

# DSCB NEWSLETTER

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SPRING  
2018



Doncaster  
Safeguarding  
Children  
Board



Working to make our children's lives safer



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## Foreword

As interim independent chair it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our spring 2018 newsletter.

The newsletter highlights a number of important issues for children whose safety and wellbeing may be compromised and help improve practice.

In my mind most importantly is early help. Early help by its very nature should not require statutory services. However it is clear that many children and families who would benefit from a little support find their cases referred to specialist services when the help required could be provided by someone that they already know. This leads to specialist safeguarding services becoming overloaded, with the particular problem that children at significant and immediate risk could be overlooked. It also means that families and children can feel stigmatised when all they require is the sort of support and help that all families need from time to time. After all, successfully and safely bringing up children can be tricky. It is important that we all work to ensure that professionals and others working with families and children have the competence and confidence to offer early help.

I would also draw your attention to the importance of including General Practitioners (remember also called Family Doctors) in the Children in Need procedures. GPs are uniquely placed to understand what is happening in a family as they interact with all generations and often have a very well established relationship with all family members. Almost always GPs are trusted by their patients and are in a good position to ensure that support is accepted, effective and sustained.

Finally I want to emphasise the dangers of co-sleeping. In the last 6 months we have had two baby deaths associated with mothers sleeping with their babies. Physical contact between babies and their mothers is vital for emotional wellbeing. But co-sleeping is potentially very dangerous and it is important that parents understand that what seems benign can be lethal. We want to recommend to you the promotional materials on the DSCB website and encourage you all to share these with all parents/carers in whatever your role is.

John Woodhouse



## DSCB Conference October 2017

The DSCB held their Autumn Conference on the 4th October 2017 at the Keepmoat Stadium. The conference focused on 'Multi agency perspectives in addressing mental health issues in families'. The event had guest speakers Lee Golze, Christine Rickman and Dawn Rees. There was also an exceptional performance from some young students at Hall Cross Academy who spoke about a contemporary insight to mental health. The conference held a variety of workshops discussing eating disorders, and looking at the mental health law. We had many different volunteers who ran stalls promoting their different services. The day was a success.



"I really enjoyed myself and met some very nice people who were very enthusiastic about the day. The conference has got better and better every year I have been".



"The day was really interesting with a good variety of workshops and speakers. The information will be really useful for my day to day role of working with young people and their families."

# DSCB Training

## DSCB Current Training Courses

- An Overview of the Typologies of Domestic Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking
- Childhood Neglect: Recognition and the Multi Agency Response
- Delivering Early Help, Role of the Lead Practitioners (2)
- DSCB Neglect Strategy and Toolkit Seminar
- Early Help Outcomes and Plans and Closures (3)
- Introduction to Early Help and Thresholds for Intervention
- Managing Allegations Against Professionals - The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer
- Sign of Safety Roadshows
- Signs of Safety 3 Day Practice Champion Training
- Voluntary and Community Groups Training for Trainers
- Working with Perpetrators

For more information and to book onto any of the above courses, please visit <http://buy.doncaster.gov.uk>

**Please note our Level 3 Safeguarding Training is no longer a single course. For anyone wishing to undertake level 3 safeguarding, the requirements are as follows:**

- Each delegate is required to have 8 hours of face-to-face training.
- 'An Introduction to Early Help and Thresholds for Intervention' and 'Signs of Safety Roadshow' are both 2 hour long **mandatory** courses.
- The delegate now has a choice to do any other training course which equates to at least 4 hours.

Once the delegate has achieved this, they must contact DSCB Training on [dscbtaining@dcstrust.co.uk](mailto:dscbtaining@dcstrust.co.uk) asking for confirmation to gain their level 3 certificate. The team will then check all records and issue a certificate if there is evidence of 8 hours of training.

# Early Help

## What is Early Help?

Early help is preventative, by providing support to families when a need is identified or as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from conception, through childhood and into adolescence. It can also prevent further problems arising by building resilience with families to find their own solutions in the future.

