

Welcome to this edition of Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board's Newsletter

We have had some fabulous feedback on the quality and content of the previous editions and we hope that you are finding it useful as a one stop shop for all that is current in safeguarding. You will see that this month we focus heavily on Domestic Violence which, as many of you will know is a factor in the lives of 55% of those children on Child Protection Plans. The work we do with RISE is critical to protecting children who live through this horror. I hope you will find the interview with RISE on page 5 interesting.

This January I presented the LSCB **Annual Report** 2012-13 to the Council Children & Young People Committee. I was asked some insightful questions by the Youth Council representatives about how we can engage better with young people, and this is a key area our Comms Group is looking at. Already our new Business Manager Mia Brown has been in touch and started to develop ways in which we can reach out to, what is effectively, our client group. I was staggered to learn in a report earlier this month that ChildLine were reporting a 41% increase in contacts about self harm in the past year. They also reported that contacts about cyberbullying have risen by 87%. We were keen to hear children and young peoples reactions to these statistics and asked the Youth Council for their views.

On communications you will probably know that we are now on Twitter [@LSCB_Brighton](#) and already have 154 followers. Please follow us and retweet our tweets to extend our reach. Most of the reports and articles we come across or publish will be tweeted as well as circulated in more conventional ways!

Tuesday 11th February is Safer Internet Day, and we have produced a special newsletter to promote e-safety which can be viewed [here](#). This month is also LGBT History month, and Allsorts will be hosting various activities at their LGBT Children, Families and Young People Day on 4th February, which we hope to be able to talk about in our next newsletter. In March we will focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health in support of Eating Disorders Awareness Week (24 Feb – 2 March) and Self Harm Awareness Day on 1st March.



I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I look forward to your ongoing feedback.

Graham Bartlett
Brighton & Hove LSCB
Independent Chairperson

Youth Council Responds to ChildLine Report

A recent **ChildLine** report stated that contacts about Cyberbullying and Self harm have risen considerably in 2012-13. We were shocked by these figures and wanted to find out whether young people in Brighton & Hove were too. We contacted the Youth Council who did a short consultation with their members. On the whole they were not surprised by the figures and they put a link with the increase in cyberbullying contributing to the increase in self-harm and suicidal thoughts. Read their full response [here](#)

We are very grateful to the young people involved for taking the time to tell us their thoughts, and are sure that you are as eager as we are to read their opinions.

We will be exploring self harm in next month's newsletter and look at cyberbullying in our **E-Safety newsletter**

LGBT Children, Young People and Families Day

Young People's Voice, a campaign action group based at Allsorts Youth Project, is holding a LGBT Children, Young People & Families Day on 4th February 2014, to celebrate LGBT History Month. This year the theme of the conference is 'Exploring Intersectionality,' to educate about and celebrate complex & diverse identities.

Book a place [here](#) or find out more at www.allsortsyouth.org.uk

Learning from National Serious Case Reviews

Child G. East Sussex, December 2013

Background

During 2012 a girl, Child G, became involved in a sexual relationship with a teacher at her school, Mr K. Anticipating that this relationship would come to light, they left the country together. After just over a week they were detained by police. Child G returned to her family and Mr K was brought back to this country in custody. Child G was fourteen years old when the relationship began and fifteen when they left the country. Mr K was subsequently found guilty of abduction and admitted a number of charges of sexual activity with a child under 16-years. He received a custodial sentence of 5-and-a-half-years.

The SCR identified serious concerns relating to school's actions, including: failure to identify the abuse and exploitation of Child G, fixed thinking, failure to hear concerns raised by students, failure to involve Child G's mother, insufficient recognition of Mr K's inappropriate use of Twitter to communicate with Child G and serious concerns with the ways in which information was recorded, stored, retrieved and provided for the review. It also identified procedural failings in police handling of allegations relating to inappropriate images of Mr K on Child G's phone.

To read our briefing please click [here](#)

or visit www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_safeguarding_information_updates

See the full report at: www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk/home_scr

Child Sexual Exploitation and Rochdale SCRs December 2013

Background

In December 2010, a major police investigation, Operation Span, was instigated in relation to the sexual exploitation of a number of young people in the Rochdale Borough. A SCR was undertaken in relation to 6 young people whose experience was considered most likely to provide the fullest learning for agencies within the area. Another SCR was conducted for young person 7.

Both SCR's identified system-wide issues across local agencies, which did not sufficiently protect or prevent young people from being sexually exploited. In the SCR failings in key areas including inadequate policies and procedures and the absence of high quality supervision coupled with management failings were noted.

This SCR briefing takes into account the learning points from the events in Rochdale, and because CSE can be very complex & a difficult subject to respond to we have also included recommendations from other case reviews.

