

November 2011

Champions and Partners

Welcome to this edition of the Safe Network briefing which will cover: the highlights, practice and progress for the July – Sept period, the Core Standards 2012 and their further evolution, the latest from the Child Accident Prevention Trust and a snapshot of Children England's wider work.

Safe Network's highlights, practice and progress

Safe Network's determination to work in partnership and as close to the grassroots as it can, continues to lend support to the emergence of innovative practice, and there is also evidence of good practice and a collaborative approach between the sector and LSCBs in many areas including Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Solihull, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester.

Specific examples include:

- Lincolnshire LSCB has agreed to adopt the standards and acted as broker to commissioning teams' potential adoption of the standards in the commissioning process
- Leicester LSCB's Safeguarding Effectiveness Group has, with the help of Voluntary Action Leicester (Safe Network's local champion's organisation), developed a paper to go to the LSCB on the approval of the standards and their use in the commissioning process and they are now looking together at how to communicate to the sector that the standards are the 'kite mark standard' they expect to see
- Standards officially adopted by South Tyneside LSCB as preferred model for that area and now being actively promoted to the sector

- The launch of the Bexley and Greenwich Safe Network Standards with their relevant LSCBs
- An input from Safe Network's RDM to the LSCB Business Managers in the North East, resulted in two of the areas, Durham and Redcar & Cleveland, wanting to consider how they and Safe Network can work together around the Safe Network resources but particularly the standards

In addition to the outreach, the Safe Network website received a record 39,468 hits between July and September, not bad for the school holiday period, and this included almost 6,000 downloads, the majority of which were the Core Standards. Direct support to Voluntary, Community Sector (VCS) organisations from Safe Network's regional managers exceeded target by 100% at 335 and its recruitment of champions moved up to 92 organisations on its way toward a target of a champion in all 154 local areas.



I just wanted to say from myself and on behalf of the KSCB a BIG thank you for all your hard work yesterday. I have reviewed the comments forms and they are 100% positive and this is absolutely down to all of you! There were over 100 people in attendance yesterday and some really valuable learning and networking. The KSCB VCS work stream hopes to make this an annual event for the voluntary sector and we are delighted that our first conference has been so warmly received!

Engaging small service providers in safeguarding in Cheshire East

Cheshire East is the third largest unitary authority in the North West, next to Manchester and Liverpool, with an electorate of over 280,000, a population of 363,800 and a net budget of £214 million. It has agreed to keep its Children's Trust Partnership and has carried out a significant re-shaping of children's services, creating a new Early Intervention and Prevention Directorate which is closely linked with adult services, to roll out a whole family approach.

Its LSCB is a large, strong, multi-agency partnership, most of its work being carried out in sub groups, one of which, Communications, is, coincidentally, chaired by the Safe Network NW Regional Development Manager (RDM). It recognised that there are no common standards for safeguarding across the Borough and that communication needed to be improved, especially to small Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) organisations.

What did Safe Network contribute?

The NW RDM met with the LSCB Business Manager, the Training Officer and the Play and Leisure Officer in 3 separate meetings to discuss the Safe Network standards, how to raise awareness of them and roll them out into the VCFS. The Safe Network website, resources, standards and the Champions programme were all examined, alongside the LSCB current training programme, its new website, the play and leisure structure and

programme.

What was the impact?

- A "one minute guide" to SN, its resources, standards and Champions programme was produced by RDM - this has been widely circulated across the VCFS and is now enclosed in all LSCB multi agency training packs for individual attendees.
- A new communications process is being developed for the LSCB to ensure it is engaging all groups – the RDM is also liaising with the Local Authority Designated Officer to plan the roll out of training re this role into the VCFS. The Safe Network is on the CE LSCB's website, through a hyperlink
- A method of utilising play and leisure staff to give out Safe Network information to small groups has been planned.
- Free Level 1 Safeguarding Training has been successfully delivered across the VCFS, by an infrastructure organisation, the Youth Federation (endorsed by the LSCB), paid for by CWDC WSSP monies, which attracted small community and faith groups, particularly those do not usually engage with the LSCB training. Feedback from these sessions was excellent.
- These sessions were delivered in very local areas meaning that small organisations were able to attend at very little cost in terms of travelling.
- Safer recruitment training will be rolled out later on in the year to the wider sector.
- The future impact will be that many more groups are aware of safeguarding in the sector, more will attend training and gain information and the LSCB will attempt to quality assure through the use of the Safe Network standards

Core Standards 2012

Many of you will be aware that we have always intended to update the Core Standards regularly so that they stay as relevant and reliable as we can make them. To achieve this, we are looking at an annual review, the first of which is already underway, with a view to publishing the 2012 edition early next year. To reassure anyone who may be worried, we are not planning any major changes, and we will be sending out a short briefing to summarise the differences between the original version and the 2012 edition. The revision process is also an opportunity to build on the resource toolboxes attached to the standards, so keep us posted with any examples of useful templates and resources that we might be able to include in the toolboxes. We will, of course, acknowledge the authorship of any ideas and resources that are used. We also always welcome comments on the standards – critical or otherwise – as these can be taken into consideration during the review process.



In addition, Safe Network is seeking a very limited number of committed LSCBs and their VCS partners to explore, on pilot basis, how it might localise the standards; this could include a range of derivatives, some of which may require complementary investment, and might start with a basic addition of a local brand/

logo and an “endorsed by” or “championed by” strap line. This could continue with the further addition of an introduction by, perhaps, the Chair of the LSCB or Director for Children’s Services. The localisation could extend to the incorporation of local processes and referral pathways and, possibly, an ‘inside out model’, where the brand leadership is local and the national partners play a subsidiary role, without materially amending the detail.