It should not be seen as a specific service, but any service, and crucially how services work collectively through tailored support packages for specific needs in individual families.

By changing the way we all work, from a late reaction to chronic and acute need, to a focus on the root causes of social problems, outcomes for children and families improve, and costly statutory interventions can be avoided.



**Working together**  
for stronger families



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Principle 1 of Early Help: Parents (mothers, fathers or carers) are children's first source of support, along with universal services. Doncaster's Families Information Service has been re-launched and is now easier to use and searchable by location and need. It provides access to a range of services for universal or more complex needs. You can use this directory in your work with families. More information will be sent to you soon, once the forthcoming Families Information Service marketing strategy is underway.

**If you need information or advice about a child or young person before completing the form, call Early Help from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, on 01302 734110.**

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## Safe Sleeping

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, also known as “Cot Death”, is the sudden, unexpected death of a healthy baby. Although SIDS is rare, over 300 babies die of SIDS per year in the UK. The DSCB helped to raise awareness of safe sleeping during Safer Sleep Week on the 12th-18th March.

### **Factors increasing the risk of SIDS:**

- Unsafe sleeping positions
- Smoking/ Drug use
- Co-sleeping
- Prematurity/ low birth weight
- Leaving blankets and toys in the cot

### **Factors decreasing the risk of SIDS:**

- Room Sharing
- Using a Dummy
- Breastfeeding
- Swaddling your child
- Not sleeping the baby in an armchair

For more information on Safe Sleeping, visit:

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/>



## CSE Awareness day



The DSCB supported the CSE Awareness day which was held on the 18th March. The DSCB helped to raise awareness and signs of CSE through social media as well as being pictured using the phrase 'Helping Hand'. The CSE Team held various activities such as a performance workshop showcase titled 'Average Joe', and visiting school assemblies regarding CSE and how to spot the signs.

## Annual Reports

To view the 2016-2017 DSCB Annual Report and Child Friendly Annual Report, Visit <http://www.dscb.co.uk/dscb-annual-reports>

## Multi-Agency Audits

Each year the DSCB along with partner agencies complete 'Multi-agency' audits on different themes in order to determine how well the partners work together to safeguard children. In 2017/18, we fully completed Multi-agency audits on Signs of Safety and Neglect.

### Signs of Safety

#### What's working well:

- Signs of Safety is well embedded across the partnership with all agencies using the approach.
- Most of the cases viewed involved all practitioners using Signs of Safety in some capacity
- Application of the model varied between agencies and different functions within the agency.
- PAFSS workers, School Nurses and Health Visitors routinely used the approach during direct work within the family home.
- Single agency Early Help practitioners and social workers at CIN and CP levels tended to record their home visits using a Signs of Safety format as a process to reflect their views of the visit rather than as an approach to engaging the families. (This could potentially be a recording issue for some staff as during feedback certain practitioners were clear that they used the approach when working directly with parents and carers in the family home and provided examples of this work).
- The use of the model in both managerial decision making and supervision was seen to have been well implemented across PAFSS workers and CIN, CP and CiC Social workers
- In the vast majority of cases the model had been used to establish the risks, consider the reasons for the problems and plan interventions
- Some excellent work by practitioners was seen in providing clarity to families about what needed to happen and analysis of what this would mean for the child if this did not happen.
- When staff in RDASH accessed supervision or management support on a case the signs of safety approach was well embedded.

## Multi-Agency Audits

### **What needs to happen now:**

- Refresher training would be beneficial for staff who are not regular users of the approach.
- Practitioners would benefit from greater understanding of how to use the approach during direct work, such as the application of appreciative enquiry techniques.
- Signs of Safety tools for older children and further implementation of the model in CiC cases would be beneficial.
- Additional areas for follow up include the implementation of the model across the many different functions of DBTH.
- Some practitioners need to undertake an analysis of the causes of the problems in addition to assisting parents in making positive changes.

