

Safeguarding Information and Research Digest Issue 23 - April 2015

The LSCB Safeguarding Information and Research Digests provide a concise summary of recently published research knowledge, news, legislation and statistics on the topic of safeguarding. The digest provides hyperlinks to reports and further information.

The Safeguarding Information and 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.

This digest does not provide a definitive statement of all the evidence on a particular issue. Clicking on the "Source" and "Further information" links within the digest will take you to the relevant document/site.

News

The Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Boards Procedures Manual has been updated. This includes the updated Threshold document.

Source: <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

Information about the Early Help offer (Childrens Social Care, Leicester City) including assessment and pathway to Early Help services is available at:

www.leicester.gov.uk/earlyhelp

Child K Serious Case Review

Southampton Safeguarding Children Board has published a serious case review (SCR) into the death of a seven-year-old boy as a result of a serious head injury. The overview report noted that this child had suffered severe neglect and had been subject to physical, emotional and sexual abuse over a significant period of time.

The review noted serious systemic failures in child protection arrangements at a time of significant change in the design and delivery of children's services which led to a fluctuating workforce, poor leadership and a lack of response to issues raised.

Key findings include:

- *Failure to hear the voice of the child* – child not seen often enough by professionals involved and was not asked their views and feeling. Child K rarely seen alone by a social worker
 - On at least 3 occasions when Child K spoke of being physically harmed by stepfather but no action was taken:
 - In April 2010 Child K was seen to have bruising to his head in school and told teachers that his step-father had done this by banging his head on a bed and bicycle.
 - In October 2010 Child K hit another child in the face, saying that is what "daddy" did to him.
 - In June 2011 Child K spoke at school about "getting bruises off my dad".
- *Agencies did not listen to adults who tried to raise concerns* – child K's MGM repeatedly tried to raise concerns, as did workmen who an injured neglected four years old.
- *Practitioners focused too much on the needs of the parents* - domestic abuse of Ms L became the focus of agencies attention, to the detriment of Child K, and to a lesser extent, his siblings.
- *Agencies did not interpret their findings well enough to protect the child* – they did not identify the likelihood of physical abuse and were led by false confidence, for example terminating the child protection plan at the earliest opportunity and without and firm evidence of improvement in the situation.
- *Parents and carers prevented professionals from seeing and listening to the child* - may not apply in this case. Mother spoke about child's injuries, giving at times improbable explanations.
- *Working with hostile and avoidant families* - professionals may have been intimidated by step-father who was a violent man. He bluntly refused to engage with professionals even when the children were subject to a child

protection plan. Mother of Child K conspired with her partner to conceal the abuse of her son, perhaps some extent in fear for her own safety, or simply to prevent detection. She herself was seen to have directly mistreated Child K, in an incident in a supermarket and when he was in hospital.

Lessons learnt include: being alert to the possibility that a parent who is a victim of domestic abuse can also be abusive toward their children; professionals remembering that if they feel intimidated themselves by a parent or carer it is very likely a child would feel similarly threatened.

Professionals and practitioners in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are reminded that the relevant LSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures are available at: <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

Source: [Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board](#) 18 February 2015

Further information: [Child K: a serious case review \(PDF\)](#)

Button Batteries

Button batteries are the very small disc shaped batteries found in many everyday gadgets and toys. If a button battery is swallowed it could get stuck causing the child to choke and/or cause the battery to produce sodium hydroxide (caustic soda). This is highly dangerous and can cause internal bleeding and/or burn a hole inside the body. They can also cause damage if placed in ears or noses. Serious damage occurs within hours and bleeding can result in death. A new leaflet and poster about button batteries have been produced and are available at:

<http://www.lcitylscb.org/leaflets/>

Child sexual exploitation

Louise Casey has produced a report on based on her examination of CSE in Rotherham and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reflections-on-child-sexual-exploitation-a-report-by-louise-casey-cb>

Serious Crime Act 2015

The [Serious Crime Act 2015](#) received Royal Assent on 3 March 2015 contains a number of wide-ranging provisions to pursue, disrupt and bring to justice, serious and organised criminals and gangs. Part 5 of the Act makes a number of distinct changes to the criminal law to enhance the protection of children from cruelty, protecting girls from female genital mutilation and strengthening the protection afforded to victims of domestic abuse:

- Updating and clarifying the offence of child cruelty to make it explicit that it covers psychological suffering or injury as well as physical harm. (Section 66)
- A new criminal offence of sexual communication with a child. (Section 67)
- Amends existing sexual offences legislation so as to recognise children as victims rather than consenting participants (Section 68)
- A new offence making it illegal to possess material that contains advice or guidance about abusing children sexually. (Section 69)
- Extends the extra-territorial reach of female genital mutilation offences and providing anonymity to victims. (Sections 70 and 71)
- A new offence of failing to protect a girl under 16 from the risk of female genital mutilation. (Section 72)
- Provision for female genital mutilation protection orders to protect victims and likely victims. (Section 73)
- A new duty on professionals to notify the police of acts of female genital mutilation. (Section 74)
- A new offence criminalising repeated or continuous coercive or controlling behaviour perpetrated against an intimate partner or family member which has a serious effect on the victim. (Sections 76 and 77)

Source: LGIU 16th April 2015

National Children's Bureau

A new animation by the National Children's Bureau sets out how corporate parents can ensure looked after children receive the best health services possible.

