

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ACPC NEWS BULLETIN

ACPC Annual Conference 05

BY DUNCAN SIRET
Safeguarding Children Manager

This year's annual conference was held on the 4th November at the Thistle Hotel, Cheltenham. Over 70 people with a genuine interest in safeguarding children in Gloucestershire came and heard presentations from local and national speakers throughout the morning. Darren Shaw, Chair of the Gloucestershire Area Child Protection Committee opened the Conference (despite technical difficulties) with a plea to keep safeguarding firmly in focus during this period of change and to maintain the high standards that have already been established in child protection work in Gloucestershire. He went on to emphasise the importance of developing clear lines of accountability within and between agencies to ensure that we are able to deliver on the need for good practice from all agencies working with children, young people and families.

Jo Davidson, the Director of Children's Services designate spoke about the need to develop a culture of self-evaluation, to highlight good practice, identify areas that need improvement and to break down the barriers that may get in the way of fully co-ordinated work. Jo told the Conference that she saw four important challenges for the new Safeguarding Board, these were:

1. To develop children, young people and parents' participation in evaluating our effectiveness
2. Reduce the gap between the highly successful outcomes for the majority of children within Gloucestershire and the poor outcomes for the few
3. Simplify access to services
4. Maximise use of resources

Jo warned that there was a danger in trying to take on too much too quickly. She predicted that the Gloucestershire Children and Young People's Plan is likely to focus on getting the basics right, in terms of clarifying core responsibilities for keeping children safe and not being diverted into new areas too quickly.

The Conference also heard from Colin Green of the DfES who explained the context of the Change for Children programme and the expectations Government had of Local Authorities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; from Michael Jameson, Stockport Safeguarding Children's Board who spoke of the lessons Stockport had learned as they made the transition from an ACPC to a Safeguarding Board.

Continued on page 2 ...



Mr. Colin Green (above)
Divisional Manager, Child Protection, DfES provided the national context for the LSCB. Dr Carolyn Davies (below) Academic Co-ordinator, Thomas Coram Research Unit discussed the evidence base for inter-agency working to safeguard children and how effectiveness can be monitored and evaluated.



Darren Shaw (below)
Chair of the Gloucestershire ACPC opened the Conference



ISSUE 2 NOVEMBER 2005

CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <u>Annual Conference 05</u> |
| 2 | <u>Annual Conference 05</u> |
| 2 | <u>Safeguarding Manager</u> |
| 2 | <u>EMS & ERIC</u> |
| 2 | <u>CP Teacher Training</u> |
| 2 | <u>ECM: C4C Key Messages</u> |
| 3 | <u>ECM: C4C Implementation</u> |
| 4 | <u>Revised CP Procedures</u> |
| 4 | <u>Schedule One Offenders</u> |
| 5 | <u>CPR Checks</u> |
| 5 | <u>New Links</u> |



ACPC Annual Conference 05

(continued from page 1)

The morning was completed with a very interesting presentation from Dr Carolyn Davies from the Thomas Coram Research Unit who put the whole process of moving to a safeguarding approach within a research context. Dr. Carolyn Davies reminded us that we need to ensure the Safeguarding Children Board has:

- Clear aims roles and responsibilities
- Acts as an effective multi-agency steering group
- Agreed timetables signed up to by all partners
- Establishes commitment at all levels in organisations
- Has good systems of communication and information sharing
- Programmes of continuing education

The afternoon focused upon local issues with lively discussion groups to identify the strengths and weaknesses with the position we are currently in. Issues raised included:

- Ensuring the correct agencies are represented on the Board and that the membership includes people with authority
- That we find a way of engaging effectively with the voluntary sector and faith communities
- That we are more effective in the way we communicate to all staff
- That we establish a more sustainable financial basis to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board
- That we find ways of using resources and facilities that are already established, rather than 're-inventing the wheel', especially for consultation with service users and monitoring
- Ensuring the GSCB is firmly imbedded in the Change for Children Programme

These issues are already on the ACPC agenda and are being raised with the Change for Children project.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all of you that helped to make it an enjoyable and successful day - the speakers, the organisers, the facilitators and the participants - who raised some interesting and challenging issues.

Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme Key Messages

BY DUNCAN SIRET
Safeguarding Children Manager

The Government's Change for Children programme brings a significant change in the way services for children and young people are delivered. For detailed information please click below:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/changeforchildren

- the needs of children, young people and families must be at the heart of all service planning and delivery;
- organisations working with children, young people and families must work together more effectively to provide integrated and accessible services that meet these needs;
- identifying problems and intervening before children reach crisis point and protecting children from harm;
- establishing a voice for children, young people and their families when developing services;
- improved outcomes for all children and young people.

Who does this change programme affect?

Change for Children affects anyone providing services for children, young people and families, whether they are in the statutory, private or voluntary sector. This includes local authorities, health services, schools, childcare providers, youth services, the police, social care services, sports and play organisations and the voluntary and community sector.

Safeguarding Children Manager

BY DARREN SHAW
ACPC Chair

To move us towards the new arrangements required by Every Child Matters and The Children Act 2004, I proposed in the Children and Families Special Bulletin December 2004, that the current Child Protection Unit becomes part of a wider unit. We have now created a Safeguarding Children Service, bringing together the functions of the ACPC Coordinator, ACPC training and the management of the Child Protection Unit. Duncan Siret is now in post as the Safeguarding Children Manager and will be leading developments to set off the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB), which will replace the ACPC from April 2006.

Duncan was previously the Lead Child Protection Coordinator with the Social Services Child Protection Unit. He has worked as a Social Worker since 1989 and due to his experience and expertise later progressed on to the Child Protection Unit.

Welcome to this new post Duncan.

EMS & ERIC

BY JANE BEE
Chair of Education Sub-committee

A link has now been established between Social Services ERIC database and the Education EMS database. This link means that data previously held separately by each database can be merged in order to provide statistics, such as searches on referrals made (held by Eric) and searches by school (held by EMS). This provides much greater potential for the targeting of training for schools and monitoring of statistics.

Additionally information about children on the Child Protection Register is now linked to EMS. Warnings appear on screen when a record is accessed on EMS to advise staff that a pupil is or has been on the Child Protection Register. The warnings highlight the need for logging a child welfare concern if appropriate and provide information on where to get further advice.

Child Protection Training for Teachers

BY JANE BEE
Chair of Education Sub-committee

In April, all schools were informed of their ACPC Child Protection Training requirements for designated Child Protection Officers. Due to the huge response received from schools, two additional training sessions exclusively for education professionals have been booked to meet this demand. The training module on EMS is about to go Live, it records the names of all who have attended both ACPC and whole school training sessions and will generate delegate reminder letters 6 months prior to expiry of training. Designated Child Protection Officers in all schools were also sent the ACPC website launch leaflets in September.

Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme Implementation of the projects

BY DUNCAN SIRET
Safeguarding Children Manager

Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for leading the Change for Children programme locally and bringing together key organisations and partners involved in providing services for children. It is making this happen through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), a multi-agency partnership of key local organisations that provide services for children.

The Change for Children programme is being implemented through a number of projects:

Creation of a Children's Services Directorate - The Children Act 2004 makes it a requirement for local authorities to establish a Children's Services Directorate that will bring about the integration of children's services across education and social services departments. Gloucestershire County is progressing plans to achieve this by April 2006.

Children & Young People's Plan - Under the new Children Act 2004, Gloucestershire will have a single plan covering all local services for children and young people, replacing the separate plans prepared by each agency in the past. Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for leading the development of this plan, which must be ready for April 2006. The plan will bring together the key service priorities for children and young people across a full spectrum of organisations, such as health and the voluntary sector.

Safeguarding Children – Under the new Children Act 2004, by April 2006 Gloucestershire should have in place a 'Local Safeguarding Children Board' (LSCB) to replace the existing Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC). This multi-agency board must work together effectively to safeguard children and young people. LSCBs will have a monitoring and inspection role, with statutory powers to ensure member agencies fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

Emotional well-being of children and young people in Gloucestershire - this project aims to co-ordinate and improve the integration of the various support services for children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. This includes improving the quality and co-ordination of support provided to parents and carers and organisations such as schools, which play a significant role in supporting children and young people.

