

Newsletter

Issue 2 – Summer 2006



Tameside Local Safeguarding Children Board

The Smallest Things can make the Biggest Difference

Child Safety Week this year was the 19-25 June. There is a lot we can learn from it because the safety of children is for every week of the year.

In the UK, nearly 300 children are admitted to hospital every day because of accidents and, tragically, nearly every day one child dies.

Find out more on page 2

Focus on Domestic Abuse
Domestic Abuse (or Domestic Violence) blights so many lives. A look at what's happening in Tameside to tackle it.

Focusing on:

- Services
- Good Practice
- Policy

See page 5

PECKIN' ME SHED?

I didn't know what it meant either but the publicity promised "a challenging, interactive, forum theatre play that explores issues faced by young people growing up in Tameside". **See Page 3**

Also in this edition:

- **Jargon busting!** – words can baffle, find out what some of them mean.
- **Training Update**
- **Safe 'side Profile** things you always wanted to know about someone interesting.
- **Point of view** – The Streets of Tameside
- **And more**

If you have a view on the contents of this newsletter please contact David Barnes on 0161 342 4344 david.barnes@tameside.gov.uk

Child Safety Week 2006

The ideas booklet has facts, figures, activity ideas, details of useful resources and websites, plus thought-provoking quizzes for all ages.



The online version has direct links to all the useful websites and is at:

<http://www.capt.org.uk/csweek/default.htm>

Snippet! - NSPCC has a new occasional publication, 'exchange' to support the work of the LSCBs. Issue 1 asks whether LSCBs will be *more of the same*, in repeating the typical ACPC set-up of committees & sub-committees? Joe Cocker, City of York ACPC Manager writes that, in York, lead officers will replace the role of subcommittees with development plans as the main tool for ensuring effective implementation.

Top Ten Safety Tips from Child Safety Week – The Child Accident Prevention Trust also published these tips. Here's one of the tips. Go to <http://www.capt.org.uk/home.htm> to find the other 9! ***Babies and young children's skin is much thinner than an adult's and will scald much more easily. Keep hot drinks out of reach, turn saucepan handles inwards and at bath time, always put cold water into a bath first, then add hot water and test the water with your elbow or wrist before a child uses it.***

The LSCB has welcomed three new members of staff since the start of 2006.

Lynn Jackson has joined as LSCB Training Officer. Prior to this Lynn worked for nine years providing assessment and intervention for children and adults with learning disabilities and complex behaviour. Lynn says, "I feel this is a very exciting post bringing me into contact with workers from a wide range of agencies working with children and young people. I am looking forward to supporting these workers through LSCB training"

David Barnes has arrived in the post of LSCB Development Officer from NCH where he has most recently been Learning & Development Adviser. Before that he did development work on Sure Start and Families Projects. David is looking to build on the excellent partnerships in Tameside so that policies have more impact in practice.

Katie Nugent joins as LSCB Administrator from Trafford MBC where she worked in Child Protection as a minute taker and training administrator. Katie has also worked for the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in Manchester, Careers service in Brighton, YMCA in London and did voluntary work in Africa. Katie brings a range of experiences that will be very useful in the multi-agency working of the LSCB.

Arts Review

Peckin me Shed

A Play presented by Cardboard Citizens; co-written and performed by Nataly, Natalie, Kirsty, Simon, Tom and Ashley.



Funded by New Charter Housing Trust Group and the Arts Council North West.

The Street at Cavendish 249 4 May 2006

Where does a young person go if they can't live at home anymore? When mum & dad are fighting and the homework suffers. This was one of many questions that this vibrant production raised.

You're peckin me shed was the defiant but sad cry as Jo sought refuge with a spliff and her friends in the bus stop shelter and then in a house 'share' with not-so-much-of-a-friend .

But, what were the options open to Jo? Very few it seemed as the director, Terry O'Leary, led the audience (both young and certain aged) into the forum theatre part of the production. *Social Services? Who? Childline? Yes, but. Connexions? Where?*

And what solutions were offered? *Dump your friends?* But surely we all need friends. A temporary solution was found in the emergency accommodation arranged through Housing Options, but eventually the young person decided that staying at home would have been better.

The play has toured local secondary schools and community venues to an audience of over 300 young people and adults. A DVD of the performance is being produced by New Charter to promote more discussion about the issues raised. New Charter has a range of community arts initiatives. To find out more, contact ***Adele Robinson, Regeneration Manager, 0161 331 2000***

For more information about the work of Cardboard Citizens, please visit www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk

"Point of View" – The Streets of Tameside

The Tameside Youth Online Survey for 2005/06 shows some encouraging trends including that 66% of 15 year old people say they like where they live in Tameside, compared to 59% in 2003/04.

Although more young people feel safe in the Borough compared to 2003/04 their priorities for improvement are clear. These are to reduce vandalism, stop other people causing trouble and stop people being beaten up.

However the survey also found that three quarters of young people have heard or read stories about young people causing trouble, but 65% feel that it is unfair to portray the image of young people in this way.

This point of view is from a young person at the Information Shop and describes their experience of 'going out'. It's not every young person's experience but it provides an insight into the worries of young people who want to enjoy themselves safely in Tameside

"The streets of Tameside are now becoming more and more unsafe and this, in my opinion, is mainly due to the number of gangs who now congregate at various places within the district. They look to start fights and brutally hurt people whose face doesn't fit and who they just take an instant dislike to. They are often in a drunken state in which they can be increasingly dangerous, and they tend to only target small groups or people alone. Instead of staying close to home, I now find myself travelling into Manchester city centre as it is a much safer place to be than most of the smaller towns in Tameside."

The Tameside Crime and Disorder Partnership are working together to tackle such alcohol fuelled anti social behaviour within our town centres and the borough as a whole. Both Trading Standards and the Police target pubs, clubs, off licences and supermarkets to prevent sale of alcohol to young people. Any young people found to cause such problems would be dealt with by the police and anti social behaviour team at the council. The presence of CCTV cameras and radio communication links between the police, council and licensees have either prevented incidents or allowed incidents to be easily detected.

Overall Tameside has the lowest rates of crime in Greater Manchester however, if you have been a victim of crime please report it to the police or contact Tameside Witness and Victim Support both of whom provide invaluable support and assistance.

We want views from young people about being safe and enjoying life in Tameside. LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS

Focus on DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic Abuse (or Domestic Violence) has a very big impact on the lives of a lot of children and young people. In Tameside it is believed that nearly half of all children on the Child Protection register have experienced domestic abuse. And research has shown that this is very direct experience – 90% of children are in the same or next room when the abuse/violence occurs.

In Tameside there is an active Domestic Violence Forum (DVF), chaired by Cllr Margaret Sidebottom (currently Mayor of Tameside). The forum encourages multi-agency working so that family members get a consistent response when they need help.

There are concerns about the rising incidence of aggressive/controlling behaviour by young people towards other family members. This is an area in which a working group reporting to the DVF will undertake research during 2006/07.

The Domestic Violence Forum also promotes awareness of the issue of violence in teenage dating relationships. Most victims are young women who are at greater risk of serious injury and unwanted pregnancy. The forum has produced an excellent leaflet on this issue, further information available on the Tameside Domestic Violence Helpline (0800 328 0967).

Service Focus

Tameside Women's Project has a range of services for women and children who have experienced the effects of domestic abuse. These include:

- Therapeutic work for children and young people on an individual and group basis.
- Refuge accommodation.
- Weekly cookery club.
- Weekly crèche facilities to enable mums to attend on-site training courses.
- Positive Parenting courses.
- Outreach work with schools.
- Homework club.

Last year the project worked with 129 children and young people living in the refuge, of which 34 also had input from Children's Social Care.

sessions around homework. Without this secure relationship he says he wouldn't have anywhere to go to 'feel safe'.

Good Practice *Focus*

Tameside Domestic Violence Forum have set up a steering group to oversee the development of an education programme in Tameside. The work will include developing a curriculum package including sourcing educational materials. The programme will be piloted through Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) in schools. The aim is to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to help pupils to be able to discuss any problems they may experience at home or in their relationships.

Policy *Focus*

The Tameside Domestic Violence strategy 2005 - 2008 was developed in partnership by the Tameside Domestic Violence Forum. It is aligned to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for the borough.

