



Keeping children safe in our city

Safeguarding Updates for Schools & Colleges, No. 1 Sept 2017

Editorial

Welcome to the first of our Safeguarding newsletters, where we will keep you up to date with the latest information, tools and support available, to assist you to make the best decisions for the children in your school and help keep them safe.

We hope you will find it useful and would appreciate any feedback and contributions.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries or concerns about promoting the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and we hope to meet representatives from your school at the termly DSL Networks and other events throughout the year.

We are delighted that Liz Rose, Headteacher of St Agnes Primary School, has been seconded to the LA to support the Safeguarding in Education Team.

See section on MASH for more information about one of the things she will be starting on.

Jenny Patterson (Safeguarding Lead for Education)

Key Safeguarding Contacts

We have collated key safeguarding contacts which will be useful for schools into a poster. Free copies will be posted out to schools shortly. Please look out for it. A copy will also be available on the Schools Hub Website in the Safeguarding Section.

j.patterson@manchester.gov.uk, 0771 752 7750,
elizabeth.rose@manchester.gov.uk,
QAEducation@manchester.gov.uk, 0161 245 7171

Learning from Serious Case Reviews

The outcomes of a recent serious case review commended the schools involved for correctly identifying the child at risk and also in the information sharing between nursery and the school.

However the learning concentrated on the need to escalate, when partners and schools have ongoing concerns.

The current escalation process is available on the MSCB Website and a flow chart is currently being finalised which will be shared with schools.

A short briefing on this case is planned for schools on Tuesday 26th September, 11.30 - 12.30 (venue to be confirmed). It is recommended that a representative from your school attends if possible.

Look out also for further briefings which are coming up, to share the learning from other Serious Case Reviews and the growing series of MSCB 7 Minute Briefings which currently cover:-

- Information Sharing,
- FGM,
- Clare's Law (DVA Disclosure Scheme),
- Emollients and Smoking.

Further information is available on the MSCB Website:

www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk

FAQS

1. How often should a DBS be renewed?

Once a DBS certificate has been issued, there is no statutory requirement for it to be renewed. However, MCC, along with other LAs, recommends that you do this every 3 years.

2. When will 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' be updated?

The DFE is not planning to update it at present. The 2016 version will continue to be the version you should be using as we move into the new school year.

3. A community school has approached us to rent rooms at the weekend. What checks do we need to carry out?

Many schools host supplementary schools at the weekend. This is very positive for attainment and for community cohesion. You should check that the organiser has a safeguarding policy and procedures in place and take references.

For further advice, email Jan Bradburn at:

j.bradburn@manchester.gov.uk

Diary Dates for DSLs

Networks for Designated Safeguarding Leads

These are a chance to get updates, hear from key organisations and contribute to discussions. Upcoming topics for 2017/18 will include thresholds for Social Care intervention and referrals, Prevent, the Neglect Strategy, supporting children who are victims of Domestic Violence & Abuse. Please let us know if you have any further suggestions.

Autumn: 17th at Hough End, 18th at Chancellors & 19th October at the Fire Station Training Centre , 9.30 - 12.30

Spring: 13th at Hough End, 14th at Chancellors & 15th February (venue tbc), 9.30 - 12.30

Summer: 12th at Hough End, 13th at Chancellors & 14th June (venue tbc), 9.30 - 12.30

Please email the team on QAEducation@manchester.gov.uk for further details and to book a place.

Statutory refresher Training

We have commissioned Griffin Care to deliver monthly training for DSLs. Each school is entitled to one free place every 2 years. You are able to book additional places, but there is a cost of £50.00. Please note that some of the sessions are aimed at new/ less experienced DSLs and others at those with more experience of the role.

The training is a full day, 9.15 – 4.00 and the venue is The Woodlands Suite at the Abraham Moss Centre, M8 5UF

Dates

New DSLs:

18th October (FULL) & 1st November

Experienced DSLs: 31st October (FULL) , 10th November (FULL), 14th November, 17th January, 14th February, 28th February & 14th March

Book on the most appropriate one for you by emailing:- learningandeventsteam@manchester.gov.uk

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools (RRS)

Many schools in Manchester are already involved in this initiative. Feedback suggests that it is having a major effect on building resilience and improving behaviour of young people, and also on positive relationships with parents. As a result Manchester is looking at becoming a Rights Respecting City and we have commissioned UNICEF to run a series of training sessions. The dates for Cohort 23 are 10th October, 29th November & 23rd January. For further information and to book a place, email :- QAEducation@manchester.gov.uk

Early Help Hubs

The three Early Help Hubs are now well established and you can access advice, guidance and support directly from them or by looking online at Help & Support Manchester.

The hubs can help you to problem solve and you can draw on a wider offer of support from a range of partners. Cases are discussed at weekly allocation meetings and the hubs can help in gathering information where other agencies have also had concerns.

If a parent/carer is reluctant to engage with an early help assessment, please contact your Early Help Hub to discuss possible solutions. It is important we are able to evidence the strategies we have used and that we have tried and delivered a good coordinated offer of early help before we request social work intervention.

MASH

The 'Levels of Need and Decision Making Guidance' can help in determining whether your concern needs an immediate safeguarding or child protection response by a qualified social worker or whether a coordinated plan of support via early help would be appropriate.

Where you are unsure, you can use the MASH Consultation Line, 0161 219 2895, and an experienced social worker will provide advice in relation to your concern.

Liz Rose will be joining the MASH each week to review referrals from schools that have resulted in 'no further action'. She will be exploring the school's concerns and the reasons behind the decision from Social Care and will feedback to support good understanding of the Levels of Need and Decision Making Guidance.

