



# Harrow Safeguarding Children Board

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## Letter from the Chair:



CHRIS HOGAN

As the new Chair of Harrow Safeguarding Children Board I would like to welcome you to our first newsletter of the year. One of my main aims is to ensure that the work of the LSCB has resonance with operational staff and managers – I hope that a regular newsletter is one way of achieving this.

This newsletter gives some useful information about national and local issues in the area of safeguarding children, as well as some up to date information on developments to strengthen local arrangements. The LSCB has recently published an important serious case review and we are in the process of ensuring that recommendations are being implemented in respect of the lessons that have been learned from them. You will hear more about these in due course.

Our Business Manager, Coral McGookin and I hope you will want to find out more about the Board, including its training programme and other ways you can engage with its work.

For more information see the HSCB website on <http://www.harrowlscb.co.uk/>

### Child Sexual Exploitation

In the last 12 months we have seen an increasing awareness in the country of the scale of child sexual exploitation. Both of the Rotherham reports, the Oxford report and the Sheffield review illustrate a picture of disbelief, both that this could happen and in what young people were saying. Preventing or disrupting the sexual exploitation of children and prosecuting the perpetrators of the crime are arguably one of the most complex tasks facing us and agencies cannot do that alone. The involvement of all child protection agencies, voluntary organisations and the wider community is absolutely necessary.

Harrow Safeguarding Children's Board views this work as one of our key priorities and have set up a sub-committee with specific work streams to further the work in Harrow.

## In this issue:

- CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) & FGM
- Harrow serious case review
- Updates

In January HSCB held a successful annual conference looking at Emotional abuse. The keynote speaker Roger Catchpole provoked some interesting discussion on the mental health needs of young people and a young peoples' drama group called Alto-Ego acted 'Chelsea's Choice' presented a very powerful play about grooming and sexual exploitation.

In our work on CSE in schools this type of drama presentation provides an immediate and accessible vehicle for working with young people. As a Board we would recommend this approach and Board staff are happy to provide links or further information.



### FGM

The Government recently hosted the UK 'UK Government Zero Tolerance to FGM Summit', to mark the international day of action. At this summit, a number of further Government commitments were launched, including:

- £1.6 million funding for the next stage of the FGM prevention programme that will improve the NHS response
- A new national system to allow clinicians to note on a child's health record that they are potentially at risk of FGM

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- New mandatory recording requirements from GPs and mental health trusts requiring them to record FGM incidence by October 2015. This follows a requirement already in place for NHS acute trusts.

[More<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-end-fgm-on-international-day-of-zero-tolerance>](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-end-fgm-on-international-day-of-zero-tolerance)

Monthly FGM Prevalence Dataset reports are now being published on the HSCIC website<<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/fgm>>. The January report contains significantly more detail than previous updates, which will continue in future months.

### Harrow serious case review

We have now published a serious case review on the circumstances of a young person who died whilst in our care. This is a comprehensive report with action plans to address the recommendations made for those agencies involved. Please do read this. You will find the serious case review for Child R on the HSCB website under the News and Learning and Development Pages. The action plans will be monitored by the Board to ensure that improvements are made. We will also be running Learned Lessons briefings based on this review in the near future, so keep an eye on our News pages for dates.

### **Learned Lessons Review – Neglect from a child's perspective**

In response to the learning from a recent review, the HSCB has produced a film to support training relating to neglect. The film draws from an anonymised case chronology using young people to tell the story alongside a creative visual presentation by a local artist.

The HSCB has received excellent feedback from trainers who have used this film as an effective training tool across a wide range of LSCBs and individual agencies.

The video file can be downloaded for free from the following link (it is a 2GB file so please allow time to download depending on internet speed)

<https://www.copy.com/s/NzCtbHkHBu0U>

If you would rather own a USB memory stick with the video and LSCB Executive Summary please contact: [ljaz.Valiji@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:ljaz.Valiji@harrow.gov.uk)

### Updates

#### **Radicalisation and Extremism**

The risks of radicalisation and extremism have been brought into sharp focus by recent reports of school-aged children travelling to Syria and keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter. The Department for Education has recently increased its capacity and expertise in counter-extremism, through an expansion of its Due Diligence and Counter Extremism Group (DDCEG) and has recently circulated advice for schools to help them meet their new duties to help prevent young people being drawn into terrorism.

We all have a vital role to play in protecting young people from these risks. The following links to support are primarily for schools, but they contain very useful advice for the families that we all work with.

<http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk/>

[\(http://www.familiesmatter.org.uk/\)](http://www.familiesmatter.org.uk/)

#### **New Policy and Procedures Sub-committee**

The HSCB has set up a new multi-agency Policy and Procedure Sub-committee to ensure that our local procedures are kept up to date with national and local developments – as well as to act as a point of advice and endorsement for single agency/organisations' safeguarding policies and procedures. The committee will also take a lead on updating our website, which we are very pleased to report will be re-launched in the near future – designed for easier access for young people, practitioners and our local communities.

#### **HSCB Training Update**

There are vacancies for the following courses. These are specialist courses which have been created in response to recommendations from local safeguarding reviews or in response to requests by local practitioners.

For the full HSCB training programme please visit:

<http://www.harrowlscb.co.uk/Course/CourseListing.aspx?id=14>

Thursday 23rd April	L2	<b>Chronologies</b>		10:00am - 12:00pm
Tuesday 28th April	L4	<b>Safer Recruitment</b>	Kings Church	9:30am - 4:30pm
Tuesday 5th May		<b>Legal Issues and Court Skills - Mike Smith</b>	Kings Church	9.30-4.30
Friday 8th May	L2	<b>Working with Fathers</b>	Kings Church	9:30am - 1:00pm
Monday 11th May	L3	<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>	Kings Church	9:30am - 4:30pm