

# NEWSLETTER Issue 1



## Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of Gwynedd and Anglesey LSCB's Newsletter.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges facing agencies in safeguarding children is the need to provide a work environment that supports practitioners to exercise informed professional judgement, provide effective help, and keep a clear focus on the best interests of the child. It is very unlikely that there will be any quick fixes – particularly in times of financial constraint! Fundamentally, however, the LSCB acknowledges that its aims and objectives can only be achieved through a skilled, well supported and experienced workforce. One step towards this is the provision of useful updates/local information targeted at those who work closely with children and young people in need of safeguarding. It is within this context that this first Newsletter is produced. I hope you find it helpful.

If there are any comments/ideas for future inclusion/articles in the Newsletter please contact the LSCB's Business Manager ✉ [elfynjones2@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:elfynjones2@gwynedd.gov.uk) ☎ 01286 679926

## Most Frequently Asked Questions about Gwynedd and Anglesey LSCB

### Purpose?

As a statutory partnership the LSCB's overall purpose is to improve desirable outcomes and life chances for children and young people in need of safeguarding.

### What is the definition of 'safeguarding'?

Children in need of safeguarding are vulnerable children with complex needs and the ability of carers/parents to provide reasonable care has been compromised in some way [e.g. through domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health issues, neglect, lack of parenting skills etc]. What this means is that the LSCB's core business is primarily targeted upon the quality and range of services available to vulnerable children with complex needs, children subject to child protection referrals, child protection investigations, Child Protection Conferences and children on the Child Protection Register.





## What are the LSCB's statutory responsibilities?

The LSCB is the statutory mechanism for agreeing how agencies will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Gwynedd and Anglesey and for ensuring the effectiveness of those activities.

The LSCB is supported in undertaking these responsibilities through four Sub Groups focussing upon workforce development/training, audit and quality assurance, policy and procedural development and adult services and child protection.

A Serious Case Review Panel also meets regularly to manage the completion of Serious Case Reviews when necessary, monitor Child Death Notifications and Review, and support learning from case audits that may take place.

## What powers does the LSCB have?

The LSCB does not directly manage services to children in need of safeguarding. The LSCB's responsibility is to ensure effective co-ordination between agencies in safeguarding children and to monitor the effectiveness of those services. Agencies have 'a duty to co-operate' with the LSCB in ensuring effective co-ordination. In certain circumstances the Chair of the LSCB does have the authority and power to inform agency Chief Executives, CSSIW/ESTYN/Health Inspectorate Wales [or other relevant Inspectorial body], or the Welsh Government that an agency is failing in its duty to co-operate with the LSCB to safeguard children.

## Who sits on the LSCB?

Some agencies are required to attend and contribute to the work of the LSCB on a statutory basis as prescribed in guidance e.g. senior managers from North Wales Police, BCUHB, Local Education Authority, Social Services, Probation Wales.

Other professionals attend as Associate Members by virtue of their role or their agencies involvement in safeguarding children e.g. representatives of the voluntary sector, Bangor University, Coleg Llandrillo.

There are 18 Statutory Members and 13 Associate Members making a total LSCB membership of 31 across Gwynedd and Anglesey.

## Who represents me on the LSCB?

Please see membership list at the end of this Newsletter.

## Does the LSCB have a budget?

Yes. Based on an agreed funding formula the budget is made up of agency contributions



from Cyngor Gwynedd, Cyngor Môn, BCUHB, North Wales Police and Probation Wales. The LSCB does not receive any discretionary funding from any source. This relatively small budget essentially pays for the cost of a Business Manager, Administrative Officer, conducting Serious Case Reviews, supporting multi agency safeguarding training, research and development.

### What are the LSCB's priorities?

The LSCB has adopted the following aims as set out below in order of priority:

- Protecting children from child abuse and neglect.
- Preventing the impairment of children's health and development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care.

More specifically key themes within the LSCBs three year Business Plan 2010-13 are :

- Ensuring that the voice of the child in need of safeguarding is heard.
- Ensuring a 'timely response' in making and reacting to child protection referrals.
- To reduce child protection 're-referrals'.
- Supporting services to Young Carers and Advocacy provision.
- Securing desirable outcomes for children and young people in need of safeguarding – cross county/cross partnership/cross agency. Includes development of consistent practice across Gwynedd and Môn.

The LSCB's Business Plan is reviewed on an annual basis.

### Why is the LSCB relevant to me?

Because no one agency has all the answers. Making a difference and securing improved outcomes for children in need of safeguarding can only be achieved through effective multi agency co-operation and co-ordination.

