Welcome to the... LSCB Newsletter, Inside this issue;

Female Genital Mutilation Awareness raising week; LSCB Board priorities for 2016-18; DfE Safeguarding awareness campaign; Foetal Alcohol Syndrome training sessions; recent updates to LSCB procedures; learning from published national serious case reviews;

Young People review the RLSCB Website and recommend improvements

Young people from the Rotherham Youth Cabinet and the Young Inspectors have recently undertaken a review of the RLSCB website. In particular, they were looking at ways in which it could be improved to ensure that it was accessible, easy to navigate and containing the right information for children and young people in a useful format. Overall their feedback was extremely clear – they were not overly impressed! They found it difficult to understand what the site was all about and who it was aimed at, and posed a great question “Why would young people look at this site?”

Feedback

Awful navigation
Too many headings
Boring
Too much writing on the page
Too adult orientated
Looks like someone just put random support heading on for young people
Don’t know where to begin

Improvements

Drop down /navigation
Jargon buster for young people
Emergency Numbers on top of page – easier to find
A tab to take you off the site if someone walked in the room
Structured information

Over the next couple of months the RLSCB will be working directly with a group of young people in partnership with the website design team to look at how best to take account of the advice and comments made in order to produce a more effective website that young people and children will find useful.

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. Click here. This is the protocol to use when you want to escalate your concerns. 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.

The MASH public contact number 01709 336080 will be used for this campaign

DfE Campaign ‘Together We Can Tackle Child Abuse’

In March 2016, the Department for Education (DfE) launched a 4 month pilot communications campaign to encourage members of the public to report child abuse. The campaign aims to encourage the public to report their concerns in order to get help to children more quickly. It aims to create a new social norm around reporting and tackling the barriers that stop people taking action. The campaign will address all forms of abuse and neglect (not just CSE).

Many forms of abuse and neglect present alongside one another and the most common reason for a child to be in the child protection system is neglect. The campaign highlights the fact that we all have a role to play in protecting children and young people from child abuse and neglect.

Rotherham’s Approach

The LSCB have supported the campaign

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) have made a press release to the local media, for the week beginning 18 April 2016, and have produced appraisals of radio scripts and social media engagement.

Please can you support and publicise the campaign by asking staff to display posters in their key public facing areas such as reception areas, libraries, GP surgeries, clinics and police station front counters.

More information about the campaign can be found here

Key Message from the RLSCB Board Meeting March 2016

Christine Cassell, independent chair of the board thanked everyone who took part in the recent LSCB Development Day and presented a summary of outcomes. LSCB Members have agreed the following priorities for 2016-2018:

Priority 1: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
Priority 2: Neglect
Priority 3: Safeguarding Looked After Children
Priority 4: Community Engagement and Voice of the Child
Priority 5: Effectiveness of Early Help

These priorities will form the basis of the Business Improvement and Development Plan for 2016-2018. The business plan is designed to support the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board in achieving its aims for the next two-year period.
Learning from National Serious Case Reviews

January 2016 - Anonymous - Child U, B and V

Death of a 6-week 3-day-old baby boy and neglect of his older half-siblings (13 and 15-year-olds). Ambulance service was called by parents in November 2015 as Baby V was not breathing. Parents had been drinking heavily. Both parents pleaded guilty to child neglect and received a custodial sentence.

Background: all 3 children were subject to child protection plans for neglect and physical abuse. Parents of Baby V and father of half-siblings (U and B) had all had histories of alcohol misuse, mental health problems and domestic abuse. Child U and B had poor school attendance.

Learning Points:
1) Early Intervention:- The importance of early intervention processes that are understood and owned by all agencies are crucial. Early signs of neglect were not shared between professionals because no use was made of the current mechanism for doing so e.g. a CAF assessment
2) Reflective Supervision: - The review highlighted the necessity of good reflective supervision and management scrutiny in all agencies. The role of managers to stand back and help practitioners unpick and fully appreciate the complexities of a situation was missing in this case.
3) Consideration of Fathers:- Very little information was known or considered about either of the fathers in this family, particularly in relation to their role as carers, how their difficulties with alcohol and its associated problems impacted on the children and how the dynamic between all the adults influenced the day to day lives of the children.
4) Exchange of information between agencies: - The needs of the adults in this family were overwhelming and their needs dominated contacts with agencies. Adults’ accounts were accepted without reference to other available information. The review had highlighted the need for Adult Services to ‘think family’.
5) Quality of Children’s Social Care Assessment:- Within assessment there was insufficient exploration or appreciation of the day to day experiences of Child U and Child B and the likely impact on development and life chances.

NSPCC learning from serious case reviews

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Raising Awareness Week 13 – 16 June 2016

FGM is an abhorrent form of violence against women and girls. It is a violation of their human rights and particularly their right to bodily autonomy, to choose what happens to their own bodies. It is crucial to raise both public and professional awareness about what FGM is and that it is illegal to practice FGM in the UK or to take a child outside the UK to perform FGM. We need to engage all professionals to help identify and support those at risk of FGM.

The RLSCB partnership is holding a Raising Awareness week in June 2016 that will remind health, education and social care professionals of their mandatory duty to report FGM. It will also provide information and understanding that will assist in supporting girls and young women who are at risk of FGM as well as how to raise awareness within the local communities in which the professionals work.

For more information please see Raising Awareness Week HERE

Realising the potential - tackling child neglect in universal services

The NSPCC have drawn on the views of 893 health visitors, school nurses, GPs, midwives, teachers and early years practitioners and 18 young people (aged 11-24). They discussed what help is currently provided by universal services to tackle child neglect, what the barriers are to providing Early Help and their ideas on how services can be better supported to provide Early Help.

Using examples from local areas, the panel highlighted the importance of early help to ensure there is a single, clear assessment of a child’s needs and a tailored plan of action. The panel agreed that if children are not doing well, universal services should not wait for a report to be made, instead they should be proactively seeking to support children.

The panel also agreed that the provision of Early Help needs to be better coordinated and integrated with other early help services. There was also agreement that the current early help and safeguarding services need to be enhanced and improved. This could involve additional resources being made available to local areas, a new focus on early help services as developing well children and young people, and better integration of services.

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 the NSPCC on 0808 808 5000
If the child is not in immediate danger but you believe a crime may have been committed then call the Police on 101