

Gloucestershire ACPC News Bulletin

ACPC NOW ON THE WEB

Welcome to the first issue of the Gloucestershire ACPC Newsletter!

The launch of the September Newsletter coincides with the official launch of the Gloucestershire ACPC Website.

We hope that this will be our means to keep you informed of our work.

With Local Safeguarding Children Boards coming into place in April 2006, there will be many updates available, so keep a look out for local and national developments in Safeguarding Children.

**BY DARREN SHAW
ACPC Chair**

The Website is designed to be a helpful resource for ACPC members, professionals whose work involves children and young People, parents, carers, children, young people and others.

In the next few weeks and months, the content will be refined and more information added.

We recommend visiting the website monthly, as these pages will be regularly updated.



This Website incorporates information such as:

- [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused or neglected](#)
- [ACPC and its membership](#)
- [Child Protection, Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Child Protection Policies & Procedures](#) (The Green Manual)
- [Training](#)
- [Annual Report 2004-2005 & Business Plan 2005-2006](#)

The Annual Report

**BY MIKE KNOWLES
ACPC Coordinator**

It is the requirement of each ACPC to produce an Annual Report/ Business Plan to set out a work programme for the forthcoming year and feedback on the previous year.

The Gloucestershire ACPC Annual Report was printed and circulated to the Chief Executives of all ACPC agencies in August 2005. This is available to the wider audience in PDF format by selecting the following link:

[The Gloucestershire ACPC Annual Report 2004-2005 and Business Plan 2005-2006](#)

This includes statistics for Child Protection Activity in 2004, as well as Terms of Reference and Business Plans for each of the Sub-committees.

Issue 1: September 2005 ACPC Newsletter

Gloucestershire



area child protection committee

ISSUE 1 September 2005

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**The Gloucestershire
ACPC
Annual Conference:
4th November 2005**

**BY MIKE KNOWLES
ACPC Coordinator**

The theme for this year's Annual Conference is the Transition to Local Safeguarding Children's Boards. 100 delegates from various agencies will be invited this week.

IN DEPTH

Working Together: Draft Guidance Issued by DfES

BY MIKE KNOWLES
ACPC Coordinator

Working Together To Safeguard Children and Local Safeguarding Children Boards

The inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié and the report of the Joint Chief Inspectors on Safeguarding Children showed weaknesses in the systems in place to safeguard children, and the Government response plus the Every Child Matters Green Paper in 2003 set out planned reforms to the system. The Children Act 2004 provided the legislative basis for change.

The Working Together to Safeguard Children draft guidance document sets out how agencies and professionals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It provides a national framework within which agencies and professionals at local level – individually and jointly – draw up and agree upon their own more detailed ways of working together

The guidance is addressed to practitioners and front-line managers who have particular responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and to senior managers, in:

- Organisations that are responsible for commissioning or providing services to children, young people and adults who are parents / carers, and
- Organisations that have a particular responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- It also includes organisations not under a specific statutory duty, but nevertheless with a key role to play in this area such as: the voluntary and independent sector organisations that commission or provide relevant services, including the voluntary and independent sectors; the Immigration Service, the National Asylum Support Service and armed services

The guidance can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_-_July_27th_-_final_to_pdf.pdf

This guidance from the Government about the implementation of the LSCBs – designed to replace the Area Child Protection Committees (ACPCs) – offers some clarity about the extended role the LSCBs will have in both protecting children and promoting their well-being, but it also highlights some concern about funding arrangements for the LSCBs. The Government has provided some additional funding to support local authorities while they manage the cost of running both ACPCs and LSCBs in the interim as the new structures are set up, however, it has not yet been tested whether the costs of the new Boards will be as predicted.

The opportunity for LSCBs to undertake preventative work, ensure multi-agency training is secured, and coordinate the statutory involvement of a wide range of agencies represents an exciting challenge for the Boards as part of the *Every Child Matters* agenda. The expansion of the function and statutory responsibilities of the Boards and partners addresses some of the criticism that the ACPCs were limited in terms of their powers and membership.

The Government has provided consistent rhetoric about promoting the well being of children and young people through the five outcomes, the challenge will be putting this into practice. Establishing LSCBs, and ensuring that they are able to fulfil their functions – accepting that the preventative role will only to be undertaken once the protective role has been demonstrated – will largely be reliant on the provision of quality and timely training, both for people directly involved in the LSCBs and those indirectly involved in their functions.

GSCB

BY MIKE KNOWLES
ACPC Coordinator

The Gloucestershire ACPC is currently working on the Project Plan for setting up the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB). This should roll alongside the Change for Children Programme to help reduce the gap between 'most children' and those children who are the 'most vulnerable children'.

The first decisions that are currently being considered are the membership, accountability and funding.