For a further discussion, please contact your regional manager in the first instance or alternatively Kevin Garrod, kevin@childrenengland.org.uk 0207 78333319 or 07799262849

Child Accident Prevention Trust

Preventing serious falls

Bumps and stumbles are an everyday part of a young child’s physical development. However, serious falls can be life-changing or even fatal for young children. Last month, a two-year-old boy died after falling from the second floor balcony of his home. Every year, as many as seven under fives die after falling from a building. Every day, 45 under fives are admitted to hospital after a fall at home. In fact, falls are the most common cause of hospital admissions for children under five due to accidents at home.

For those children who survive a serious fall, the consequences can be life-changing: memory loss, learning difficulties and personality changes. Sometimes, the impact on family life is so devastating, families break down under the strain.

To give insights into the hidden costs for families of a child suffering a serious head injury, the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) has produced a film of Dr Andrew Curran on the Making the Link website: www.makingthelink.net/node/409

To help prevent more tragedies, CAPT has produced “**Look who’s falling**”, a DVD resource pack that educates parents about the risks of serious falls to under fives and what they can do to prevent them.

The self-contained pack – with a 15-minute DVD film, support cards to facilitate discussions and 50 copies of CAPT’s flyer, “How safe am I from a serious fall?” – is designed to help practitioners deliver engaging and effective sessions for parents.

The film focuses on three serious accident scenarios: falls downstairs, from highchairs and from windows. The film includes parents’ stories, shots from the child’s point of view and an interview with Dr Andrew Curran highlighting the consequences of a serious fall. 9 out of 10 parents who viewed this film said they would take action to stop their child being badly hurt in a serious fall. The “**Look who’s falling**” pack costs £36 plus £8.45 standard delivery. It can be purchased from CAPT’s website using a debit or credit card: www.capt.org.uk/shop. Or call CAPT on 020 7608 7367 with your card details. For an invoice, please email: sales@capt.org.uk or fax: 020 7608 3674, quoting product code DVD002.

Vetting and Barring – the Duty to Refer

The last edition featured an article that explored support which could be available to the sector in relation to the forthcoming implementation of the Freedoms Bill. Subsequently, it appears that legislation is unlikely to reach statute and a programme of support to be initiated until mid 2012. Meanwhile, Safe Network has been collaborating with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to help amplify some of the key messages from the original legislation that are still in operation.

Principal amongst those messages is the Duty to Refer established by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2009; this identifies a range of organisations that must refer information to the ISA including: adult/child protection teams in local authorities; professional bodies and supervisory authorities, **Employers and service providers of regulated and controlled activity** and personnel suppliers (for example, employment agencies, employment businesses and education institutions). So the ISA is still open, it is still accepting referrals and it is still making barring decisions.

There are still agencies, apparently, not making the connection that although much of the original scheme was suspended in May 2010, it remains a criminal offence not to comply with the referral element that came into force ahead of the main body of legislation in October 2009.

So what currently constitutes regulated activity?

- Regulated activity is anything that is centred on the education/wellbeing/development/treatment/care of children. Anything that is child specific activity falls under regulated activity
- Specified places are places which are designated as being for children only, like schools, Sunday school, child detention centres. The activity does not have to be any of the above-someone who is a caretaker in a specified place has access to children all of the time and therefore falls under regulated activity
- A church or community centre is not a specified place, for it is available for all members of the public, but if there was a youth group or Sunday school on, then this would constitute regulated activity, as it is the activity which is child specific, not the place

But it does not include: personal transport arrangements; personal childcare arrangements; one off events/situations

- Personal arrangements do not fall under regulated activity because friends and family are not being employed in regulated activity. The ISA is not regulating the personal lives and arrangements of families
- One off events are not regulated activity because they do not occur more than once a month so it is not frequent (once a month or more), intensive (three or more days in any one period) and/or overnight (12am-6am)

However the ISA itself suggests these lists are not exhaustive and for further help and assistance they can be contacted on [01325 95 37 95](tel:01325953795) for clarification for more information on **the Duty to Refer**

www.safenetwork.org.uk/help_and_advice/employing_the_right_people/Pages/Factsheetsand_FAQs.aspx

Children England's wider work

Children England is the leading membership organisation for the children, young people and families' voluntary sector and the Department for Education's overarching strategic partner. Children England provides capacity building, support and information to its members and the wide range of voluntary sector organisations working with children, young people and families. It does this by building active networks, promoting good practice, stimulating policy debate and ensuring that the issues that matter most to its members are taken up with decision makers. Its role as the Department for Education's overarching strategic partner focuses on supporting the evolving economy and infrastructure of the whole voluntary, community and social enterprise sector serving children, young people and families.



The associated **delivery consortia** includes: Community Matters, NCVYS, NAVCA, The Race Equality Foundation and the Social Enterprise Coalition, and uses its extensive combined member networks and stakeholder groups to shape and deliver activities with the sector, and gather the perspectives of thousands of organisations and community groups. The programme includes: information, learning resources and opportunities, and peer support networks. The aims are to offer practical help to support the sector's sustainability and explore the potential for growth from a range of funding mechanisms and service models. For up to date information

www.childrenengland.org.uk/dfestrategicpartnerships/1583

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England**
Charities working for
children and Families

capt
child accident
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NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP