



# E.Bulletin

Tameside Safeguarding Children Board "Working Together to Safeguard Children in Tameside"

Tameside Safeguarding Children Board  
E.Bulletin  
24/04/2012  
Edition 006

**Please forward this e-bulletin to your colleagues.**

## Welcome

This is the April edition of the TSCB E.Bulletin; this edition features:-

[Child K SCR](#) – what can we learn, [Tameside Safe Parenting Handbook](#) – 2012 edition, new [Safe Sleeping guidance](#), feedback on [TSCB multi agency case practice audits](#), '[now you are a member of a core group](#)' – guidance for practitioners, [Cornerstones Family Intervention Project](#) in Tameside, TSCB focus groups – '[you said ... we did](#)', [GM missing from home protocol](#), [GM Sudden & Unexpected Death in Childhood \(SUDC\)](#), information about the [Non Therapeutic Circumcision Project](#), New leaflet – [Three Steps to Escaping Domestic Violence](#), This is ABUSE – [Teenage Rape Prevention Campaign](#), [Child Protection Project](#) - free legal service, [NSPCC Helpline Highlights](#) - A year in review, [latest research](#) - Systematic review of models of analysing significant harm and the Studies in the Safeguarding Research Initiative.

The purpose of this E.Bulletin is to keep everyone who works with children, young people, parents and families in Tameside in touch with the latest Safeguarding developments. Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility; we are all involved in some way. If you have ideas for future e-bulletins please get in touch with [anna.cooke@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:anna.cooke@tameside.gov.uk)

**If you would like the bulletin to be sent to you directly in future please send a blank email to [LSCB@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@tameside.gov.uk) and put 'SIGN UP' in the subject line.**

## Tameside Serious Case Review – Child K – What can we learn?

Whenever there is a serious case review into the serious harm or death of a child, there is always the question – 'What can we learn from this?'

This is particularly so when it is a Tameside child who has been harmed as we all feel a keen sense of responsibility.

The Child K SCR on an 8 month old child in Tameside has recently been published on the TSCB website, where you will find the [Executive Summary](#) and the [Overview Report](#). This SCR has been run with a strong focus on critical reflection and learning, as recommended by Eileen Munro and OFSTED. Hundreds of practitioners in Tameside have shared in the learning from Child K and the aim is that the learning and development of practice will continue.

This SCR examined the circumstances of an 8 month old boy who experienced bruising at two weeks of age. He spent 6 months in care whilst investigations and assessments were undertaken. In the summer of 2010 a police investigation concluded that there was no basis for a criminal prosecution in relation to the parents or any other family members and at the subsequent Child Protection Review Conference it was agreed that Child K should be returned to live with his family over a planned period.

He was admitted to care two months later when there was evidence of bruising and limb fractures were discovered. Child K has remained in care and will not return to his parents, they are serving prison sentences for harming him.

The key areas for consideration that emerged from the SCR were assessment; planning and intervention; parental resistance; multi-agency working and critically reflective practice and supervision.

Many of these issues arise in National SCRs and are common challenges in safeguarding practice.

The learning process from the Child K SCR is well underway. A day of reflective review was held with key practitioners involved in the case and that further informed learning. Briefing sessions on Child K have been held with 200 multi-agency staff so far and another briefing is planned for 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Discussions at the briefings have covered the need to recognise and address any parental resistance in safeguarding; to take into full account parental histories, particularly when parents are vulnerable, for example learning disabled parents. The need to fully assess parental capacity and to do this jointly with Adult Services as appropriate was recognised as was the need to avoid over reliance on police evidence when considering plans for a child who has suffered significant harm.

[The Executive Summary](#) contains recommendations which have been developed into single and multi-agency action plans. These action plans are under the review of the TSCB and many actions have already been completed e.g. the inclusion of Reflective Reviews in the revised [Tameside Safeguarding Children Framework](#).

The action and learning from Child K will go on for some time and will be embedded in future culture and practice.

To ensure that learning continues please ensure that your teams are aware of the briefing sessions – the next one is on 17<sup>th</sup> May at Festival Hall from 10-12. Contact [training@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:training@tameside.gov.uk) to book on the session.

Documents from the session will be posted on the website and could be used for briefing in your team. Also look at the [Executive Summary and Overview Report](#) on the website.

