Welcome to... the new Rotherham LSCB Newsletter.

Inside each issue we will provide updates about our current work and training opportunities and any significant changes to policy, procedures and legislation.

Swift and easy access to Rotherham’s Early Help Service

Following on from the recent Early Help briefing events held in November and December 2015 the integrated Early Help Teams went operational from their locality teams bases on the 18 January 2016.


For more information on the services and the support available go to the Early Help Offer website:

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/earlyhelp

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director of Children’s Services described these changes as being the first exciting steps of a transformation journey that will change the way we all collectively support children and families in Rotherham. Commenting that the right Early Help services at the right time can reduce or prevent specific problems from getting worse and by building on a One Family, One Worker, One Plan principle, the Early Help Assessment, will ensure children and families receive the support they need.

Resolving Professional Differences of Opinion in Multi-Agency working with Children and their Families.

We would like to remind everyone about the practice resolution protocol which can be found within the RLSCB procedures on our website. We know that there are times when there will be disagreements raised between professionals about how a case is progressing and a concern that it may be impacting on the positive outcomes for individual children and their families.

This protocol provides a clear and helpful process for resolving professional differences in practice.

Safeguarding Self-Assessment Rotherham Schools and Colleges

On 11 January 2016 the RLSCB launched its new on-line safeguarding assessment tool for all schools and colleges within Rotherham. The launch event was held at the Rockingham Professional Development Centre and was attended by 140 Headteachers, designated safeguarding leads and deputy designated safeguarding leads which was an extremely good response and the initial feedback regarding the audit tool has been very positive.

The audit tool is hosted by the Virtual College’s Safeguarding Children e-Academy – the UK’s largest provider of online safeguarding children training. This new resource will assist all Rotherham schools and colleges to check the strength of their safeguarding arrangements, create action plans for identified gaps, and to evidence compliance to governing bodies, the Local Authority, Ofsted and the RLSCB.

BENEFITS

- A browser-based interface allows log on from any computer at any time.
- Users can see at a glance a snapshot of their progress and the actions that need to be completed.
- Comparative reports can be produced to view progress of the whole or segmented parts of the audit.
- See a precise audit trail.
- Gather information centrally.
- Encourage a culture of continuous improvement.
- Multiple users can view the same audit from any location.

Schools play a critical role in helping to keep children safe and we would like to thank everyone involved, in advance, for completing this new on-line audit and reviewing the arrangements they have in place to safeguard Rotherham Children. The work is very much valued by the Safeguarding Children Board.

“For me it is exactly what I need and although I do have some work to do to get it all completed and up to date, it is in my interests to do so to ensure I am meeting all my duties. There is so much to cover and this to my mind helps and not hinders this.” Rotherham Headteacher

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Mandatory Reporting Duty from 31 October 2015

What you need to do:

This places a duty on all professionals to report to the police, where in the course of their professional duties, a professional discovers that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl aged under 18 (at the time of the discovery).

Mandatory reporting means that as a professional you MUST report your knowledge or suspicion of FGM to the police through their 101 Service. This must be followed up by a call to MASH Team and the completion of a MARF. If you DO NOT fulfil your legal duty, you are liable to prosecution.

If you would like any more information see:

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board: FGM
Joint inspections of child protection practice to begin this year

One-week inspections of areas' work with vulnerable young people will begin in February and focus on child sexual exploitation. Local authorities, police, health, probation and youth offending services will all be visited by their relevant inspectorates to see how an area responds to vulnerable children and young people.

The one-week inspections will include a ‘deep dive’ topic, and the first theme will be child sexual exploitation and those missing from home, school or care. Joint inspections will work alongside Ofsted’s current individual inspections to help look more closely at risks.

For more information: Joint inspection arrangements

Children Missing from Home: Return Home Interviews

A recent multi-agency audit reports positive outcomes for children and young people.

There has been a significant change in the way that Return Home Interviews have been conducted. From 1 September 2015 youth workers from the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) took over the role of conducting all Return Home Interviews. Permanent staff have been recruited to a “Missing Team” which is comprised of a Senior Youth Worker, a Youth Worker who are supervised by the CSE / Vulnerable Person’s Coordinator.

Return Home Interviews are being used to help the young person understand the risk they are taking by their behaviour while missing and there is emerging evidence that children and young people are listened to and influencing the case management decisions.

Runaway and Missing from Home and Care Protocol

Contact information and Useful Links

RLSCB Website:
http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/safeguarding/

RLSCB Safeguarding Procedures:
http://rotherhamscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm

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Tel: 01709 382121

CYPs-SafeguardingBoard@rotherham.gov.uk

If you are worried about a child

If the child is in immediate danger contact the police on 999 (in an emergency)

If the child is not in immediate danger then contact
Call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01709 336080

If the child is not in immediate danger but you believe a crime may have been committed then call the Police on 101