Source: [YouTube](#) 26 March 2015

Role of gender when working with young men

The Open University and Action for Children have published a report about the role of gender when working with young men.

Source: [Open University press release](#) 27 March 2015

Further information: [Beyond male role models: gender identities and work with young men \(PDF\)](#).

Support to children in kinship care

The Family Rights Group has published research into support provided to children in kinship care.

Source: [The Family Rights Group](#) 27 March 2015

Further information: [Could do better... must do better: a study of family and friends care local authority policies \(PDF\)](#).

FGM within African community in Greater Manchester

The charity Afruca has published a study of attitudes to and experiences of female genital mutilation within the African community living in Greater Manchester.

Source: [Afruca](#) 30 March 2015

Further information: [Voices of the community: exploring female genital mutilation in the African community across Greater Manchester](#)

Safeguarding children in families detained for immigration purposes

Barnardo's has published a report advising the government on safeguarding children in families detained for immigration purposes.

Source: [Barnardos](#) 30 March 2015

Further information: [Cedars: recommendations for a new government \(PDF\)](#).

Fight Against Porn Zombies

ChildLine has launched the F.A.P.Z. campaign (Fight Against Porn Zombies) to help children and young people who have questions or concerns about pornography. Resources include a series of films looking at myths around pornography and answers to young people's questions around porn.

Source: [ChildLine](#) 31 March 2015

Risks of online pornography and sexually explicit material

The NSPCC has published new advice for parents on how to talk to children about the risks of online pornography and sexually explicit material.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 31 March 2015

Manslaughter of 11 month old child

Paul Thomas, 29, from Telford, Shropshire, has been convicted of the manslaughter of his 11 month old son, who died in 2012. His wife, Ashlea, 21, was convicted of causing or allowing the death of her child.

Source: [BBC Online](#) 01 April 2015

Online video content

An Ofcom report has found that 16% of 12 to 34-year-olds have seen worrying video content online. Bad language and bullying or victimisation of themselves or others was a concern to 37% of teenagers.

Source: [Guardian](#) 01 April 2015

Further information: [Attitudes to online and on demand content](#)

CSE within the Church of England

An ITV news investigation has revealed that dozens of new allegations of historical child sex abuse within the Church of England have been made over the last few months.

Source: [ITV](#) 07 April 2015

Working Together 2015

The NSPCC Information Service has published an article explaining how the new Working Together guidance impacts on people working with children in England. The NSPCC has also published new briefings: on information sharing and confidentiality for professionals; a summary of the updated statutory guidance for schools in England.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 08 April 2015

Further information: [Information sharing and confidentiality for practitioners - things to know and issues to consider \(PDF\)](#)

[Briefing on updated statutory guidance for schools in England - keeping children safe in education \(PDF\)](#)

Beyond Youth Custody

Findings from the research project Beyond Youth Custody have indicated that relocation support for young offenders who want to quit gangs is ineffective. Young gang members who had been relocated were more likely to feel isolated and at greater risk of reoffending.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 08 April 2015

Further information: [Gang-involved young people: custody and beyond \(PDF\)](#)

Survivor stories by men

Survivors Manchester and Dr. Mike Harthill, senior lecturer in sociology and sport at Edge Hill University, are conducting a research project to facilitate the telling of survivor stories by men who were sexually abused as children within a PE or sports context. They would like to hear from anyone interested in being a part of this research.

Source: [Survivors Manchester](#) 09 April 2015

Sex offences and genes

The BBC reports that a study by Oxford University and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden has suggested that genes have a 'substantial influence' on the risk of being convicted of a sex offence.

Source: [BBC Online](#) 09 April 2015

CSE reports to police

A House of Commons library analysis based on freedom of information releases has found that reports of child sexual abuse to police in England and Wales rose by 60% between 2011 and 2014. In contrast, arrests for child sex abuse offences fell by 9% in this period.

Source: [Guardian](#) 09 April 2015

Training package for trustees

The Safe Network has produced a new safeguarding resource and training package for trustees of organisations working with children and young people.

Source: [Devon and Torbay Safeguarding Children Boards](#) 20 April 2015

Young girls and emotional problems

The number of young girls at risk of emotional problems has risen sharply over the last 5 years according to a study in the Journal of Adolescent and Mental Health.

Source: [BBC Online](#) 20 April 2015

Peer violence in the care system

An article by Christine Barber, NSPCC senior research fellow at the University of Bristol, discusses how prolific peer violence is in the care system and what needs to be done to help those suffering from it. Her analysis is taken from the recent NSPCC publication 'Promoting the wellbeing of children in care'.

Source: [Community Care](#) 21 April 2015

Further information: [Promoting the wellbeing of children in care: messages from research](#)

Risk in social work

An article in Community Care by social work lecturer Rhian Taylor discusses the consequences of a tendency to overestimate risk in social work.