## **Tameside Safe Parenting Handbook**

The revised edition of the TSCB publication [Tameside Safe Parenting Handbook](#) is now available for you to download; this revised version includes information for parents / carers and useful contact details on the following sections: -

Teenagers / Breastfeeding / Bullying / Children with a disability/SEN / Common Assessment Framework (CAF) / Drug, alcohol and substance misuse / daycare and babysitting / Domestic abuse / Growing up and managing behaviour / Healthy lifestyles / Keeping safe /

Parenting roles and responsibilities / All kinds of parents Safeguarding / Exploitation of children and young people / Safer sleeping / Smacking / Teenage pregnancy and STIs / E-safety / Temper tantrums and mood swings / Stress and anxiety / Useful contacts.

Hardcopies will be available shortly which will be targeted at parents / carers of babies (to be provided by Health Visitors at their 1<sup>st</sup> developmental check) and parents and carers as their children commence primary school and secondary school.

There will also be an interactive website version of the handbook available shortly – we will keep you updated as soon as this is available.

## Safe Sleeping Guidance

Safe Sleeping is one of the most important pieces of advice that can be given to parents to protect their babies from death and serious harm. This [Safe Sleeping guidance](#) provides all practitioners who come into contact with families with babies a framework to assess risks and provide advice on safe sleeping strategies to new parents and carers. It includes practical resources and guidance which aims to: -

- Provide guidance to workers on what a safe sleeping environment for parents and babies looks like.
- Increase workers' knowledge and understanding of the risk factors and why they are risk factors.
- Increase parent's knowledge and understanding of the risks associated with intentional or unintentional co-sleeping and bed sharing.
- Promote consistent information and advice to parents on co-sleeping and bed sharing with their infant across all organisations.

It is important that all workers in all organisations promote safe sleeping messages with the parents and carers they come into contact with. Please note the revised version of the TSCB [Safe Parenting Handbook](#) now includes a page on safe sleeping.

## TSCB Multi Agency Case Practice Audits 2011/12

The focus of TSCB multi agency case practice audits 2011/12 was on cases involving children subject to a child protection plan; with a specific focus on the multi agency processes supporting safeguarding children i.e. child protection conferences and review conferences, child protection plans and core groups. The purpose of the audits was use a reflective review type session to learn about what is working well in CP cases in Tameside, where the challenges lie and any key areas of learning. The subject group was chosen to extend learning from the Child K SCR.

Four sessions took place between Oct and Dec 2011, each focused on one subject case. Practitioners from agencies involved in the case, but not the practitioner directly involved, were invited to attend and were provided with briefing papers to familiarise themselves with the case prior to attending their session which was facilitated by a TSCB Implementation Group member.

Feedback from the audit session was provided to all practitioners involved and a composite summary report of the findings can be [accessed here](#)

Key messages included: -

- A need for practitioners to be proactive in their identification and assessment of parental difficulties and how these difficulties may impact on their parenting capacity in particular parental learning disability, domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse.
- Early identification and assessment of parental difficulties had a positive impact on the case.
- The positive benefits of using reflective practice when reviewing the progress of a case and how targeted reflective reviews ([introduced in the 2012 Edition of Tameside Safeguarding Children Framework](#)) can be used to enable multi agency reflection of a case.
- The functioning of core groups would be better improved by: -
  - A commitment to attendance by all agencies,
  - By practitioners understanding their role and responsibilities as a core group member
  - By having child protection plans which are SMART and simple to follow for all core group members – particularly family members.

A short life working group is taking forward the work to improve these aspects of core group meetings in response to a key multi agency recommendation from the [Child K SCR](#) and has revised the TSCB publication '[Now you are a member of a core group](#)'.

## **Now you are a Member of a Core Group – 2012 Edition.**

This revised leaflet can be accessed here; [Now You Are a Member of a Core Group](#).

**What is a core group?** A core group is a group of all relevant practitioners and family members who work together to create, implement and review a child protection plan. The core group has a vital role in ensuring that a child has a detailed child protection plan for which all core group members have responsibility. When core groups work well they can be a powerful catalyst for change for children and families.