The GSCB project will be in place by April 2006 to replace the Gloucestershire ACPC. The focus will be on a more effective inter agency cooperation in the safeguarding of children and young people

Local Forums

BY MIKE KNOWLES
ACPC Coordinator

One of the specific responsibilities of the ACPC is to "to improve local ways of working in the light of knowledge gained through national and local experience and research, and to make sure that any lessons learned are shared, understood, and acted upon". Currently the ACPC is considering the feasibility of piloting Local Forums for one year to provide an opportunity for local practitioners to meet. The Training Sub-committee is considering how to achieve the following:

- to explore case scenarios from a multi-agency perspective,
- to share evidence based practice
- to update knowledge
- to information share;
- to learn to work with each other and learn from each other

More information will follow if this proposal goes ahead.

The Green Manual Update

BY DUNCAN SIRET
Policies & Procedures Sub-committee Chair

The current Gloucestershire ACPC Child Protection Policies and Procedures were written in June 2001. These can be accessed by following this link:

[Gloucestershire ACPC CP Policies & Procedures](#)

Since then, there have been various developments in Safeguarding Children and the Gloucestershire ACPC decided to commission an Independent Consultant to update the Green Manual as you will probably know it as.

Steve Cameron, who has many years experience working with the NSPCC and significant knowledge on child protection policies, was selected for this mammoth task. This Sub-committee is due to meet on 14 September 2005, to review and agree the work that Steve has completed so far.

The ACPC has decided that from now on the Gloucestershire Child Protection Procedures will only be published on the website and the Green Manual will be superseded on completion of the updated work, which should be in November of this year. You will be notified when this is to happen. This decision has been taken primarily because of the pace of change in the field of child protection and is likely to mean further changes and updates will be required on a regular basis. It is felt that it will be very difficult to ensure all the thousands of 'hard copies' are current and that there are risks associated with this. It also brings the ACPC on line with other agencies who have been publishing policies and procedures online for some time now. We hope that this will ensure all professionals working with children and young people have to hand accurate information at all times.

The ACPC has tasked each agency to draw up their own communication strategy to ensure the update is available to all staff working with children and families in Gloucestershire.

Thanking Maggie

BY DARREN SHAW
ACPC Chair

Maggie Stubbs, one of our executive members representing Health is currently under secondment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her efforts which have really been valued.

Pauline Johnson is now representing Health and we welcome her to her new role with ACPC. She is the Interim Director of Operations & Nursing at Cotswold and Vale PCT and a PCT Board Member. She has Line Management of County Wide Children's' Service and responsibility for Child Protection.

New Trainer Appointed

BY ISOBEL DOUGAN
ACPC TRAINER

Following the success of the [ACPC Training](#) team, a new part time trainer, Stephen Lines has been appointed and we would like to welcome him to the post. Stephen has considerable experience in social care, primarily adult mental health and child protection. He has worked with Barnados in London for 9 years as a Senior Social Worker Deputy Project Leader in a Child Protection Therapeutic Treatment and Assessment Centre. For the last two of these years, his post involved being the voluntary organisation representative at the ACPC executive meetings and the training sub-committee. Most recently, he was the Early Years Centre Manager in Cirencester. Additionally he has also delivered a few learning & development events or volunteers and colleagues within Barnardos and with Childline telephone counsellors.

Child Protection and Children with Disability

BY NUALA LIVESEY
Training Sub-committee Chair

The ACPC is keen to improve practitioner awareness of child protection issues which relate to children with disabilities. In order to begin this process the Training sub-committee plan to include training on Child Protection and Children with Disabilities as part of the ACPC Training Programme.

The options being considered include developing local training, using a recognised training and resource pack such as The ABCD Pack (Abuse and Children who are Disabled), or commissioning training from a recognised, expert, external trainer.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/secure/CH_process.asp?id=127

Whole School Staff and Governor CP Training

BY JANE BEE
Education Sub-committee Chair

The number of available trainers for whole school staff Child Protection Awareness Training has been substantially increased with the recent training of five Senior Educational Welfare Officers. This takes the number of trainers available to schools to seven. Two-hour twilight and inset sessions continue to be available for this training and can be booked by telephoning 01452 426994.

In addition, the DfES is about to roll out Child Protection training for school governors. Once guidance has been issued an Education Personnel (Resources) member and a Governor Training Team member who have been selected, will take part in this training. They will then hopefully be in a position to offer training for school governors, helping them to create a greater understanding of child protection issues.

New Links

Aug 05	Consultation Responses	Children's Services Inspection Regulations – Analysis of responses
Aug 05	Guidance	The Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services
Aug 05	Newsletter	DfES Update August/ September
23 Aug 05	Draft Cross Government Guidance	Sharing Information on Children & Young People
28 Jul 05	Draft Guidance	Working Together to Safeguard Children and LSCB Guidance
Jul 05	Guidance	Offences Against Children
14 Jul 05	Report	Second Joint Chief Inspectors' Review of Children's Safeguards