Signs of Safety

Signs of Safety has been adopted by Manchester City Council Children's Services as the overarching practice framework for all of its work with children and families. It is a strengths-based approach, building on our Early Help strategy, so practitioners will be asking the following very important questions:

- What's working well?
- What are the family or friends already doing that are keeping the child safe?
- What are the strengths in the family that might help to keep the child safe in the future?

Pilot partner agency forms are now on the MSCB Website to assist professionals eg to present information at CP conferences. You can access them on:-

www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/resource/signs-safety-resources/

A number of training sessions have been held for partner agencies and more are planned for schools approximately on a monthly basis. Upcoming dates are 14th September and 18th October. Please contact QAEducation@manchester.gov.uk for further information. Please also let us know if you would like to volunteer your school as a venue.

Visit Help & Support Manchester at www.hsm.manchester.gov.uk for more information about the Early Help Strategy and about Levels of Need.

MSCB

Manchester Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) brings together a number of agencies across the city to ensure that there is a joined up approach to safeguarding.

The agreed priorities for 2017/18 are:-

- **ENGAGEMENT & INVOLVEMENT**
- Listening & Learning; hearing the voice of children and adults
- Making Safeguarding Personal
- **COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING:** Domestic Violence & Abuse, FGM, Sexual Exploitation, Radicalisation, Missing, Organised Crime, Modern Slavery, 'so-called' Honour Based Violence
- **TRANSITIONS:** Moving from childhood to adult in a safe & positive way
- **NEGLECT:** ensuring the basic needs of every child are met and that adults at risk of self-harm or wilful neglect by omission are safeguarded and supported.

For more details visit the website where you can read the business plan and all updated strategies:-

www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk

Schools' Voice

There are three Senior Leadership representatives on the MSCB Board from the Secondary, Primary and Independent sector.

Additionally there are a number of school staff who contribute to various MSCB subgroups and related forums, including FGM, Missing from Home/Care, District Safeguarding Fora (which feed in to the Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group), Prevent and Early Help.

Safeguarding Self-Evaluation

Thank you to all of you (94%) who have now sent us your SEF. They provide a very useful overview of good safeguarding practice in Manchester schools and also of the most useful areas of development to focus on.

A full analysis is in process and a report will be shared with schools asap, as well as with the MSCB and the Director of Education.

Prevent

There are a number of free sessions - training for staff and also projects with both primary and secondary pupils which are available this year. This builds on previous provision, including WRAP (Wider raising Awareness of Prevent), Holding Difficult Conversations and the Think Project.

Much of this is funded by the Home Office and is from accredited providers. It is expected that all schools in Manchester will take advantage of these opportunities.

A catalogue detailing the Prevent offer and links to other useful organisations and resources for schools and colleges was sent out via circular letter and is available on the Schools Hub.

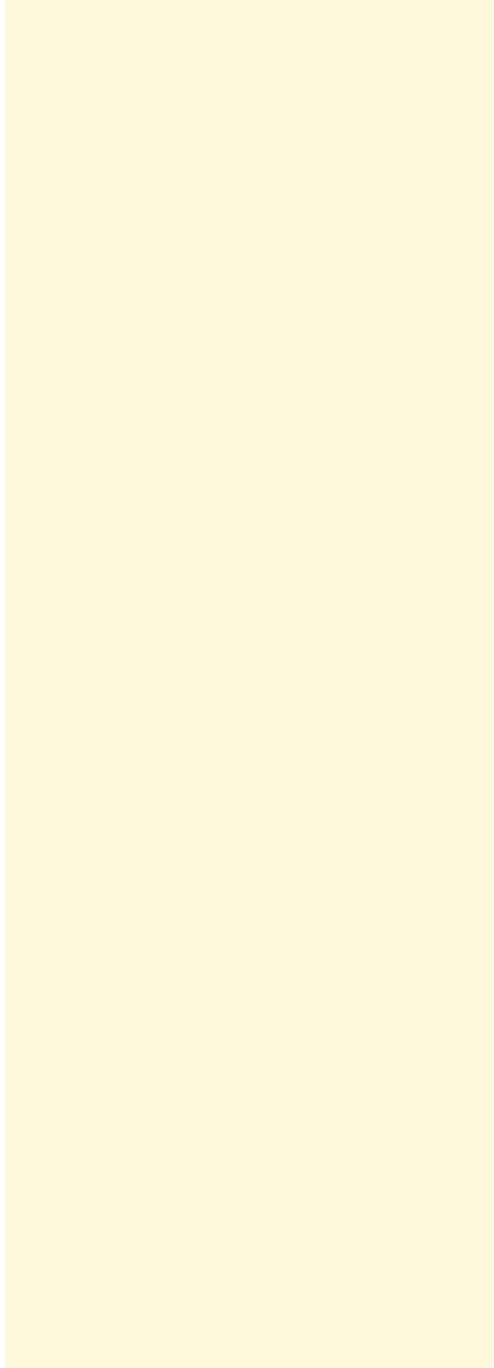
For more information, please contact Jane Murphy, j.murphy5@manchester.gov.uk.

Domestic Violence & Abuse

Information sharing between agencies is crucial in order to better support children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse. We now have school reps on all three of the district MARACs who contribute to the action planning in high risk cases and also feedback relevant information to schools. This will also improve with the rollout of Operation Compass (starting in September with the North) where the police will be informing schools whenever one of their pupils has been involved in or witnessed a domestic incident.

We are planning to bring together a focus group to discuss how schools can make best use of this information and useful strategies to support children and families. Please contact Leanne Conroy if you are interested in being involved at:-

l.conroy@manchester.gov.uk.



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