We are meeting [WiSE](#) next month find out about their work to raise awareness and tackle CSE in Brighton & Hove, and will publish this in the next newsletter. Please take part in our short [CSE survey](#).

To read our briefing please click [here](#)

or visit www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_safeguarding_information_updates

See the full Rochdale reports at: www.rbscb.org

Family CAF — Common Assessment Framework

The Family CAF is used in Brighton & Hove to ensure children, young people and their families to get the help they need, by listening to and working with families. The Family CAF brings together workers from across children & adult services, including schools, health services, housing, police & probation, and the voluntary sector, to work together successfully to support the family through assessment, plan and review.

Further information for professionals & families is available [here](#) including Family CAF resources
Contact the Family CAF Support Office on 01273 292632 or email caf@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Key Learning points from Serious Case Reviews: Domestic Violence

Domestic abuse is widely recognised as one of the factors that puts children more at risk of harm, and is a recurring theme in many SCRs. Key learning points that have come from these include:

Understanding the roles of men in the family Any assessment take into account all members of the household, including biological fathers, new partners or ex-partners who are still in the picture.

Information on lives with or has contact with the children should be checked and kept up-to-date.

Seeing the mother alone Women who live in domestic abuse situations often fear for their own, and their children's safety. Some partners will ensure that they are present at all appointments with professionals, making it impossible for the mother to speak out.

Avoiding an over-reliance on the mother's ability to protect their children if child protection plans focus too much on the mother's ability to protect her children, it can lead to an over-optimistic view of the mother's parenting ability.

Seeing the bigger picture All incidents of domestic violence or physical injury must be looked at within the context of what else is known about the family.

Maintaining a healthy scepticism Disguised compliance often seen in cases with domestic abuse, so evidence should be sought if a mother asserts that an abusive relationship is over.

Talking about domestic abuse between agencies The terminology used to talk about incidences of abuse must not minimise the seriousness of the domestic violence which may lead to it not being identified as a high risk by other agencies.

Understanding the complex nature of domestic violence relationships Some relationships which feature domestic abuse are characterised by separations and reconciliations Some women feel a responsibility for keeping the family together, and many victims are afraid of the consequences of speaking out and seeking help.

Understanding the impact on children of living with domestic violence All agencies must focus on the needs of the child, and act in their best interest at all times.

More information from the NSPCC can be found [here](#). The LSCB runs a course on Domestic Violence & Abuse: The Impact on Children & Young People, more information is on our [multi agency training](#) page and the dates for 2014-15 will be circulated very soon.

Feedback from our SCR Briefings from Brighton & Hove Practitioners

The Hamzah Khan SCR briefing from our December 2013 Newsletter provoked some discussion between members of the LSCB, seeking clarity on our processes for ensuring it is detected if a child does not have their births registered, or does not register for school. We discussed this at our Child Protection Liaison Group meeting, and were assured that all birth notifications are sent to both the Brighton & Hove Registrar and the Health Visiting Service. There is a small portion of parents that refuse the universal services, but there are systems in place to ensure that they are regularly invited to engage with the health visitors, and that the family GP is aware of this.

A total of 150 professionals attended lunchtime sessions this January to hear about the findings from recent high profile Serious Case Reviews. Led by Deb Austin, Head of Safeguarding, key learning points included keeping our focus on the child, the vital importance of routinely consulting with children & young people about their views and feelings, a reminder that Domestic Abuse is **always** a child protection issue and the challenge of recognising "disguised compliance" by parents & carers. Feedback about the sessions was very positive so watch out for future dates. If you missed out you can still view the presentation [here](#).

We are also looking into ways at the moment to create a more regular forum where you can discuss these matters, but until then if you have any feedback on anything in the newsletter please email LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk Follow us on Twitter [@LSCB_Brighton](#) to stay up to date with the latest safeguarding news & information to help you keep children safe in our city.



Focus on: Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence & The Impact on Children & Young People

Repeated serious case reviews show that when faced with domestic violence, professionals often focus on the adults and fail to assess the impact it has on children until it is too late. Domestic abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse that takes place within an intimate or family relationship. It also applies to 'honour based violence' and female genital mutilation. Our recent analysis of repeat Child Protection plans highlighted how many children in our city are living with domestic violence. Members of the LSCB's Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Committee will be discussing the domestic violence pathway and identifying gaps in service provision. Did you know:

- 55% of the 231 children on child protection plans in Brighton & Hove have domestic violence recorded as a contributory factor
- 200,000 children in England live in households where there is a known risk of domestic violence, there is evidence of past or present domestic violence in over half of Serious Case Reviews
- At least 750,000 children a year will be the same or the next room when domestic abuse occurs.
- Factors that will increase the risk to children living in households with domestic violence include Mental health problems, Substance misuse, History of violence, Young parents, Lack of engagement with services, Different cultural norms.
- Women make up 89% of all victims of domestic violence, but men can also be victims, and domestic abuse occurs in LGBT relationships.
- In the UK every week two women are murdered by a partner or ex-partner, which makes domestic violence the single largest cause of female homicide.