If you seek further information on the LSCB's strategic priorities, business plan, governance arrangements and structure please follow website link below :

[www.gwynedd.gov.uk/safeguarding-children-board](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/safeguarding-children-board)  
[www.anglesey.gov.uk/safeguarding-children-board](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/safeguarding-children-board)

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## Safeguarding Workforce Survey

Nationally LSCB's have been criticised for being too distant from those that actually work on a day to day basis with children in need of safeguarding. As part of its Development Programme the LSCB therefore decided to enter into partnership with Bangor University to undertake a Safeguarding Workforce Survey.

This is the first survey of its kind commissioned by an LSCB in Wales and as such breaks new ground.

Almost 500 questionnaires have been sent to professionals working across Gwynedd and Môn during April 2011 asking for their views and ideas about issues of concern to them e.g. training, help and support for staff, lone working and confidence in the workplace, work priorities, resources, management etc.

The survey is entirely voluntary and confidential. Only the Research Team led by Dr Stefan Machura [School of Social Sciences and his Research Team at Bangor University] will see and collate findings from respondents. Almost 50% of professionals contacted have responded thus far. The LSCB is informed by the Research Team that the response rate is regarded as high for questionnaires of this type. Some of the professionals contacted will be invited to participate in follow up Focus Groups to build on the information received.

Thanks to all who have responded thus far ! It is anticipated that findings from the survey will be published by October 2011. If you seek further information please contact :

Dr Stefan Machura

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☎ 01248382214]

or

ElfynJones LSCB Business Manager

✉ [elfynjones2@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:elfynjones2@gwynedd.gov.uk)

☎ 01286 679926

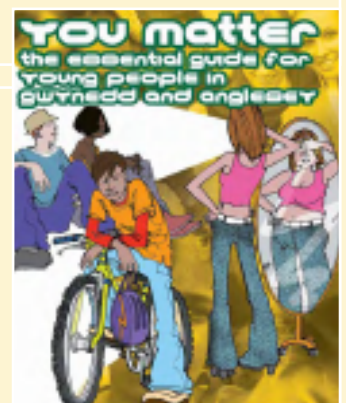
## 'You Matter' and 'Safe Parenting' Handbook

Over the past three months copies of the 'You Matter' handbook have been distributed widely amongst agencies.

The handbook was commissioned, designed and edited by the LSCB in consultation with young adults. It is specifically designed for young people between 11–15 years and covers a range of safeguarding issues. There are 21 subject areas e.g. self harm, body image and eating disorders, peer pressure, sex

and relationships, chatroom dangers, teenage pregnancy, domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual exploitation, young carers etc. The handbook can be used as an aide

to direct work with young people in need of safeguarding or can be issued to provide general information. It is the first occasion upon which such a handbook has been developed and specifically targeted at children in need of safeguarding between 11-15 years of age.



Some twelve months ago the LSCB also commissioned and published the 'Safe Parenting' handbook. The purpose of this handbook is to offer some straightforward advice on a range of situations that may come up for parents in raising children e.g. babysitting, children left alone, domestic abuse, positive parenting and self esteem, smacking, drugs misuse etc.

Positive feedback has been received from

practitioners in relation to use of the handbook with young people and parents.

Both the 'You Matter' handbook and 'Safe Parenting' handbook can be accessed/downloaded from the LSCB's website.

Agencies or professionals seeking further information or interested in securing copies of the handbook should contact Elfyn Jones.

## Integrated Family Support Services

The Welsh Government have secured powers through the Children and Families [Wales] Measure 2010 to ensure each Local Authority strengthens support to vulnerable children and families through the introduction of an Integrated Family Support Service [IFSS].

Initially IFSS will take referrals for alcohol or drug dependent parents [or prospective parents] of children at risk or in need. The longer term aim is to extend the service to families with complex needs resulting from : parental mental health problems or mental illness, learning disabilities and domestic abuse.

IFSS will span child and adult health and social services.

The IFST will comprise of a core team of highly skilled staff from various disciplines. Each member of the team will bring their professional skills and experience to work directly with

families and to mobilise other services to support the family. The team will also build family confidence to enable them to self advocate in accessing services.

The IFSS has been operational in three Pioneer Areas in Wales : Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil, and Wrexham.

The regulations, statutory guidance and practice tools provided to Pioneer Areas are available to all Local Authorities, Health Boards and their partners in their preparations for implementing IFSS in their areas.

Specific plans to implement the IFSS in Gwynedd and Anglesey will be included in future editions of this Newsletter.

For further information see :

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/ifst>





## Protocols Matrix

Since implementation of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures in 2008 a considerable number of additional safeguarding protocols and good practice guidance documents have been issued from a number of sources [national, regional and local]. Feedback to the LSCB indicated that practitioners would value a brief summary of the additional protocols available and confirmation of their status. Consequently the LSCB has developed a 'Protocol Matrix' which simply and succinctly provides a list of the additional protocols available, original source and current status. The matrix is updated on a quarterly basis through the LSCB's Policy and Procedures Sub Group.