Source: [Community Care](#) 21 April 2015

Support worker and LAC

Children and Young People Now reports that the number of looked after children who go missing from care in Doncaster has fallen from 46 to 12 in the last year after the introduction of a dedicated support worker.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 21 April 2015

Social worker "academy"

Children and Young People Now reports that West Sussex County Council has announced the creation of an "academy" to support newly qualified social workers and prevent burnout.

Source: [Children and Young People Now](#) 21 April 2015

Perinatal Mental Health Services

NSPCC Scotland and Maternal Mental Health Scotland have published a report on community perinatal mental health (PMH) services.

Source: [Holyrood](#) 22 April 2015

Further information: [Getting it right: getting it right for mothers and babies. Closing gaps in community perinatal mental health services \(PDF\)](#)

Supporting children with harmful sexual behaviour

An NSPCC led collaboration, which includes the Local Government Association and the Youth Justice Board, has developed a 'national operation framework' to help local authorities develop a more consistent and improved approach to supporting children with harmful sexual behaviour.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 22 April 2015

Young people injured by serious violence

Research by Cardiff University has found that violence against children and teenagers fell by 18% last year. The findings were part of a wider study into the number of people of all ages who had been injured by serious violence in England and Wales last year. Overall, there was a 10% decrease in violence against people.

Source: [Community Care](#) 22 April 2015

Further information: [Violence in England and Wales in 2014: an accident and emergency perspective \(PDF\)](#)

Resettlement support for children and young people leaving custody

Children and Young People Now report that the Youth Justice Board and the National Offender Management Service have developed a payment-by-results programme to improve resettlement support for children and young people leaving custody.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 23 April 2015

Neglect and abuse referrals from schools

The Times Educational Supplement has revealed that there has been a sharp rise in neglect and abuse referrals from schools. Figures from 46 local authorities indicate that nearly 30,000 children were referred to children's services by schools in 2013-14. This is a 48% increase since 2010-11.

Source: [Times Educational Supplement](#) 24 April 2015

Government

Permanence, long-term foster placements and ceasing to look after a child

The Department for Education has published updated guidance on permanence, long-term foster placements and ceasing to look after a child.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 26 March 2015

Further information: [Permanence, long-term foster placements and ceasing to look after a child: statutory guidance for local authorities \(PDF\)](#).

New DoE guidance for schools and colleges

The Department for Education has published new guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It replaces the 2014 guidance.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 26 March 2015

Further information: [Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance for schools and colleges \(PDF\)](#).

Information sharing guidance

The Department for Education has published advice for safeguarding professionals on information sharing.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 26 March 2015

Further information: [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services \(PDF\)](#).

Identifying and responding to child abuse

The Department for Education has published new advice for professionals on identifying and responding to child abuse. It replaces the previous version of 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' (2006).

Source: [Department for Education](#) 26 March 2015

Further information: [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners \(PDF\)](#).

Working Together 2015

The Department for Education has published a revised version of the Working together to safeguard children guidance. Changes include: guidance on notifiable incidents and a definition of serious harm.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 26 March 2015

Further information: [Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children \(PDF\)](#).

Commissioning services for women and girls with female genital mutilation

The Department of Health has published new guidance for England on commissioning services for women and girls with female genital mutilation.

Source: [DoH website](#) 27 March 2015

Further information: [Commissioning services to support women and girls with female genital mutilation \(PDF\)](#).

Sure Start Children's Centres

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Sure Start Children's Centres has published its recommendations for the next parliament.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 27 March 2015

Further information: [All Party Parliamentary Group on Sure Start Children's Centres: 2015 pre-election report \(PDF\)](#).

Adolescent to parent violence and abuse

The Home Office has published guidance on adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA). Issues covered include: safeguarding, risk assessment with young people and safety planning.

Source: [Home Office website](#) 30 March 2015

Further information: [Information guide: adolescent to parent violence and abuse \(APVA\) \(PDF\)](#).

Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 has come into force. New duties and responsibilities for local authorities include provisions to ensure that there is no gap in services for children receiving support when they become adults.

Source: legislation.gov.uk 01 April 2015

Social work and the general election

An article in Community Care summarises what the 5 main parties propose to do for social work if they win the general election.

Source: Community Care 17 April 2015

Further information

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

Sign up for regular Newsletter: http://www.barnardos.org.uk/email_subscription_form.htm

Community Care - News, information and research <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Home/>

Sign up for regular Newsletter: <https://www.communitycare.co.uk/Register/registermain/>

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Boards' Procedures (staff can register to be alerted on updates) <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>

National Children's Bureau - Policy, research and information

National Working Group Network (NWG) – tackling child sexual exploitation

<http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The Government's National Referral Mechanism guidance and referral forms can be accessed at the link below. The referral and assessment forms should be used to report potential victims of human trafficking

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

NSPCC inform - Child protection advice, support, information, factsheets and research

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>

Office of the Children's Commissioner for England

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

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)

The final report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's **Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups** (November 2013)

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_743

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