Young People and Relationship Abuse

Abuse in relationships is never acceptable and evidence shows that relationship abuse among young people is shockingly prevalent and this must be addressed. A report by the NSPCC and Bristol University in September 2011 found that:

- Two-thirds of the girls and a third of the boys reported experiencing emotional violence, most often controlling behaviour.
- Around half of the girls thought that control was an integral aspect of an intimate relationship.
- A quarter of both girls and boys reported instigating partner control in their relationships.

In addition, a report by the ‘Boys to Men Project’ found that:

- Over half of the 13 and 14-year-olds surveyed have already experienced domestic abuse, whether as victims, witnesses or perpetrators.
- A quarter carried out at least one abusive act - often emotional abuse or controlling behaviour - against a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- The social acceptability of violence was reduced through exposure to preventative education.

Sheffield Resources

Sheffield has developed tools and resources to help practitioners respond to young people experiencing domestic abuse. These include a Young People and Domestic Abuse pathway and a traffic light tool to help professionals understand risk. Both can be found at: http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/resources/children-young-people/

A fact sheet attached to the SSCB procedures is also available: http://sheffieldscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/fact_3.7.2_dom_abuse_yp.pdf

National campaign

The government’s Disrespect Nobody campaign includes a website for young people www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/ and resources developed with the PHSE Association www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/disrespect-nobody-discussion-guide
DOMESTIC ABUSE – A WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH

SSCB Multi-Agency Conference
Thursday 23rd March or Thursday 4th May
8.45 a.m. -12.30 p.m.
St Mary’s Conference Centre, Bramall Lane, Sheffield. S2 4QZ

This conference aims to promote a greater understanding of domestic abuse, its impact on children and families and the importance of all agencies working together to respond to families at an early stage. In particular it will consider learning from local case studies, theoretical models for whole family working and practical approaches to support intervention at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Conference will run twice in order to facilitate maximum attendance, and is open to all practitioners and volunteers working with children and families in Sheffield. Please identify the date you wish to attend on booking.

Further details and booking forms are on the Multi-Agency Training Page of the website:


SSCB Domestic Abuse Training

The Safeguarding Children Board offers a range of multi-agency training and learning events each year around Domestic Abuse. These include the following:

- One-day courses which run twice a year:
  - Safeguarding Children and Young People Affected by Domestic Abuse
  - Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment and MARAC (runs each term)
  - Systems of Abuse – including Forced Marriage so-called ‘Honour’ Based Violence and FGM

One day courses on offer are undertaken on the Board’s behalf by Action, and details are available on: http://www.actionorg.uk/domestic-abuse-training-booking-form-2/.

- Lunchtime seminars are run once per term on topics such as;
  - coercive control
  - Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews
  - FGM and the Law
  - Teen on parent abuse

Information about lunchtime seminars can be found on:

The New Sheffield FGM strategy

“Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.” (WHO 2016)

The World Health organisation estimate that between 100 to 140 million women and girls worldwide have undergone FGM. FGM is ‘an illegal, extremely harmful practice and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls’ (DoH, 2016)

The SSCB has developed a new FGM strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to outline the objectives required to tackle issues around FGM in Sheffield. The strategy is supported by the FGM pathway that has been developed by the SSCB to support communities and practitioners in Sheffield:

‘We aim to ensure that girls and women are protected from being subject to this form of abuse and in the long term reduce the number of victims in Sheffield. Also that communities with high levels of prevalence receive the knowledge, help and support for victims and to eradicate the practice.’ Sheffield FGM Strategy


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New SSCB Website – Live from Monday 3rd April!

www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org

The new website is easy to remember as it is the same address but without the .uk ending.

Alongside the current useful information, procedures, policies, posters and leaflets, the new website will allow us to offer much more – so please take the time to have a look and familiarise yourself with it.

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New Domestic Abuse Policy for Schools

This policy has now been updated (March 2017) and will be available on the Education page of the new SSCB website from Monday 3rd April.

