



# Safeguarding Bulletin

“Keeping Children and Young People Safe”

A review of key national and regional policy developments

## Yorkshire and the Humber Safeguarding Bulletin Issue 1 - December 2006

Hello and welcome to the first Safeguarding Bulletin from the Children and Learners Directorate, Yorkshire and the Humber.

Keeping children and young people safe is one of the Government's top priorities. I want to make sure that the Directorate plays a key role in promoting the welfare of all children and young people by working in partnership with local authorities and partners to deliver the Every Child Matters agenda.

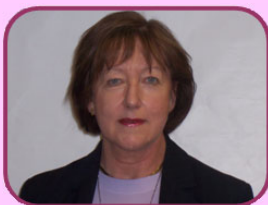
Our most recent Safeguarding seminar appears to have been welcomed, with colleagues from local authorities relaying that it was both supportive and informative to their work. This Bulletin and a mapping exercise are underway also as a result of that feedback, as ways in which we can provide updates on policy developments and work in the region.

Through these quarterly bulletins we will bring to your attention key national policy developments and share emerging practice examples on corporate parenting from the region.

We have some really interesting work planned for 2007. I'm particularly looking forward to hearing directly from children and young people on how we as corporate parents can make sure they are well cared for and that their needs are being met.

Finally, I'd just like to wish you a relaxing break and I look forward to working with you in the new year.

Helen McMullen - Deputy Regional Director, Children and Learners.



'Keeping Safe' by Kellie Craig - See next issue for 'Meet the Artist'

### The Children and Learners Directorate

The Children and Learners Directorate was established in May 2006 to support the regional delivery of the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda.

The Childhood and Vulnerable Children Team is one of four teams in the Directorate. We have a regional policy lead on safeguarding and vulnerable children, early years, child protection, safe workforce, special educational needs and disability (via the Regional Partnership) and children in care.

The team is made up of the following:  
Jackie Lincoln - Team Leader & Regional Lead on DfES policy for Safeguarding  
Nancy Palmer - Children's Service Advisor  
Stephanie Brewer / Claire Owens / Sonia Mayor - Regional Policy Officers  
Caroline Rhodes / Alan Tate - Allegation Management Advisors  
Cathy Stephens and Faye Simms - The Regional Partnership

### **Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care**

Care Matters sets out a radical package of proposals for transforming the lives of children in care. Consultation has begun and feedback from the Transforming Outcomes for Children in Care Seminar will be forwarded to the Green Paper Team.

For our next issue we would like to report on how children and young people have been involved in responding to the Green Paper. Please send examples to us at [Safeguarding@goyh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@goyh.gsi.gov.uk)

We liked this accessible young people friendly interpretation of Care Matters Seven Priorities;

1. More help for families who are having problems
2. One adult that sticks with you the whole time you are growing up
3. A good, happy place to live that works well for YOU!
4. A place at a good school – one that really helps you do your best
5. More help and support for you outside of school
6. To listen to what you want to happen when you leave care; to listen to when you want that to happen and to give you proper help when it does happen
7. Listening to what you have to say about being in care, so that being in care is better for you!

(Source Who Cares? Magazine, For more information click [here](#))

For further information on the Care Matters Green Paper and consultation form click [here](#) .

### **Priorities Meetings**

Priorities meetings are senior level meetings that take place on an annual basis between local authorities, key partners and government officials. These meetings explore the current challenges faced by local authorities and identify future actions on how they will be addressed in the following year.

In our region looked after children's needs feature highly in these meetings as a key priority to improve outcomes for this group. Our Children's Services Advisors, Nancy Palmer, Daryl Agnew and Des Coffey are working closely with Director's of Children's Services and Senior Officers to raise the profile of this group.

