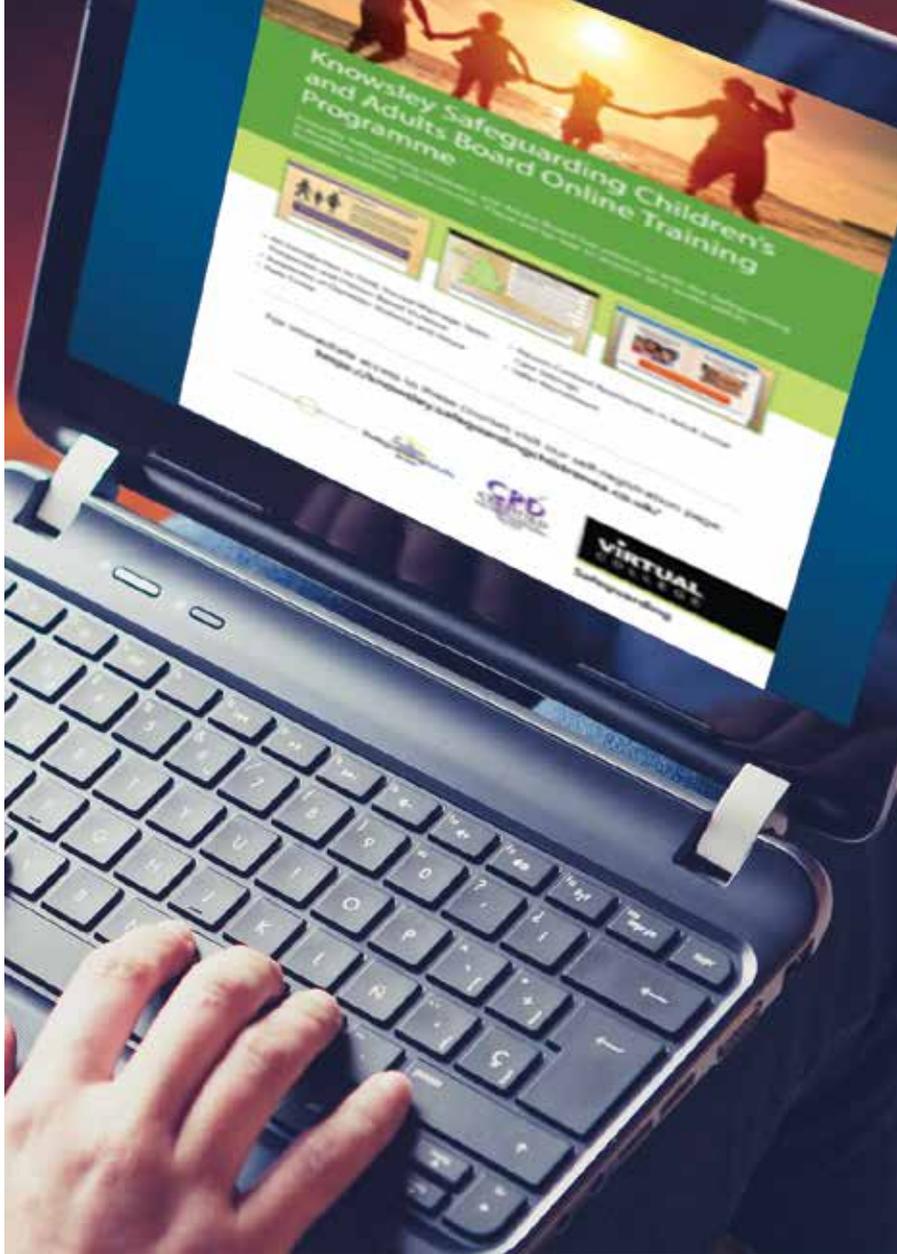
Launch of Operation Encompass for Early Years Providers

In Knowsley, like all local authorities, there are children living with the impact of Domestic Abuse. In 2012, Merseyside Police and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, introduced a new initiative which looked at how key partners could work better together to safeguard these often silent victims.

Operation Encompass is an initiative that follows in the footsteps of a successful programme in Plymouth. The purpose of this was to safeguard and support children following a domestic abuse incident where police have been called out. This initiative has previously focused on children of school age (age 4-16). Since its introduction, partners have identified a gap regarding children within early year's settings such as nurseries and childminders, this is a very vulnerable cohort of children and to address this, the Board have worked together with Merseyside Police and the Early Years' Service to extend the focus and include babies and younger children within this process.

In 2016, Operation Encompass has been recognised with the 'Fully Validated Status' from the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children's and Young Peoples Services (C4EO). This means that it is shown as 'Effective Practice'.





KSCCB Training News

For all forthcoming training opportunities you can access the Training Calendar on the KSCCB Website. To book a place you now need to register with the KSCCB Training Booking Portal at the following link <https://ksccbtraining.knowsley.gov.uk/>.

You will be required to complete all fields and include your managers email address in order for them to be able to approve your training request; you will then have access to a dashboard which details available current training courses. Register as a manager if you will be expected to approve or reject training requests. If you have recently attended training, please make sure you complete your online evaluation form by accessing your completed courses tab.

The Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards have joined up to provide a range of online modules suitable for both the vulnerable adults and children's workforce, there has already been a large take-up of our online modules and current courses with available modules include an Introduction to Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, Spirit Possession and Honour Based Violence, Awareness of Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Person Centred Approaches in Adult Social Care Settings and Safer Recruitment.

NATIONAL NEWS

NSPCC: Sexting - How to talk to children about the risks and what you can do to protect them

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages. It may feel awkward, but it's important to explain to children the risks of sexting, how to stay safe and remind them that they can talk to you if something ever makes them feel scared or uncomfortable. The following link will direct you to the NSPCC Website page offering advice and guidance regarding Sexting **NSPCC Link**.

Risk Indicators for Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation

A review has been carried out by Coventry University on behalf of the early Intervention Foundation to aid policy makers and practitioners in their understanding of the vulnerability and protective factors regarding child sexual abuse and exploitation. It also provides an assessment of the best evidence for identifying and appraising risk indicators. Click on the following link for the full report www.eif.org.uk/publication/csa-risk-and-vulnerability/

Updated Ofsted Guidance regarding Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills

August 2016: Ofsted has updated its guidance on what inspectors must consider when inspecting safeguarding in these areas. Click on the attached link for a list of the main changes and the new framework guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills-from-september-2015>

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

Board Priority: Neglect

The board have established a Neglect Task and Finish Group to drive forward the work of the board in this priority area, developing a strategic and operational response to dealing with child neglect. The role of this multi-agency group is to understand the extent of child neglect and how it affects children living in Knowsley, to develop performance measures and key indicators and to develop a workforce strategy in order that practitioners have a better understanding of child neglect and how it impacts on daily lived experiences. The group will also take into account the key messages from local serious case reviews where neglect has been a central theme. A survey has been created to capture workforce understanding of neglect, could you please take a few minutes to complete the survey at the following link by Wednesday 9 November.

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/UnderstandingNeglect

More practitioners have been trained in using the Graded Care Profile. Tools like the Graded Care Profile are designed to help when assessing neglect and monitoring progress (or lack of it) over time. The following article highlights 9 steps to improving neglect assessments with a particular focus on the tool:

www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/impact-evidence-evaluation-child-protection/impact-and-evidence-insights/9-tips-improving-neglect-assessments/

The board are also in the process of arranging a conference, which will be facilitated by Professor Jan Howarth, a leading expert in the field of neglect. The focus of the conference will be the lived experience of the child.