**What is the purpose of the guidance?** The purpose of the guidance is to support practitioners in their role in core groups; to promote effective working together between practitioners and to encourage best practice in promoting children's welfare and safeguarding them. Research tells us that when core groups work well, the outcomes for children are more positive; effective core groups can help safeguard vulnerable children.

## **Family Intervention Projects - Cornerstones**

Action for Children's Cornerstone service is a Family Intervention Project (FIP) delivered in partnership with New Charter Housing and Tameside MBC. Cornerstone started in January 2008 and now works with around 90 families with multiple difficulties in Tameside. Originally FIPs were targeted at those families at risk of eviction due to ongoing anti social behaviour, however the remit of FIPs has widened over years to work with "troubled families" experiencing a range of difficulties.

Cornerstone works with families at levels 3 and 4 of the Children's Needs Framework to help to prevent negative consequences and improve positive outcomes for the family and the community. This includes reducing the risk of eviction and the likelihood of children going into care, tackling family worklessness and offending behaviour and improving educational outcomes.

Cornerstone works closely with other services to provide a wraparound action plan which supports the whole family, both as individual members and as a family unit. Intensive support is provided to families to help them turn their lives around; this could involve early morning or evening home support to implement effective routines, one-to-one parenting support, and individual work with young people.

Cornerstone reviews take place every 6-8 weeks to ensure that the family is engaging with the support and that the plan for the family is as effective as possible. With good family engagement and multi-agency support, Cornerstone can take a longer-term approach to family work than many agencies.

For professionals considering making a referral, it is worth doing this once other support mechanisms, eg CAF process, have been tried and prior to enforcement action actually taking place to give the family the greatest motivation and opportunity to turn things around.

New Charter's experience of providing a FIP has been unconditionally positive. "We've seen sustained changes in families considered beyond help and adults who've never worked before get paid employment (including at New Charter)."

For more information and to make a referral, contact the Cornerstone Service Manager, Rina Dabhi, on 0161 331 2402 or email [tamesidefip@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:tamesidefip@actionforchildren.org.uk) for a referral form.

## TSCB Focus Groups 2011/12

In 2011/12 approximately 95 practitioners and managers from fifteen different agencies took part in TSCB focus groups. Each focus group was facilitated by a TSCB Strategic or Executive Board members from a different agency. The purpose of the focus groups was to consult with practitioners and managers about their experience of multi agency working in respect of safeguarding children and early intervention. Feedback and suggestions from the focus groups have been progressed – see the ['You said - We did'](#) report 2011/12.

## Greater Manchester Developments

[Pan GM Missing from Home Protocol](#) - A standardised approach to dealing with missing and absent people of all ages across Greater Manchester. In a 12 month period between Jul 09 and Jun 10, GMP received in excess of 20,500 reports of missing persons. Approximately 60% of these reports relate to children and young people aged 17 years or under.

Research indicates that around 100,000 young people under the age of 16 run away overnight each year in England (*Still Running II, Children's Society 2005*). The same research indicated that over a quarter of these young runaways first run away before the age of 13 and one in ten before age 11. This does not take into account those who go missing for shorter periods of time or during the day.

This [GM Missing from Home protocol](#) has been developed in consultation with key agencies and young people and aims to deliver a co-ordinated, standardised and effective response

to reports of people going missing, with Police working in partnership with partner agencies and bodies.

[The GM Sudden & Unexpected Death in Childhood \(SUDC\)](#) protocol has been updated (March 2012) in light of clinical experience; it provides direction for professionals from agencies involved when a child (0-18 years) dies suddenly and unexpectedly.

**Non Therapeutic Circumcision Project** In Greater Manchester, circumcision for baby boys is not provided by the NHS unless there is a medical reason. However, many families want to have their baby boys circumcised for religious or cultural reasons. Until now parents haven't had any formal support across Greater Manchester in finding and choosing private services to perform the circumcision.

The Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership has produced a leaflet to help parents choose a circumcision service they feel confident in. Local services that provide circumcision for baby boys have also been invited to have the quality of their care assessed and a list of services that provide good practice has been available to parents since February 2012.