Area Planning - we need to ensure that there are planning and monitoring arrangements in place within each of the districts in Gloucestershire to meet the Change for Children agenda and deliver on the priorities for children and young people set out in the Children and Young People's Plan. There are proposals for area planning groups appropriate to each local area, which will include district councils and the voluntary and community sector.

Improving Access - this project is about making it easier for children, young people and families to access the services they need. This includes better information and advice on a range of services in one place, organisations working more closely together to provide co-ordinated services and making it easier for people to use services.

Children's Centres - services for children aged birth to five years and their families will be provided through Children's Centres and are central to the Government's ten-year childcare strategy. The County Council and partners are now planning the future development of these services to ensure that every community benefits from children's centre services by 2010. Professionals either based at the centre or with close links, will work closely together to provide children's centre services. This includes teachers, health visitors, childcare workers and midwives.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/childrenscentres

Supporting Young People and their Families - this project aims to improve support services for young people aged 13 to 19 in Gloucestershire through more integrated planning, funding and delivery. It will develop models of how youth services could be delivered, including the options for delivering Connexions services in the future. Gloucestershire is one of ten national pilots for modelling the Connexions service into integrated youth support provision.

Disability Integration - this project aims to ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities have access to support and services that are responsive to their needs and enable them to achieve the five outcomes set out in Every Child Matters.

IN DEPTH

The Revised Child Protection Procedures TO GO LIVE

BY DUNCAN SIRET
Safeguarding Children Manager

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU ALL

WE NOW HAVE NEW CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES WHICH ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

The ACPC have just published new child protection procedures. This became necessary because the Green Manual has become significantly out of date. The green manual has been in use in Gloucestershire since 2001 and since that time there have been any number of changes in Govt guidance, including the issuing of procedures to support children and young people abused through prostitution, guidelines for complex abuse cases and clarification of Government intention through the publication of the 'What to if you are worried a child is being abused'. There have been a number of changes agreed locally, following the completion of Serious Case Reviews for instance. It has also been necessary to update some of the terminology used within the procedures.

There will be no more Green Folders

After a lot of discussion and debate the ACPC has decided that from now on the Gloucestershire Child Protection Procedures will be publicised on the ACPC Web Site, there will be no new hard copy or green folder.

We are currently experiencing great change in the field of child protection (Safeguarding) and support for children and families, and further change is anticipated in future as Gloucestershire implements the Change for Children agenda, specifically with the creation of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Board in April 06.

It is felt that it is too complex, too risky and too expensive to try and keep on top of the many changes through the issuing of paper copies, there are well over two thousand Green Manuals out there in Gloucestershire.

The newly revised procedures can be accessed on:

www.glosacpc.org.uk/procedures

Details about accessing the procedures on line are being publicised through leaflets sent to work places and Green Manual holders. These should be posted on staff notice boards where they can be easily seen. Further copies of the leaflet can be printed from the Newsletter page by the end of December. Put the link to the procedures on your computer screen desktop so that they can be accessed by one click of the mouse.

Throw the Green Manuals away today

The ACPC ask that we give a loud and clear message that all Green Manuals should be thrown away as soon as is possible, so please look for your copy right now and put it tidily and ceremoniously into the office bin (please recycle the paper if you are able).

If you have difficulty getting access to a computer it is appropriate to print relevant sections from the web site providing care is taken that it is kept up to date. You will need to nominate a member of your staff team to be responsible for ensuring the most recent versions of the procedures is in print.

WHAT IS NEW IN THE PROCEDURES?

