



JULY 2010 EDITION TWELVE



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Comment A Time of Change

On 10 June 2010, ministers announced the launch of a review of children's social work, headed by Professor Eileen Munro. It is to be wide-ranging and will be an important step to remove barriers and bureaucracy from social work practice that prevent face-to-face time with children and families. This will include considering how effectively children's social workers and professionals in other agencies work together.

The review will build on the work of Lord Laming's Progress Report (March 2009) and the Social Work Task Force. She will pursue new lines of inquiry in order to identify new and innovative examples of good practice, with an aim to understanding how they were made possible and what obstacles had to be overcome. In order to do this a range of people, including social workers and children and young people will be asked to complete calls for evidence. Professor Munro is due to submit her final report in April 2011, an interim report in January 2011, and an initial report in September 2010. We will let you know more as information becomes available later in the year.

On a really positive note, Annie Redmond, the new Safeguarding Board manager started in post on the 1st July. She will be based at 22 Lairgate in Beverley and both the Safeguarding Unit (from Cottingham) and the Independent Reviewing Officers team will all be joining her there. The main contact number of 01482 396999 will remain the same. Again, more to come on these changes in the next edition of the newsletter.



Attending Parenting Groups - Positive Feedback

There are a number of Parenting groups being run around East Riding in such settings as Children's Centres and through the Think Family Project. Very often it is motivated parents who will ask for course details but with the support and encouragement of practitioners from all agencies many other parents also attend. It may be harder on occasion for parents with substance misuse problems to even go to a Children's Centre let alone attend a parenting course because of their fear of being judged. Two such parents, encouraged by the Substance Misuse Social Worker, Janette Smith, attended a Nurturing Links course and then wrote of their experience afterwards:

"I referred myself and my partner to do the nurturing programme parenting course at the Children's Centre. It was very easy to refer myself. I was nervous as I knew I'd be meeting new people I worried I may be judged but that wasn't the case. All of us on the course became like a little family. Nobody feels judged or intimidated, the staff were lovely and easy to talk to and very helpful and informative. Going on a parenting course doesn't mean you're a bad parent everybody needs help from time to time. I really recommend doing a parenting course it gets you out meeting other parents in the same situation as you and you make friends and get more confident as a parent."

And her partner wrote:

"My girlfriend referred me and her to do a parenting course. I felt really intimidated at first as I was the only lad on the course full of women but as I got in to it that feeling soon went away and I felt comfortable and made friends with everyone. I could easily talk to the other parents and found out we all had a lot in common. The staff were excellent too I loved it. I don't know why more lads don't do it. I'm going on another one with my partner next month I enjoyed it that much."

I have kept the details of which particular Children's Centre the couple attended confidential to protect their anonymity but I want to send a big thank you to them for attending the course and talking about their experiences for us to share with practitioners and parents alike. Through their encouragement and example we may be able to get more parents to attend.





Holiday Pools and Water Safety

Research shows that over the last six years, 30 children under 10 have drowned in swimming pools while on holiday abroad. More than half of the victims were under four. Children aged two to three are most at risk. In many cases, the toddler wandered away from their parents and fell into an unsupervised pool.

With the summer holidays about to start it is important to be aware that:

- Children drown silently. They don't cry out for help and wave to be rescued. Instead they disappear under the surface of the water, often unseen.
- A significant number of holiday pool drownings happen on the first or last day of the holiday, when parents may be distracted and children can more easily slip away to explore.
- A young child can drown in just 5cm of water – that's a lot less water than the average paddling pool will be filled with.
- While pools at hotels, villas and campsites are the main culprits on holidays abroad, at home, most two and three-year-olds drown in the home or garden. A pond in a neighbour's garden can be very tempting for a toddler visiting the home of friends or family.
- It's not just young children who are at risk – older children love swimming in the sea and wild swimming, but strong currents, deep water, hidden objects and underwater vegetation are especially dangerous.

