

NSCB NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2017 EDITION

Welcome to the NSCB February newsletter. This edition has a focus on the work the partnership is doing to reduce the harm to children caused by domestic abuse. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find the content of interest. If you have any comments about the newsletter or items that you would like to see in future editions, please email lsqb@newham.gov.uk

The NSCB ensures the co-ordination of safeguarding work by all agencies and monitors the effectiveness of child protection work across Newham. If you would like to contact David Sanders, Independent Chair directly about a local safeguarding issue, his email address is david@sandersconsulting.co.uk



Update from Triage/ MASH (Multi Agency Service Hub) Service

Our approach: SIMPLICITY AND EFFICIENCY – Keeping the child in focus and providing timely intervention.

Newham's Triage Team consists of a range of professionals from social workers, police officers (PPD, CSE, MISSING PERSONS, MENTAL HEALTH, VULNERABLE ADULTS), Health, Education, Housing, Probation, YOT, CGL, Shelter and in the near future will include Aanchal as well as Manor Gardens. We also have a strong link with the Early Help Service in Newham with the Early Help representative based on Triage. As a team we are endeavouring to ensure that all referrals to Triage are progressed within 24 hours. This is a real challenge for all of us on Triage. We are keen to improve the early help offer across the community to ensure that children are subject to statutory intervention where it is appropriate. A majority of our referrals consist of domestic violence. We are hoping that by having Aanchal co-located with us on Triage, we are able to improve our response to cases with domestic abuse. A majority of the cases with domestic abuse also share

common themes like substance misuse and mental health and by having CGL co-located with us; we are hoping to have a better response to these referrals. There is a need to explore further the adult mental health offer on Triage as this will further enhance our response to such referrals.

Our challenge remains in ensuring better quality of research and recording of our decision making as well as ensuring that the multi agency presence in Triage is also utilised by the social care colleagues across the board with improvement in multi agency strategy meetings and joint visits.



Interview with MASH Detective Sergeant Jo Elbourn

Who is in your team?

8 police officers at present and 1 more joining the team soon. The equivalent to 6 full time staff and we provide a weekend service. We have specialist members from the police here such as the CSE team (child sexual exploitation and the MP team (missing persons).

Q. How do you assess risk when information comes in?

Thresholds have been recently updated and modified to help identify risk, using a rag rating system; red, amber and green. This allows for the risk assessment matrix to be used. Risk factors considered to support the assessment are mental health, criminal activity, drug use and alcohol abuse. Officers will undertake analytical research providing social workers with case summary and richer information to support decision making.

Q. Since joining the MASH service what changes have you been able to make?

We have been able to undertake a handful of home visits following referrals that have come into the service with a longer term plan to have the capacity to respond to new referrals when we are unsure about criminal activity and children's welfare. This gives the ability to make better informed judgement, keeping uniformed police free to police the streets and safeguarding concerns to be dealt with by a specialist team.

Q. What do you expect from the extended team you are working with?

I anticipate rich conversations with in the team to be happening that will assist timely decision making in turn this will mean families receiving the right support. We can now hold strategy meetings in.

Q. Do you use the LSCB training programme?

I am aware that my colleagues in the police force are making good use of the

variety of training the LSCB offers and my team will soon be attending and contributing to the multi agency learning.

Q. What gaps have you identified since coming into post?

When adult mental health is an issue often the impact that has on a child or children in the family is not considered so more training and knowledge building would be useful across services.

Q. If you could have access to any resources what would you have?

The capacity to deal with all safeguarding concerns with an initial home visit to reduce the demands on all services at the front door.

In summary:

Although the police are my team I see myself as part of the wider team here in triage. I view the MASH as a washing machine; putting all the services in together and seeing what comes out, sometimes you have to spin jobs twice but that's necessary as some cases need re reviewing but that's why we are all here together.

Update from the Training and Development team away day

Recently, Newham's LSCB training sub-group held their annual away day to organise training for the upcoming year. This day allows the LSCB to collaborate with community professionals from diverse backgrounds giving them a chance to provide input on upcoming training opportunities.