The leaflet, "[Circumcision Services for Boys in Greater Manchester: a guide on how to choose the right service for your son](#)", will be given out by GPs, midwives, health visitors, faith and community groups. It is also available to download in Somaali, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic and Turkish from the GM Safeguarding Children website:  
[www.gmsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/projects/circumcision](http://www.gmsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/projects/circumcision)

## National Developments

**New leaflet – Three Steps to Escaping Domestic Violence** The Home Office have worked in partnership with Southall Black Sisters to develop the content for a leaflet entitled three steps to escaping domestic abuse. Southall Black Sisters are a not-for-profit organisation that works with black (Asian and African-Caribbean) women. They offer specialist advice, information, counselling and self-help support services in several community languages. The leaflet is aimed specifically at women in black and minority ethnic communities. It covers advice on the three steps to escaping violence and abuse:

- report the abuse
- how to take actions
- how to keep safe from abuse

It brings together such issues as 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, dowry abuse, domestic abuse. **The leaflet has been translated the leaflet into 12 other languages. All versions can be accessed online;**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/3-steps-escaping-dv/?view=Standard&pubID=979904>

**This is ABUSE – Teenage Rape Prevention Campaign.** The teenage rape prevention campaign, launched by the Home Office on 5 March 2012, aims to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse.

As part of the violence against women and girls [action plan](#), the campaign encourages teenagers to re-think their views of rape, sexual assault, violence and abuse, and direct them to places for help and advice.

Building on the success of the campaign against teenage relationship abuse, this campaign targets 13-18 year old boys and girls to specifically focus on rape and sexual assault. The campaign aims to:

- raise awareness of the issue of rape and sexual violence
- improve understanding of what constitutes rape, sexual assault and consent
- empower young people to avoid, challenge and report sexually violent behaviour

The campaign website, [This is ABUSE](#), gives teenagers the chance to discuss the issues with their peers and get access to third party support and advice.

TSCB have a number of business type cards raising awareness of this campaign – please contact [anna.cooke@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:anna.cooke@tameside.gov.uk) if you would like to request a number for your organisation.

**[New Child Protection Project offers free legal service](#)** Youth justice professionals in England now have use of a free, online legal service provided by the Coram Children's Legal Centre through its new Child Protection Project (CPP).

The CPP is funded by the DfE to ensure that frontline practitioners, working with children and young people, have access to legal information, advice and training on child protection and safeguarding law and policy.

The new CPP website, though in development, is now open and provides: -

- a comprehensive overview of the child protection system in England and the role a practitioner may fulfil
- specialist legal information on child protection and safeguarding issues
- information on the practical skills which system practitioners may need to employ, such as how to record evidence and present it in court
- legislative and policy updates plus analysis of current child protection issues.

YOTs may want to refer to the legal service for policy and law information. A CPP telephone advice line (020 7636 1245) has also been set up, offering general or specific information on incidents or cases from experienced family solicitors. Advice line opening hours are 09.30 to 17.30 from Monday to Friday.

### **NSPCC Helpline Highlights: A year in review** (March 2012)

This report looks at the NSPCC's helpline service in 2011 looking contacts made to the NSPCC and what this can tell us about the levels of abuse and neglect.

Key findings;

- In 2011 almost 45,000 people across the UK contacted the NSPCC worried about a child – a 29% increase on the previous year.
- Over the past 5 years contacts about abuse (neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse) have doubled.
- People still delay contacting the NSPCC with their concerns. In 2011, 56% of people whose call resulted in a referral said they had been concerned about the child for at least a month. Waiting to call could leave a child in danger.

## Research:

### [Systematic review of models of analysing significant harm](#) (March 2012)

This research report presents the findings of a review of the Assessment Framework. The aim of this review was to identify, critically appraise, and evaluate the potential role of all available tools for assessing/analysing data about the likelihood of significant harm to children.

### [The Studies in the Safeguarding Research Initiative](#) (March 2012)

These studies aim to identify how children may be better safeguarded, in three key areas: identification and initial response to abuse, effective interventions after abuse or its likelihood have been identified, and effective inter-agency and inter-disciplinary working to safeguard children.

In each of these areas the research has encompassed a specific focus on neglect and emotional abuse, significant elements in the maltreatment of Victoria Climbié and the more recent tragic death of Peter Connelly.

## And Finally...

If you have missed previous e bulletins catch up at the TSCB website at;  
<http://www.tamesidesafeguardingchildren.org.uk/news/tscb-newsletters>