Tameside LSCB has published *Multi-Agency Good Practice Guidance – Domestic Violence*. This provides information about how to respond to suspected incidents of domestic abuse/violence and is available as a printed booklet or from the website at http://www.tameside.gov.uk/tmbc5/acpc_guide.htm

New guidance, *Vision for services for children and young people affected by domestic violence*, has also been published in England for commissioners of children's services. Copies of the guidance can be downloaded at <http://www.lga.gov.uk>.

The guidance connects two recent legislative changes, namely the Children Act 2004 and the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. It offers a template for commissioners to ensure that the needs of children experiencing domestic violence are incorporated in planning children's services.

Contacts

- Tameside Domestic Violence Forum – Co-ordinator, Tracey Austin, 0161 342 3997
- Tameside Services for Children & Young People – Lead Officer on Domestic Abuse, Kathleen Nickson, 0161 342 4091
- Local 24-hour Helpline 0800 328 0967

1. Which person does most to make life better for children and young people?

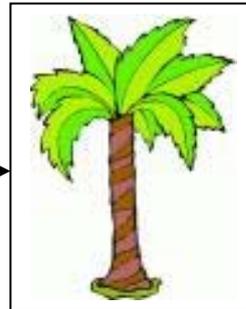
Lord Laming's response to the death of Victoria Climbié had an enormous impact on everyone working with children and families. There is something for us all to learn in his findings about how we can make things better for children.



Denton Park - I work near there and occasionally walk through the park. It is beautifully kept and peaceful.

2. What is your favourite place in Tameside?

3. What would you take with you to a desert island and what would you leave behind?



4. If you won the lottery last week what would you be doing now?

I would take a pen & paper so that I could write, draw and make lists! I would also like a radio for company. I would gladly leave behind household chores.

I don't do the lottery as I heard that there is as much chance of winning as guessing a complete stranger's phone number. If I did I'd spend some & then think carefully about sharing and investing it.

5. What change in where we live, learn & work would most improve the quality of life for children and young people?

More space and activities dedicated to young people and a move away from the tendency to demonise them

6. Who/what has influenced you most in your career?

Supervisors who've been reflective & grounded, & colleagues with a good sense of humour.



7. What motto/favourite phrase do you use too often?

Phrases: It's a nightmare! I must tidy my desk. Motto: At the end of the day consider what you have achieved as well as what still has to be done.

Training in 2005/06

A major focus in 2005/06 has been on Integrated Working as promoted in *Every Child Matters* and the new *Working Together*. This gave further opportunities for agencies to share what works well. Training in common assessment and related processes has involved 800 workers from agencies in Tameside.

Also the Safeguarding core programme has this year reached over 800 participants from at least 20 agencies.

The theatre workshop on the impact of adult mental illness on children gathered 80 workers from mental health and child focussed services. And the launch of multi-agency guidance on domestic abuse also used drama with powerful messages on the complexities of working with young people experiencing domestic abuse.

Training in 2006/07

The training strategy will be informed by a training needs analysis of the children's workforce in Tameside. The LSCB has employed a Training Officer to meet the increasing need for safe-guarding training in Tameside.

The 2006/07 programme has plans for developing the Level 1 (Introductory) training, and dates for Level 2 (Foundation) and Level 3 (Specific) training. Dates will be set for the LSCB Annual Conference (on *Promoting Resilience*) and a joint conference with Oldham LSCB (on *Neglect*).

For details of the LSCB training programme and applications see the LSCB website www.tameside.gov.uk/tmbc5/a/cpc.htm or contact lynn.ready@tameside.gov.uk or lynn.jackson@tameside.gov.uk

Jargon busting - Safeguarding Children?

Child Safety? Everyday usage would suggest these mean the same thing. But, no! **Child Safety** is about reducing the incidence of accidental injury (the leading cause of death among children and young people). **Safeguarding Children**, by contrast, is more recent. The new **Working Together to Safeguard Children** from the DfES says it means: *The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care which is undertaken so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.* So, **Child Safety** is about reducing accidents. **Safeguarding Children** is about preventing abuse or neglect. **Both** are about giving children the best life chances. There can be an overlap between the two as sometimes the harm caused to a child is due to both accident *and* neglect.