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Student Wellbeing - Web Based Posters

The Sheffield Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board is working with Learn Sheffield (the new school improvement company) to develop a series of web based posters that address subject areas relating to student wellbeing. Each poster will provide brief information about the issue and its impact on children and young people and details of relevant resources and training. The aim is to have the new posters online on the Learn Sheffield website later this school year.
The New Sheffield Safeguarding Hub

From Monday 3rd April all safeguarding concerns should be reported to the new Integrated Safeguarding Screening Hub (SSH) in Sheffield. This will replace the existing referral points and streamline contact points for professionals and the public (the Hub will deal with social care safeguarding concerns. It will not replace police reporting mechanisms and usual processes should be followed to report matters for police action).

The SSH will be a multi-agency team that will initially include Social Workers (children’s social care, early intervention and prevention and Child Sexual Exploitation), Police Officers from the Protecting Vulnerable People Team, IDVA’s (Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service) and Health Staff from Children’s Community Nursing.

What is the reason for the change?
The aim of the SSH is to improve the response to concerns about vulnerable children, young people and adults by providing a more integrated seamless service. It will enable swift, safe and secure data sharing between professionals. It will also ensure that Sheffield is compliant with best practice, inspection requirements and statutory regulations which have changed since the last redesign of the service.

What are the benefits?

- Single point of contact for accessing support with safeguarding concerns
- Reducing duplication across agencies
- Multi Agency Intelligence gathering to be able to understand the child/ren’s current needs as well as their journey
- Integrated and collaborative working, working smarter with shared resources
- Better informed decision-making

How will this affect you?

- From 3 April you may ring the single telephone number 0114 273 4855 to report safeguarding concerns. However calls to the existing area team numbers will still be processed
- There will be enhanced expectations on professionals to articulate clearly why and how they have a safeguarding concern, what it is and who it is about
- Referrals to be followed up by a Multi-Agency Confirmation form (MAC).

For Further Information:
Ask your manager or safeguarding professional within your service. Web based information will be available on the SCC website from April.

SSCB Procedure Update

The SSCB procedures were updated in January. The latest changes can be viewed through the link on the ‘home’ page of the procedures:

http://sheffieldscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/amendments.html
Multi-agency Case Audit group

Main Findings

Every 2 months safeguarding leads from key agencies come together to audit, review and reflect on a randomly selected case that is open to children’s social care. This is part of the SSCB multiagency quality assurance work, promoting a culture of continuous learning and improvement. The audit focusses on the child’s journey and highlights good practice and areas that require improvement.

Agencies involved over the last year have included – schools, health, children’s social care, early intervention and prevention services, youth justice, substance misuse and domestic abuse services.

Of the 13 cases 9 featured domestic abuse, 7 substance misuse and 9 parental mental health concern. There were 4 cases that had all these (trilogy of risk).

Identifying Good Practice:

- Universal services providing excellent support to children and families (e.g schools pastoral support).
- The use of ‘day in the life of’ as part an assessment process improves the analysis and decision making – bringing the child to the focus.
- Domestic violence was recognised and identified by front line practitioners.
- Agencies engaged in an open and honest way and are willing to learn.

What we have Learnt:

- Neglect featured in 8 out of the 13 cases (this links to the Neglect Strategy, see below).
- Use of the ‘day in the life of’ should be embedded in assessments across all agencies. From the audit of case files it was difficult to evidence the influence and impact of the child’s voice in the planning and decision making. However, when professionals attended that worked with the child and family, it was clear that they knew the child well and understood their views and wishes. Further work to take place with front line practitioners to capture the child’s voice and how it influences the direction of their work.
- The majority of cases showed resistance to engage. The group felt that a degree of resistance is expected and acceptable but that the workforce needs the skills to recognise when this is a concern and is having an impact on the outcomes for the child.
- Front line practitioners across all organisations need to be equipped to have the confidence to make evidenced based professional judgements. A recognition of the need for good, consistent, reflective supervision to be provided.

The Neglect Strategy, ‘Day in the life of’ guidance and other resources can be found at: www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk/welcome/sheffield-safeguarding-children-board/sheffieldneglectstrategy.html

Look out for the SSCB Lunchtime seminar, on Friday 7th July, that will provide the main findings from all our audit activity – see the multiagency training page on our new website for more details.

Safeguarding Children - It’s everyone’s business!

We all have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Contact us  e-mail: sscb@sheffield.gov.uk  phone: 0114 273 4450