Violence against Women & Girls Board

We asked James Rowlands, Violence against Women & Girls Strategy Manager & Commissioner, what the VAWG does. He told us that, broadly speaking, it has two parts. The first is to lead on the development of the city's response to a range of crime types that predominately, but not exclusively, affect women & girls. That includes domestic & sexual violence and abuse, and also sexual harassment, exploitation including the sex industry, trafficking and harmful traditional practices (like Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and so-called 'Honour Based Violence'). The [Safe in The City](#) website will tell you more about this.

James said "through out the city we working with partners, like the LSCB, to focus on preventing these crime types. Staff need the right training and information to identify issues & intervene earlier, and we also seek to change attitudes more widely so that people are more willing & able to name abuse when they see or experience it."

"Despite our best efforts, people will unfortunately experience abuse. Where this does occur, we look at ways to work together as effectively as we can, in order to protect victims & survivors, provide services to support recovery and to prosecute offenders. That could be through support from Independent Domestic or Sexual Violence Advisors, access to therapeutic programmes or coordinated responses like the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). For the first time, the city has a VAWG Programme Board which is charged with overseeing this work, bringing in partners from across the statutory and voluntary sector, as well as building links with the Universities & businesses. And it has a lot to do; our responses to domestic & sexual violence and abuse are far more developed than for many other VAWG crime types. I also have a commissioning function, looking at how and where public money is spent to support the response to these crime types, including the work of our specialist domestic and sexual abuse charities, like RISE and Survivors' Network." Listen to James' talk about the VAWG on a podcast [here](#). For more information on the help and support that is available, go to: www.safeinthecity.info/getting-help.

RISE 01273 622 822 www.riseuk.org.uk

24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247
www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Broken Rainbow - LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline 0300 999 5428
www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

Mens Advice Line - Help & support for male DV victims 0808 801 0327
www.mensadvice.org.uk

Respect 0808 802 4040
www.respectphoneline.org.uk

For anyone concerned about their violence and/or abuse towards a partner or ex-partner

Freedom from domestic abuse: Interview with Rise

We visited **RISE** to talk to Pam Nicholls, who runs our LSCB training course on domestic violence & abuse, to find out more about the work they do across the city.

What does RISE stand for? Refuge, Information, Support & Education. The charity has been working to support families affected by domestic abuse in Sussex for 20 years.

What do you do? RISE provides **crisis services** for victims, including a helpline, refuges & counselling services, as well as being unique in taking a holistic approach to tackling domestic violence through education & awareness work throughout the city. They also provide longer term recovery support through their group work for survivors and their children.

What is defined as domestic abuse? Many people primarily think it's physical or sexual violence but it also includes, psychological, emotional and even financial abuse. Emotional abuse can be open verbal abuse and constant criticism and put downs, or it can be hidden and subtle, such as repeated disapproval or even the refusal to ever be pleased. Emotional abuse erodes a person until they lose all sense of self-esteem & confidence, and the scars from this will last longer than bruises. Domestic abuse is rarely a one off incident – it is a pattern of behaviour which can be normalised within a family or social group. RISE told us they try to challenge this by working in schools and youth groups to promote healthy relationships. They get great feedback from these sessions, with young people welcoming the chance to talk about the subject with adults, though unfortunately this is not a compulsory part of the PSHE curriculum. If you would like to talk to RISE about working with you please email Pam.Nicholls@riseuk.org

Who else do you work with? RISE's work is truly multiagency, with **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors** based in agencies throughout the city, including at the Police Station, at A&E, in maternity, at the Claude Nichol Clinic, with Sussex Ambulance Services and with Criminal Justice, as well as a specialist LGBT IDVA. They also work with the Integrated Team for Families, and Youth Services, on the Break4Change programme helping families deal with young people who are violent to their parents. They told me that they work in partnerships to recruit and train peer mentors to help change attitudes & encourage women to get help & support throughout our city, particularly in BME communities, and they are planning to develop this project with young people. They are a placement of choice for social work students, and hope in the future to be able to allow police cadets to spend time working with them.

