



# Harrow Local Safeguarding Children Board

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## Letter from the Chair:

I am beginning this letter with a reminder re sharing information: **London Child Protection Procedures 2014 B 3.5**  
[http://www.londoncp.co.uk/consultation/sharing\\_info.html](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/consultation/sharing_info.html)

In deciding whether or not to share information professionals should use eight key questions: (see **DfE Information Sharing website** (updated 2011) for all tools.)

1. Is there a legitimate purpose to share the information?
2. Does the information enable a person to be identified?
3. Is the information confidential?
4. If the information is confidential, has consent to share been obtained?
5. Is there a statutory duty or court order to share the information?
6. If consent has been refused, or there are good reasons not to seek consent to share confidential information, is there a sufficient public interest to share information?
7. If the decision is to share, is the right information being shared in the right way?
8. Have the decision and the reasons for it, been recorded?

### Working with resistant families

We are beginning to disseminate Learning from the E family learning and improvement case review - including guidance on working with resistant families: the NSPCC has research here: [http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/research/questions/disguised\\_compliance\\_wda74079.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/research/questions/disguised_compliance_wda74079.html) and this edited guidance from the London Child Protection Procedures 2014:

## In this issue:

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### Ask yourself - Are you:

- Avoiding contact in person (home visits);
- Accepting the parent's version of events unquestioningly in the absence of objective evidence;
- Avoiding asking to look round the house, not looking to see how much food is available, not inspecting the conditions in which the child sleeps, etc;
- Focusing on the parent's needs, not the child's;
- Not asking to see the child alone;



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- Placing undue weight on positive information (the 'rule of optimism') and only looking for positive information;
- Keeping quiet about worries and not sharing information about risks and assessment with others in the inter-agency network or with managers.



## Updates

### Professionals in all agencies should ask themselves:

- Whether the child is keeping 'safe' by not telling professionals things;
- What message the family is getting if the professional / agency does not challenge the parent/s.
- Whether they are relieved when there is no answer at the door, or they are relieved when they get back out of the door;
- If they have observed evidence of others who could be living in the house;
- What might the children have been feeling as the door closes?

There is a high prevalence of **childhood mental disorder** in the UK. Find out more here in a new report: Enough is Enough June 2014 Centre for Social Justice: <http://www.kidsco.org.uk>

One in five children aged 5-16 has a diagnosable mental health problem. These include:

- Between 1 in every 12 and 1 in every 15 self-harm;
- Approximately 290,000 have an anxiety disorder;
- Almost 80,000 suffer from severe depression;
- Just over 510,000 have a conduct disorder;
- Just over 310,000 have ADHD.

Whilst the **Svalbad Enquiry** into the British Schools' Exploring Society trip where a young person was killed by a bear, related to a school trip to Norway and particular circumstances, there is significant learning regarding risk assessment, staffing and planning for trips with young people. You can find out more on our website, where there is a learning and improvement case review regarding Colin: [www.harrowscb.co.uk/seriouscasereviews.aspx](http://www.harrowscb.co.uk/seriouscasereviews.aspx) or here: <http://www.britishexploring.org/AboutUs/SvalbardTragedy.aspx>

The **LSCB Annual Report 2013-14** can be found here: [http://www.harrowscb.co.uk/AboutUs/Annual\\_Report.aspx](http://www.harrowscb.co.uk/AboutUs/Annual_Report.aspx)

In our safeguarding assessment, we can show that our agreed multi-agency thresholds are making an impact on the ways that agencies work together and that these changes have led to more children being safeguarded. There have been improvements tracked that show better multi-agency communication and dialogue, seen most starkly in the improvement of functioning of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

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I am pleased to hear that Headteacher, Elena Evans from **Stag Lane Junior** has provided **free e-safety training** for staff through BT and Unicef initiatives: read more here: <http://www.innovatemychool.com/blog/item/941-unicef-uk-and-bt-bring-new-e-safety-campaign-to-schools.html>

Newly published **LSCB Expectations for Children Looked After** are here on our website: [www.harrowscb.co.uk/Workers/Guidance\\_and\\_procedures.aspx](http://www.harrowscb.co.uk/Workers/Guidance_and_procedures.aspx)