To protect them:

- Actively supervise young children near water.
- Empty paddling pools when they're not being used.
- If you have young children and a pond, fill it, fence it off or cover it. Ensure that children can't get through to neighbours' gardens which may have ponds. Check when you visit the homes of friends or family.
- Teach older children about the dangers of rip tides, strong currents and other hidden dangers in rivers, lakes and canals. Encourage them to swim in a swimming pool.
- Choose a beach with lifeguards to swim in the sea, learn what the safety flags mean and how to spot a rip tide.

For more information on swimming pool safety for children while on holiday, visit the RoSPA website:

<http://www.rospa.com/LeisureSafety/AdviceAndInformation/WaterSafety/child-holiday-swimming-pool-safety.aspx>

For safety at the beach and in the sea, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has an excellent online resource for parents, teachers, children and teenagers: www.seasmart.org.uk





What Does the Participation and Rights Team Do?

The Participation and Rights team offers a service for children who are looked after, have a social worker, or are disabled and live in, or are the responsibility of East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Jayne Betts, Team Manager said "there have been lots of changes in the team over the last year, including changing our name to the Participation and Rights Team. This new name is to reflect the focus on rights based activity and advocacy work undertaken by the team".

The team offer advice and support to young people regarding their rights, and offer an advocacy service to children in care, have a social worker or who are disabled. Advocacy can help if a young person wants something stopped, started or changed, supporting young people with issues such as placements, contact, education, bullying and lots more.

As well as advocacy, the team undertake a wide range of rights based activity. Children's Rights Officers from the team visit all children who become looked after to make sure they know what is happening to them, and what to do if they have a problem. They also offer independent visits prior to young peoples LAC reviews to ensure young people are able to have their views heard. Additionally they undertake regular visits to local authority and independent children's homes to facilitate residents meetings.

Work with disabled children in developing all the time. There are workers within the team who have undertaken additional training in communication skills, and are able to offer advocacy and consultation for disabled children.

Recently the team have worked with the ERSCB to develop a response to children who are

running away from home or care. The team have developed publicity and offer an independent return visit to children reported missing if they are in the care of the local authority or have a social worker.

Young people can also get involved in a variety of groups' such as the Children in Care Council, and the Young Peoples Safeguarding Group. These groups enable children to influence decision making and change, as they have direct links to senior managers. New projects are being established all of the time, and currently the team is developing their work with the birth children of foster carers.

In addition the team also manage the Independent Visitors scheme, in which volunteers are matched with children in care to develop a mentoring relationship, and involve children and young people in delivering training and interviewing for staff.

If you are interested in finding out more then look on the team's website at www.rights4u.org.uk, or email rights4u@eastriding.gov.uk. You can contact Jayne for more information on 01482 396828, or Jayne.Betts@eastriding.gov.uk.





2Young2Die training!

The road safety charity Brake is offering training courses for professionals regarding talking to and working with young people around road safety.

They say, "Did you know that young people's ability to gain pleasure from speed and other thrills is fully developed by 15, but their ability to control their desires isn't fully developed until their mid-20's due to late frontal lobe development of the brain? This is one of the reasons that young drivers are so high risk and so often are in crashes, killing themselves, their friends and other road users. Brake runs one-day courses around the country to train you to deliver our powerful 2Young2Die programme to teenagers about the dangers of driving and being a passenger with a young driver." All attendees receive a free resource pack to help you deliver the programme within PSHE time, as well as access to a supportive website and one year's free subscription to Brake's [Road Safety Forum](#), giving regular updates on road safety news via email and mailings." The course costs £40 + VAT to cover the charity's costs.

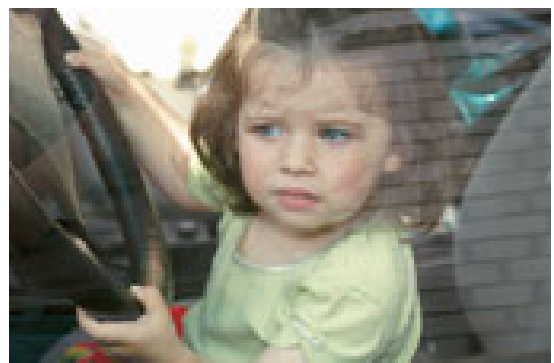
If you are interested and want to check out dates and venues, contact Brake direct on www.brake.org.uk/2young2die or call 01484 559909.

Road Safety Week Alert - 22nd-28th November 2010

The theme this year is 'Kids Say Slow Down!' The Road Safety Week coordinators at Brake want young people & children across the country to unite and stand up for the rights of pedestrians and cyclists to use roads without fear from speeding drivers.

They suggest that it is time to start planning an event – young people could, for example get their drama class to create a play on the dangers of speeding and hold an assembly for the whole school? Or alternatively work with the local fire service to bring a crashed car to their school to show pupils the force of impacts and the damage they do. Or get geography pupils to do a speed survey using a radar gun they borrow from the local police?

For more ideas on how to get schools involved and to order **FREE RSW posters**, go to www.roadsafetyweek.org and follow the educator links.





Example of Good Practice



East Riding Bullying DVD wins a National Award

An East Riding youth group for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and Transgender community are celebrating after coming second in a national competition to tackle homophobia.

Lollipop, a youth group for young people aged between 13-19, were invited by Stonewall a national lesbian, gay and bisexual charity to attend a screening of their three minute film 'Dear John' which was screened alongside the feature film 'Training Rules'.

'Dear John' was one of the three finalists at the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival held at the British Film Institute, Southbank on 28 March. The film is aimed at educating people about homophobia, challenging stereotypes and raising awareness of the effects of homophobia. It shows a friend writing an email to a boy called John explaining that they don't want to be friends with him any more because they object to how he's treating people. The film shows how John has bullied many people in a homophobic way through using social networking sites, mobile phones and email.

It shows how the bullying not only affects the bullied, but also, eventually, the person who's doing the bullying.

Helen Jones, sexual health youth worker and trainer for East Riding of Yorkshire Council said "Homophobic bullying can cause permanent damage to young people and blights the places where it takes place. Making all young people-regardless of their sexuality- feel included and valued is essential and the young people from Lollipop have certainly achieved their objective".

The young people are now hoping to secure funding and hoping to make their film into a resource, so that it can be used in schools throughout the East Riding to raise awareness of homophobic bullying and the effects it has on others.

The "Dear John" film can be viewed on the Stonewall website, stonewall.org.uk For more information about the project, contact Helen Jones 01482 392808 or Lollipop 01482 392839





Open windows – keep children safe from falls

With all of the warm weather we have been having as I have been driving around I have seen lots of windows wide open both during the day and at night. This is a great time therefore to remind parents to take steps to ensure their young children are safe from accidental falls out of open windows.

Please encourage the parents and carers of young children to:

- Keep furniture such as beds and chairs away from windows
- Fit window locks or safety catches to stop windows opening more than 6.5cm (2.5”), and ensure that family members know where keys are kept in case of fire.
- Be aware of the risks when they visit the homes of friends and family who may neither have young children nor take the same precautions.

Recent research has shown that parents are more concerned about fire safety and think that window locks will hamper their evacuation. Reinforce the message that the keys need to be kept close by but It takes just minutes to carry out a quick check to make sure that there’s nothing for children to climb on positioned near windows, and just an hour to fix a window lock or safety

catch to stop windows from opening too wide.

In addition , parents could also be reminded that this is a good time for them to practice their escape in the event of a fire. This year’s Child Safety week theme was *Make time for safety* and more information on this can be found at

www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/child-safety-week/parents-section/safety-topics/fire-safety/





What is Private Fostering?

A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made by a parent without the involvement of the local authority for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if the child has a disability), by someone who is not a parent or close relative, for 28 days or more. Private foster carers may be from extended family members defined under the Children Act such as cousin, great aunt, in-law rather than a relative, i.e. step-parent, grandparent, sibling or aunt. Victoria Climbié was being privately fostered when she died.

Privately fostered children include children living apart from their families; teenagers who are estranged from their families and may be living with friends or non relatives on a short term basis; children sent from abroad to improve their educational opportunities and staying with another family, including children attending language schools and living with host families; children attending boarding school who may spend long holidays with host families; asylum seeking and refugee children.