How do I contact Rise? The first point of contact for victims and professionals is their helpline, **01273 622822**. Although they only accept self-referrals they said that they provide practitioners with information & advice that can help you support someone to ask for help themselves. Also please look at their website: www.riseuk.org.uk. There is a new drop in 'surgery' every Wednesday morning, from 9am to 12noon, at the Customer Centre at Hove Town Hall, as of 22nd January 2014. Women & men of all ages can drop in to access expert information & advice from Sussex Police & RISE staff and the surgery provides a safe space to talk through concerns. It gives people a chance to find out more about the options available as well as how to access assistance with housing & finances. People will also be able to find out more from the police about their partner's offending history so that they can make more informed choices. Each case is considered individually and information will be shared when it could reduce the risk of someone being a victim of crime. For more information please see [here](#)

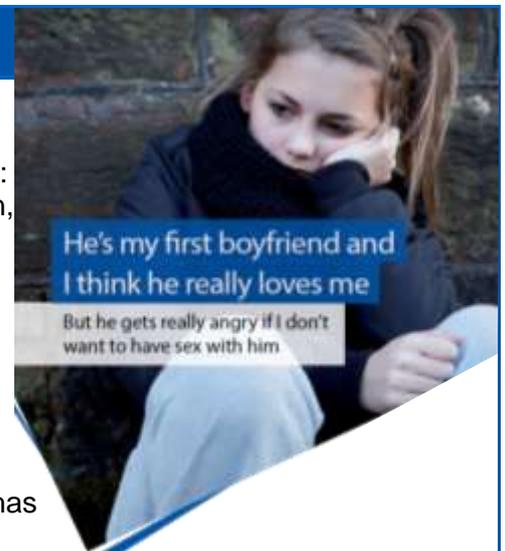


Talk to us, we can help

Sussex Police was the first police force in England to be awarded White Ribbon status in recognition of the work being done to tackle domestic abuse & is committed to supporting the aims of the **White Ribbon Campaign: never to commit, condone or remain silent** about violence against women, helping and supporting everyone who is experiencing domestic abuse.

Currently more than 60 reports of domestic abuse are reported to Sussex Police every day. The true picture will be much higher as often the abuse goes on 'behind closed doors' and the reasons for not reporting are undoubtedly complicated.

You may have seen their awareness campaign which includes poster advertising with Brighton and Hove buses, which is the first time the police has had advertising on buses for 20 years. 40 bus shelters across Sussex are displaying messages, and other bus companies across Sussex are displaying 400 display panels on the inside of their buses. This is a great way to engage with local communities as the average bus will travel over 850 miles per week. For more information please see the Sussex Police [website](#)



LSCB Multi-Agency Training

Working Together to Safeguard Children 1: Developing a Core Understanding:

Thursday 6th March 2014

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2: Assessment, Referral and Investigation:

Wednesday 19th March 2014

Working Together to Safeguard Children 3: Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups:

Wednesday 12th March 2014

Mental Health & Children's Services: Working Together with Families:

Tuesday 18th February 2014

MAPPA Workshop: Wednesday 19th February 2014

More courses for 2014 include:

Domestic Violence & Abuse: The Impact on Children & Young People

Preventing & Disrupting the Sexual Exploitation of Children & Young People

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

Working with Hostile Families

Private Fostering Awareness

Joint Investigations for Social Work

Our training dates for 2014-15 will be circulated soon. More information is available from

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_training.html

Safeguarding in the Community & Voluntary Sector

Safety Net's Simple Quality Protects (SQP) Scheme helps organisations prove they are a "safe" organisation to work with children and young people. It is a quality assurance self assessment tool for all voluntary & community organisations working with children and young people. SQP helps them develop a good Quality Assurance Programme in place ensuring good practice and that the children, young people & families they work with are fully safeguarded.



Click [here](#) for more information or contact lisa.matthew@safety-net.org.uk or 01273 420973

Safer Internet Day: 11th February 2014

Tuesday 11th February 2014 is Safer Internet Day, a day to promote the safe and responsible use of online technology and mobile phones for children & young people. This year's message is

"Lets create a better internet together".

We have produced a special edition of our newsletter on e-safety which can be viewed [here](#). This includes advice on cyberbullying and staying safe online, as well as a guide on where to get more information.



We would love to hear what you are doing for Safer Internet Day, whether it is reviewing your e-safety policy, checking your privacy settings, talking to your family about staying safe online, or reviewing your parental control settings at home. Tell us how you would create a better internet by tweeting to [@LSCB_Brighton](#) with [#SID2014](#) or emailing LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk. Don't forget to join in with Sussex Police's event [Think Before You Share](#) either online or at their Lewes HQ, from 12-1pm on Safer Internet Day.

Useful numbers:

Brighton & Hove LSCB office: 01273 292379 LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children: 01273 265788

Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children: 01273 574680

Brighton & Hove Police Child Protection Team: 101

Local Authority Designated Officer: 01273 295643

