

# Leicester Safeguarding Children Board

**Research Digest  
July/August 2013  
Issue 11**

LSCB research digests provide a concise summary of recently published research knowledge on particular topics and signpost routes to reports and further information.

The research digest is designed to provide access to research information to a varied audience working across children and young people's services. The information is drawn from relevant electronic resources and databases, journals and texts and where appropriate from alternative sources such as inspection reports and annual reports as identified by authors.

The digests do not provide a definitive statement of all evidence on a particular issue.

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## **Working Together 2013**

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/w/working%20together.pdf>

## **Summary of Working Together 2013:**

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/research/briefings/Working\\_together\\_2013\\_wda95001.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/research/briefings/Working_together_2013_wda95001.html)

[http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/pdf/policy\\_briefing\\_No-86.pdf](http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/pdf/policy_briefing_No-86.pdf)

## **The Voice of the Child – April 2011:**

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/voice-of-child-learning-lessons-serious-case-reviews>

### **Key findings:**

- Child not seen frequently enough (assessment skills)
- Agencies did not listen to adults who knew the child well (listening and responding – all the way through)

- Parents and carers prevented professionals from seeing and listening to child (hostile and evasive families)
- Practitioners focused on needs of parents particularly vulnerable parents (Maintaining child focus – all through training)
- Agencies did not interpret findings well enough (assessment and analysis)

## **Ages of concern lessons from SCR: October 2011 - Focused on 2 age groups (babies under one & Young People over 14 years)**

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/ages-of-concern-learning-lessons-serious-case-reviews>

Key findings – Babies:

- Shortcomings in timeliness and quality of pre-birth assessments
- Risks resulting from parents own needs underestimated
- Insufficient support for young parents
- Role of fathers marginalised
- Need for improved assessment of and support for parenting capacity
- Particular lessons for both commissioning and provider health agencies, whose practitioners are often the main or only agencies involved with the family in the early months
- Practitioners under estimated the fragility of the baby

Key findings - 14 years and above:

- Agencies focussed on YP challenging behaviour, seeing them as hard to reach or rebellious, rather than trying to understand the causes of the behaviour and the need for sustained support.
- YP treated as adults rather than being considered as children, because of confusion about the young person's age and legal status or a lack of age appropriate facilities
- A co-ordinated approach to young people's needs was lacking and practitioners had not always recognised the important contribution of their agency in making this happen.

## **10 pitfalls and how to avoid them: Summary of research relating to initial stages of assessment**

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/publications/downloads/tenpitfalls\\_wdf48122.pdf](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/publications/downloads/tenpitfalls_wdf48122.pdf)

## **Ofsted learning lessons from SCR 2009-10 – published October 2010**

- Significant numbers of under 5's and mostly under 1.
- 50% of children known to social care
- DV / Mental health / substance misuse – combination of issues
- Info re adult service users not shared early enough
- Physical abuse / long term neglect

Messages for practice:

- Focus on good solid child centred practice
- Action needs to take place – proactive response
- Use all information sources.
- Effective assessments
- Effective multi-agency working
- Value challenge, supervisor and scrutiny

## **Ofsted – What about the children? (March 2013)**

Inspection by OFSTED and CQC, exploring how well adult mental health services and drug and alcohol services considered the impact on children, and how children and adults services worked together

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/what-about-children-joint-working-between-adult-and-childrens-services-when-parents-or-carers-have-m>

## **FREE Download Safeguarding Children Across Services – Messages from Research (Davies & Ward 2012)**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR164>

## **NSPCC inform: child protection advice, support, information, factsheets and research**

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/informhub\\_wda49931.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/informhub_wda49931.html)

**NSPCC CASPAR - Current awareness service for policy, practice and research: regular mail outs for updates and information. Sign up for the news service by following this link:**

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/ExternalNewsServices/Default.aspx?NewsServiceID=2>

## **Action for Children - Research, resources and information**

<http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/policy-research>

## **Barnardos - Research and information including fact sheets**

[http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/policy\\_research\\_unit/research\\_and\\_publications.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/policy_research_unit/research_and_publications.htm)

And to sign up for regular Newsletter:

[http://www.barnardos.org.uk/email\\_subscription\\_form.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/email_subscription_form.htm)

## **Community Care - News, information and research**

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Home/>

And to sign up for regular Newsletter:

<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/Register/registermain/>

## **National Children's Bureau - Policy, research and information**

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/policy-evidence>

## **Research in Practice - Research, information and resources to support evidence informed practice**

<http://www.rip.org.uk/>

(Leicester City Council employees can register using their work email address)