## **Neglect**

The audit made a number of findings including evidence that there was improved information sharing between partners and evidence that when the toolkit was used it proved an effective way to work with the family. However the overall finding was that as yet, the neglect toolkit is not embedded into practice.

### **What we need to do now:**

- Clear guidance to be agreed and disseminated to all agencies as to when and how the neglect toolkit must be completed so as embed this practice. Increased management oversight will be required.
- All practitioners should complete the neglect toolkit on all cases stepped up or down from social care to early help and used as a working tool to measure progress where neglect has been identified as an issue.
- A survey monkey will be distributed to all those who have completed the neglect toolkit training to better understand the barriers to using the tool and seek solutions.

# Neglect Toolkit

The impact of neglect on children and young people is enormous. Neglect causes great distress to children, leading to poor health, educational and social outcomes and is potentially fatal. Lives are destroyed, children's abilities to make secure attachments are affected and their ability to attend and attain at school is reduced. Their emotional health and well-being is often compromised and this impacts on their success in adulthood and their ability to parent in the future.

## **Graded Care Profile: Tool for the assessment of Neglect**

The Doncaster Neglect Tool is based on the Graded Care Profile (GCP) scale and was developed as a practical tool to give an objective measure of the care of children across all areas of need. The GCP scale was conceived to provide a profile of care on a direct categorical grade. It is important from the point of view of objectivity because the ill effect of bad care in one area may be offset by good care in another area. In this scale there are five grades based on levels of commitment to care. Parallel with the level of commitment is the degree to which a child's needs are met and which also can be observed.

The Toolkit can be used by professionals across the continuum of need in a variety of situations where care for children is of interest. It should be used in conjunction with assessment framework and inform our overall analysis of needs and risks. It can be used alongside a Signs of Safety approach to give a more in depth view of neglect.

## **How to use this Toolkit**

Discuss with the parent or carer your wish to complete the toolkit with them. Go through the parents' leaflet (available on DSCB website) with them and leave them a copy. Once you are sure they have understood, ask them to sign the consent form on the summary sheet. Ideally go through the form with the parents carers, this way they will better understand any concerns you have but can also provide you with their views. Keep the form for your records and note that consent has been given in your case recording system.

**To view the full version of the Neglect Toolkit, visit:**  
<http://www.dscb.co.uk/neglect> . The document will be  
 found in the Downloads and Resources section.

# New DSCB Procedures

Doncaster Safeguarding Children's Board are committed to ensuring all those working with Children and Young People know how to spot the indicators, and know what to do when there are concerns relating to the safety and or well-being of children.

The DSCB has been working collaboratively with partner agencies to ensure appropriate and up to date procedures are in place to safeguard children. We have successfully completed:

**"Safeguarding Children and Young People who may have been Sexually Abused"**. This procedure has been adapted from Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Board and provides information about intra-familial sexual abuse and other types of sexual abuse, such as rape and gives guidance to ensure professionals know how to respond.

**"Children living away from home (including Privately Fostered Children)"**. This procedure gives a detailed account and links to other relevant procedures which relate to children who don't live with their parents.

**"CIN procedures relating to Notifications of GP's"** Following a serious case review of Child A, who died in September 2014 (the details of which can be found on the DSCB website) a large piece of work has been undertaken to ensure that GP's are notified by when children are supported by either 'Early Help' or 'Child in Need Services'. GP's have been provided with training to ensure they know the processes by which to feed into assessments, reviews and planning processes for these children. Procedures have subsequently been developed and these will be tested through audit in the near future to ensure the learning has been embedded.

**"Working with Children in Need"** procedures have been developed and provide a detailed account of how professionals should work with such children and their families. The procedures highlight the processes to follow to ensure the appropriate service provision is afforded to children to ensure their safety.

To view the full version of the procedures, visit:  
<http://www.dscb.co.uk/early-help> The document will  
 be found within the Downloads and Resources  
 section.