Copies of the 'Protocol Matrix' have been distributed widely through LSCB members. Copies of all protocols endorsed by the LSCB can be accessed/downloaded through the LSCB's website.

## The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report - A child-centred system



In June 2010, the Secretary of State for Education asked Professor Eileen Munro [London School of Economics and Political Science] to conduct an independent review of

child protection in England. The 'Munro Report' has only recently been published and contains some very challenging and radical reforms.

The essential message contained in the 'Munro Report' is that for far too long the child protection system has focussed on imposing and meeting managerial targets and regulations – and in so doing has forgotten that the needs of children should be at its core.

Professor Munro hopes that her recommendations will:

*' help to reform the child protection system from being over-bureaucratized and concerned with compliance to one that keeps a focus on children, checking whether they are being effectively helped, and adapting when problems are identified.'*

So what exactly are her recommendations?

Well – there are fifteen recommendations in all some of which [briefly] include:

- Removal of the distinction between initial and core assessments and the associated timescales.
- Radical reform of the inspectorial framework – concentrating far more on the child's journey from needing to receiving help.

- A complete overhaul of the way in which Serious Case Reviews are undertaken. More emphasis on learning and review and understanding why things happened as they did rather than on 'what' happened.
- Local authorities should designate a Principal Child and Family Social Worker, who would be a senior manager with lead responsibility for practice in the local authority and who would still be actively involved in frontline practice.
- A Chief Social Worker post should be created in Government to advise on social work practice – working closely with the Secretary of State.

commenced around the central message and recommendations contained in the Report.

It is important to recognise that the 'Munro Report' only concerns itself with the child protection system in England. The Welsh Government has already based its own approach to future developments upon reducing complexity, reducing regulation and placing professional excellence at the heart of delivery of service. It is perhaps too early to say what precise impact the 'Munro Review' will have upon arrangements in Wales.

Nevertheless the 'Munro Review' is certainly well worth a quick look!

For access to the Report follow the link below:

Whilst the above only gives a brief flavour of the main recommendations it is perhaps hardly surprising that a lively debate has already

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/index.shtml>

## Gwynedd & Anglesey Local Safeguarding Children Board Membership

Iwan Trefor Jones	(Chair) Corporate Director – Gwynedd Council
Neill Anderson	Detective Superintendent, North Wales Police
Des Barker	Child Protection Co-ordinator, Isle of Anglesey Council
David Beard	Assistant Director, Children Services, Barnardos Wales
Suzanne Burgoyne	Head of Operations, North Wales, CAF/CASS CYMRU
Gwen Carrington	Head of Housing and Social Services, Gwynedd Council
Sharron Williams Carter	Operational Manager, Family and Children Services, Gwynedd Council



Eurfryn Davies	Portfolio Leader, Children and Young People, Isle of Anglesey Council
Michelle Denwood	Assistant Director – Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, BCUHB
Keith Ellis	Detective Inspector, North Wales Police
Nerys Evans	Protection of Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator, Gwynedd Council
Anest Frazer	Head of Children’s Service, Isle of Anglesey Council
Jill Galvani	Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery, BCUHB
Gwenan Hine	Bangor University
Marian Parry Hughes	Children Services Senior Manager, Gwynedd Council
Carwyn Humphreys	Children & Young People Facilitator, Mantell Gwynedd
Andy Jones	Assistant Chief Officer, Wales Probation
Dewi R Jones	Head of Education, Gwynedd Council
John Jones	Chief Officer, Medrwn Môn
Richard Parry Jones	Corporate Director of Education and Lesuire, Isle of Anglesey Council
T Gwyn Jones	Corporate Director of Housing and Social Services, Isle of Anglesey Council
Sam McIlvogue	Director of Student Services, Coleg Llandrillo Cymru
Liz North	RAF Valley Representative
Llyr Bryn Roberts	Child Protection Co-ordinator, Gwynedd Council
Rachel Shaw	Designated Nurse Saefgarding Children - PHW
Joan Williams	Senior Safeguarding Nurse, BCUHB
Shan Williams	Head of Housing Services, Isle of Anglesey Council
Terry Williams	County Safety Manager, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Rhiannon Beaumont Wood	Head of Safeguarding, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
Stephen Wood	Service Manager (Temporary), Youth Justice Service, Gwynedd & Anglesey

#### Officers

Owain Rhys Hughes	Board Legal Adviser, Isle of Anglesey Council
Elfyn Wyn Jones	LSCB Business Manager
Nerys Wyn Williams	LSCB Administrator