All children who are privately fostered have the right to expect the same outcomes we want for every child and in order to ensure this part 9 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 44 of the Children Act 2004 provide a framework of safeguards to achieve this. However, as many parents or private foster carers are not aware that there is a legal requirement to notify the local authority of such an arrangement for their child, we are not always able to ensure these safeguards

are in place. Currently in the East Riding, only one child is recorded as being privately fostered.

What Should You Do?

We still do not know exactly how many young people are being privately fostered across Britain or in East Riding. It is therefore essential that all professionals in the education, health and voluntary services, parents and carers are aware of the need to inform social care services of the arrangements of care for a child and to make a referral once they become aware a young person may be being privately fostered..

In order to support you with this, leaflets and posters aimed at parents/carers, private foster carers and children and young people who may be being privately fostered have been developed. They are available from the Safeguarding Board office and on the website.

This information will also be available at the Driffeld Show on the 21st July from the Fostering Team stand.

In addition the full policy entitled "Private Fostering " is available on the ERYC Website under the Child, Family and Adult Directorate and the campaign information, "Somebody Else's Child is available from

<http://www.privatefostering.org.uk/>





Nominate Good Practice

We would like to hear from you with examples of Positive Safeguarding Outcomes for children and young people in the East Riding. Do you know of a programme or a person that has made a difference?

If so, please let us know so that we can share it. In addition, if you have questions you would like answered or a topic you would like addressed within this newsletter, please contact:

annemarie.born@eastriding.gov.uk

Thank you to Helen Jones and Jayne Betts who have both contributed articles for this month's newsletter.

Back copies of this newsletter can be found at:
www.erscb.org.uk

Stop Press:

Facebook has now agreed with CEOP to have a Stop Abuse button on it's pages. Just click on the new App. If you have any concerns.

Contact details

Safeguarding Board Manager
Annie Redmond
East Riding Safeguarding
Children Board
22 Lairgate
Beverley
Website: www.erscb.org.uk

General Enquiries
Telephone 01482 396999
Email: erscb.enquiries@erscb.gov.uk

Training Enquiries
Telephone 01482 396994
or
Email: erscb.training@eastriding.gov.uk
Fax 01482 396995

Child Death Review Enquiries
Telephone 01482 396999
email: cdop@eastriding.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated
Officer
Telephone 01482 396999/2
Email: annemarie.born@eastriding.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated
Officer –Schools/Education
Telephone 01482 392139
Email: tony.marsh@eastriding.gov.uk



NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Anti-Bullying Campaign
www.bullying.co.uk

Barnardos
www.barnardos.org.uk

Child Exploitation & Online Protection
www.ceop.gov.uk

Child Accident Prevention Trust
www.capt.org.uk

The Childcare Link Service
www.childcarelink.gov.uk

Childline
www.childline.org.uk

Childnet International (E Safety)
www.childnet.com

CRY-SIS Helpline
www.cry-sis.com

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)
www.dcsf.gov.uk

Disability Rights Commission
www.drc-bq.org

Eating Disorders Association
www.edauk.com

Every Child Matters
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG)
www.fflag.org.uk

FPA (Formerly the Family Planning Association)
www.fpa.org.uk

Family Rights Group
www.frg.org.uk

Forced Marriage Unit – 0207 008 0151
www.fco.gov.uk

Gingerbread
www.gingerbread.org.uk

Internet Watch Foundation
www.iwf.org.uk

Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation – 0207 490 0303
www.ikwro.org.uk

Karma Nirvana – 01332 604098
www.karmanirvana.org.uk

Kidscape
www.kidscape.org.uk

National Missing Persons Helpline
T: 0500 700700 (24 hours)
www.missingpersons.org

National Council for One Parent Families
www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk

FRANK – The National Drugs Helpline
www.talktofrank.com

NHS Direct
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

NSPCC
www.nspcc.org.uk

OFSTED
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Private Fostering Campaign
www.privatefostering.org.uk

Refuge
www.refuge.org.uk

Road Safety
www.brake.org.uk

RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety
www.rospa.co.uk

The Samaritans
www.samaritans.org.uk

Water Safety
Maritime Coastguard Agency
01262 672317
www.mcga.gov.uk