In line with the LSCB priorities, the London Borough of Newham continues to focus on Domestic Abuse and the impact it has on families and children we work with on a regular basis. Throughout the year the LSCB has identified several training needs which include but are not limited to risk assessment, effective investigation of domestic abuse and appropriate interventions with perpetrators of violence.

Courses offered throughout the upcoming year will provide participants with many opportunities to explore domestic abuse; as such courses will range from introductory to identifying risk and effective interventions. The SafeLives Dash Risk Assessment will also be incorporated into training as this tool will become mandatory for practitioners



who work directly with families in the community. <http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Dash%20for%20IDVAs%20FINAL.pdf>

It is anticipated that training geared towards these needs will have positive impacts on families experiencing domestic abuse and lead to the following outcome being achieved;

Children who live in situations of domestic violence will be identified quickly and their families will receive adequate support to decrease the risk of harm and improve overall outcomes.

Newham Safeguarding Children Board Training: February and March

We provide a comprehensive programme of safeguarding training linked to our annual Business Plan. Any professional working with children and families in Newham can apply to attend a NSCB course. The training is

popular and take up of courses in the first half of this year has been 86%.

Courses are either a full or half day, below are the list of courses running in the next period .To find out up-coming training availability and to book a place please, email ann.capes@newham.gov.uk or on telephone **020 3373 3392**.

Newham Safeguarding Children Board Training: Spaces Available

February

27 – Understanding Diversity

March

2 – Children Missing from Education

15 – Learning from SCRs

17 – Core Groups and Case Conferences

30 – Protecting CYP On-Line.

Learning from the recent Multi-agency Audit: December 2016

The cases of 8 children were audited and 7 of these children had been exposed to domestic abuse. In 4 families the parents had separated and in 3 they had remained living together.

The parents of these children said:

- They felt listened to, their views were taken into account and they understood what was happening
- Social workers made real efforts to engage with their children and had their best interests at heart
- Social workers helped them understand the impact of domestic abuse on their children
- They valued practical support given e.g. place at a Children's Centre, care package, bedding and input from Child and Adolescent Mental health services

- Communication can be poor
- There are delays in services being put in place
- They are unclear about the role of the social worker
- Professionals can be critical rather than encouraging

How well the child's plan has increased their safety and improved outcomes?

The audit found this was being achieved in three cases, partially achieved in two cases and not achieved in two cases, both of which

were followed up. A further case was not rated due to gaps in the audit information. This child and the siblings were being safely cared for by relatives.

Most cases showed:

- Children had been seen and spoken to alone and their lived in experience recorded
- Appropriate referrals had been made for support and protection
- More cases had been referred to DSV services than in the previous year's audit
- Evidence of work with female and male carers to assess risk and support capacity for change
- Practitioners had the safeguarding training, skills and knowledge needed to work with the family or to gain this in the near future
- Good information sharing between professionals

Areas for improvement

- Information for parents about the role and responsibilities of the social worker
- Use of the SafeLives Dash risk Identification checklist by key professionals
- Feedback to practitioners from the Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and using this information to inform plans for children
- Agencies are meeting their agreed standards for the frequency and quality of supervision

Next steps

The LSCB Performance and Quality Assurance group are developing an action plan to embed the learning and areas of improvement from this audit alongside the launch of a targeted domestic abuse training programme for 2017/18.



LSCB Inspection Briefing on Joint Targeted Inspections for Domestic Abuse December 2016

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) is a new inspection framework for evaluating the services for vulnerable children and young people. These are thematic and the current focus is on children living with domestic abuse.

Nearly 100 professionals attended the briefing to learn more about what the inspection process and how it will affect them. The turnout and representation from our agencies was outstanding; many staff enjoyed the

opportunity to reflect and discuss case studies alongside other agencies. The questions raised and responses to these are summarised below.