Out goes "making a check to the child protection register" and in comes "logging a child welfare concern".
See page 5 for more information

Out goes the term Schedule One Offender

The Department of Education and Skills have asked us all to stop using the term Schedule One Offender and to use instead the term "risk to children" should be based on all available information including that provided by relevant agencies, such as assessments of risk made by probation, police, health, whether individually or via the multi-agency public protection arrangements. The reason for this is that 'Schedule One Offender' does not describe the level of risk the offender may present to children, and the Government want to promote the practice of assessing situations as they arise and making judgements about risk based on that assessment. The term 'Schedule One Offender' is a label that lasts for life and that takes no consideration of the circumstances of the offence, a childhood conviction for instance for a playground fight may be subjected to scrutiny all their life, regardless of the likelihood of re-offending against children. There is a concern that this practice may well be subject to human rights challenge in the future. The revised procedures reflect this change and give clear guidance about how to manage situations where there are adults or young people who are a risk, or a potential risk, to children.

Out goes “making a check to the child protection register” and in comes “logging a child welfare concern”.

Logging a child welfare concern

Out goes “making a check to the child protection register” and in comes “logging a child welfare concern”. Logging a concern is done in the same way and does the same job. It has a new name because of concerns that the old phrase caused misunderstanding about what is the purpose behind the need to make a call to the Child Protection Unit and a worry that sometimes a negative answer (that a child is not on the Child Protection Register) may inappropriately lessen concern.

This is how it works

A Child Welfare Concern (previously referred to as a Child Protection Register check) must be logged every time a professional from an agency represented on the Gloucestershire ACPC has a child welfare concern. This should always occur when the professional has not received a clear or plausible explanation in response to any child welfare concern that has arisen during the course of your work, or where explanations have been contradictory and give rise to concern. The concern is logged with the Child Protection Unit (based in social services). In this way a database of concerns is being built up on the children of Gloucestershire and an opportunity to pull together concerns from different agencies is provided, even on those occasions when a referral to social services is not made.

The professional will be asked to provide names, DOB, and address of all family members if at all possible and details of the concern. They will also be asked for their name, professional role and a contact telephone number (in order that the results of the searches can be given and authenticity checked).

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) will carry out the following searches:

- Check the current Child Protection Register
- Check for previous registration
- Search social services information system for current involvement and previous child protection concerns
- Search CPU records of previous register checks.

The caller will be given the results of the searches and may be offered advice from a child protection co-ordinator about how to proceed. If the check is about a child currently on our Child Protection Register the caller must share their concerns with the appropriate keyworker

All child welfare concerns that are logged will become part of a database that is maintained in the Child Protection Unit. **Logging a child welfare concern is not a ‘referral’ to social services and so will not, ordinarily, lead to any action by the Social Services Directorate.**

Information is passed on to the appropriate social work team manager on any second or subsequent child welfare concern made on a particular family and the caller will be advised about this. The team manager will decide if further action is required, this should be done in consultation with the person logging the concern. The person logging the concern will be advised to contact the appropriate social work team in serious cases and that the CPU may follow this up.

A child welfare concern can be logged with the Child Protection Unit, Tel: 01452 425144, during normal office hours or to the Police Control Room Tel: 0845 0901234, outside of normal office hours, although the police will be able to access less information. The Child Protection Unit will follow up Child Welfare Concerns made through the police during the next working day.

New Newsletters

- [Early Years & childcare in Gloucestershire Autumn/Winter 2005 Newsletter](#)
- [DfES Update November](#)
- [CRB Newsletter](#)
- [Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Newsletters and Briefings](#)

News

- [Childline set to join NSPCC](#)
- [New guide will improve life chances for children with complex disabilities](#)

Consultations etc.

- [Children and Young People’s Plan](#)
- [Making Safeguarding Everybody’s Business: A Post-Richard Vetting Scheme: Analysis of the responses to the Consultation document](#)
- [Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto](#)
- [DfES Consultations](#)
- [Local Authority Social Services Letter: Children’s Services Funding: 2006-07 & 2007-08](#)

Guides and Publications etc

Document	• Gloucestershire ACPC Child Protection Procedures
Publication	• Safeguarding Children in Education
Guide	• Employing ex-offenders a practical guide
Campaign	• Gloucestershire Constabulary’s Campaign to tackle Domestic Violence
	• the 5 year vision for joint planning & commissioning of children’s services
Annual Report	• Multi-agency Public Protection Annual Report
TV Programme	• Teachers TV – Suspected Abuse
Website	• Road Safety Week – Brake Road Safety