### **Yorkshire and Humber Regional Participation Forum-25K**

We are very pleased to have successfully secured money to work in partnership with A National Voice, National Children's Bureau and National Leaving Care Advisory Service to establish a regional children and young people's forum to ensure that the needs of children in care can feed into policy developments. Recruitment is currently taking place for a project co-ordinator and if you know of any young people who would be interested in being involved in this post, please contact [Martin.Hazelhurst@raineronline.org](mailto:Martin.Hazelhurst@raineronline.org)

*Look out for our first 'Championing Children' conference in Spring!*



## Key Messages from Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) Conference

The first LSCB conference took place in Leeds recently. Colin Green, Deputy Director of the Safeguarding Group at the DfES, encouraged LSCBs to develop a strong independent voice to champion the needs of vulnerable children by working in partnership with key agencies. George Matthews Director of Team Teach, highlighted good practice guidance for safe working for staff and children. For further information click [here](#)

There was an inspiring input from Wes Cuell, Director of Services for Children and Young People at the NSPCC and Colin Turner, Head of Partnerships at the Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre who provided information on tackling the sexual exploitation of children and young people. They encouraged LSCBs to develop clear strategies to meet the needs of young people at risk of sexually exploitation. For more information click [here](#)

## Top Tips in Engaging Children and Young People in Care

A National Voice – the only organisation set up and led by young people, who have been in care, gave us a wealth of information about ensuring children and young people are genuinely engaged in shaping services at a recent seminar. We have pulled together the following top tips from this work;

- Develop creative approaches to encourage involvement. The key to successful consultation is to use exciting ways of gathering the views of children and young people.
- Where possible, reward or pay children and young people for their time, experience and expertise.
- Where young people are being paid encourage them to design a Code of Expectation so that everyone is clear from the outset of what is expected of them.
- Always write a reference or thank you letter to those involved in consultations. Accreditation and recognition is very important.
- Encourage confident young people to work with less confident peers to ensure participation from all.
- Young people from care are not well represented on some Boards/Groups. A number of places could be allocated to young people in care, ensuring that the young people are supported to take up these places through taster sessions and the facility to opt out should they wish.
- All feedback from consultations should go to the Director of Children's Services, the Lead Member for Children and all corporate parents.
- The corporate parents have a responsibility to provide feedback to children and young people in a medium and language that are both understandable and acceptable to them.
- Promote positive role models. Looked after children need to have more positive images of how they are achieving. For more information click [here](#) for A National Voice.



## Joint Working and Effective Communications

### Funding To Support Networks

The Yorkshire and Humber Children and Learners Directorate has successfully secured just over a 100k from DfES central budgets for regional work on safeguarding and vulnerable children. This money will be used to disseminate emerging practice via seminars and conferences, bulletins and support to the following networks:

Local Safeguarding Children's Boards, Education Protects Network, Children and Young People in Care Participation Panel, Independent Reviewing Officers Network, Information Sharing and Assessment and Common Assessment Framework Network.

## MAX-imise Opportunities for Children in Care

Yorkshire Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA Yorkshire) has launched the MAX Card project in Yorkshire and the Humber.

The MAX Card gives looked after children and guests free entry to over 80 museums and galleries across the region. Current users of the MAX Card say that the scheme also offers:

- A positive impact on recruitment and retention of carers
- A positive impact on carers' own children
- Contribution to Educational Activities and Achievement for Looked After Children and Young People

For further details contact: [erica.ramsay@mlayorkshire.org.uk](mailto:erica.ramsay@mlayorkshire.org.uk)

## Conferences and Training 2007

### Yorkshire and the Humber

Y&H Independent Reviewing Officers Conference, 14th March 2007, South Leeds Stadium

### National

Safeguarding, Adversity and Neglect, for NHS staff working with children. 12th February 2007, London. For further details contact [Denise.Snow@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Denise.Snow@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

### Training by Child Exploitation and Online Protection Service (CEOP)

Foundation Course in Understanding Child Sex Offenders, Interviewing Sex Offenders, Two Day Internet Sex Offenders Course, Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management in the Community. For dates, cost and venues, please contact the training team at the CEOP office on 0207 238 2314 or email [training@ceop.gov.uk](mailto:training@ceop.gov.uk)

## Get involved!

Please feel free to send us suggestions for future editions. If you know of colleagues who want to be on our distribution list, please forward us their contact details by clicking [here](#)