Your opinion matters and if you were not able to attend this event, we would like to request that you complete the LSCB survey using the survey monkey link below by 22nd February. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes and this will help us to know what is happening and where we need improvements. Responses will be published in the March newsletter.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NSCBFocusonDA>



Questions and Answers raised at the Inspection Briefing

Questions

What will be the format/ process for the inspection

Response

Further details can be found in the JTAI briefing paper given on the day. You can also find out more about the inspection framework by visiting:

Overarching JTAI Framework JTAI Framework on Domestic Abuse

Please have a helpline/email that we could access
How does an agency get hold of the Safeguarding Improvement Plan

The LSCB has developed a new website and you can find out on the latest inspection updates on this site by visiting <http://www.newhamlscb.org.uk/>

It will be helpful for other agencies to have social care thresholds for assessments as this keeps on changing

The LSCB has developed a new website and you can access the Safeguarding Improvement Plan on the new LSCB webpage.

We have recently reviewed our guidance on thresholds to produce a new Pathways to Help and Support document, which will include Levels and Indicators of Need and will align with the London Thresholds. This will be formally launched and available for colleagues to work with from 9 February. We anticipate that this will clarify the pathways used for families working with our Integrated Neighbourhood services at all stages of the continuum of need. For further information, please contact your line manager in the first instance, otherwise you can contact your relevant early help lead.

Early Help Coordinators

Kathy Dee (EAST)

Kathy.dee@newham.gov.uk
020 3373 0673

Rehema Essop (CENTRAL/SOUTH)

Rehema.essop@newham.gov.uk
020 3373 4672

Vicki Kitts (WEST)

Vicki.kitts@newham.gov.uk
020 3373 34122

Questions and Answers raised at the Inspection Briefing

Questions

Response

Early Help Practitioners

Amber Robinson (EAST/SOUTH)

Amber.robinson@newham.gov.uk
020 3373 1225

Dawn Henry (CENTRAL/SOUTH)

Dawn.henry@newham.gov.uk
020 3373 7031

Jasmin Choudhury (WEST/SOUTH)

Jasmin.choudhury@newham.gov.uk
020 3373 4651

Neelam Pankhania (TRIAGE)

Neelam.pankhania@newham.gov.uk
020 3373 0878

Will the inspectorate look at performance indicators and out vision for achieving these?

The information requested by each inspectorate will differ for each agency. However they will be interested in performance indicators/ management information relating to domestic abuse. Particularly if you can show impact of your work e.g. change in performance this will be useful information to share with inspectors. At the same time if there are performance indicators relating to domestic abuse that is not 'turning the curve' it is important to understand the story why.

As part of the inspection, we will have to provide child level data from the social care management case list. From this list, inspectors will track and sample the experience of these children and the effectiveness of each agency in these cases.

Will the inspectorate consider staffing level/budgetary constraints and their effect on our work?

The guidance is very clear that the focus of inspection is on the multi-agency response to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation.

While limited resources are a reality, the expectation is that resources are managed as effectively as possible to ensure vulnerable young people and families receive high quality support and intervention.

How much notice would professionals be given if we will be involved

JTAI inspections are unannounced and agencies will normally be notified on a Tuesday morning. While inspectors are not on site until 3 weeks later, request for information will start immediately and a letter to each agency will be sent to formally notify us that the inspection has officially started.

Questions and Answers raised at the Inspection Briefing

Questions

What is the protocol for strategy meetings?

Response

Working together 2015 states that that whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm there should be a strategy meeting.

At minimum, the local authority, health professionals and a police representative should be involved in the strategy discussion. The meeting may need to involve the other agencies (e.g. schools and nurseries) which hold information relevant to the concerns about the child.

You can find the local protocol at
<http://www.newhamlscb.org.uk/>

Strategy meetings are critical to sharing available information and establishing what immediate and short term action is required to safeguard and support the child by all agencies. It therefore requires input from all agencies.

The NSCB escalation policy sets out how concerns between agencies can be resolved
<http://www.newhamlscb.org.uk/>





Contact details

Newham Local Safeguarding Board

lscb@newham.gov.uk

www.newhamlscb.org.uk

Newham Child Protection

020 3373 4600 (9am - 5.15pm)

020 8430 2000 (other times)

Childline

Freephone 0800 1111

NSPCC

Freephone 0800 800 5000

Visit our website <http://www.newhamlscb.org.uk/>