

# LSCB Newsletter

July 2016  
3rd edition



Essential information on local and national developments to safeguard children and young people

## Welcome to the... LSCB Newsletter, Inside this issue;

Female Genital Mutilation Awareness raising week; CSE training event; Local learning lesson review and recent SCR: importance of safe sleeping awareness raising; NSPCC safeguarding report. Update on Operation Stovewood. Messages from LSCB board meeting;

## Rotherham partnership raising awareness of FGM

Monday 13 June marked the beginning of a three-day programme of events for professionals and volunteers who work with children and those who could encounter victims, potential victims and communities affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board which includes all agencies launched a week of events to raise awareness of FGM in the borough.

Over the 3 days more than **280 practitioners** from across the borough attended the awareness raising events. Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves any procedure that removes part or all of the external female genitalia, or any procedure that involves injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. While it is



thought that the crime predominantly takes place outside the UK, police believe it is vastly under-reported and the launch event brought together charities, police, health and local authority agencies to better understand the warning signs of this crime.

Christine Cassell, Chair of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board, said: "It is really important that we work with community organisations to understand how best to encourage and support the way which those communities think about FGM and the harm it causes."

Detective Sergeant Suzanne Bluck, deputy lead for FGM for South Yorkshire Police, said: "Raising awareness of a crime that is still largely regarded as 'taboo' is absolutely crucial if we are to prevent this abhorrent practice being carried out against young girls and women in Rotherham and across South Yorkshire. **Practitioner comments included:**

Recognising the importance of asking appropriate questions in a non oppressive manner

Information that was shared was very valuable to my practice



I found the presentations useful, helpful, informative and enjoyed the learning.

Attending will help me deliver a better service

## Key messages for Practitioners

- Female genital mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women and is illegal in the UK and abroad if a UK citizen is involved.
- FGM has significant health implications for girls and women. Practitioners should be prepared to discuss the issue with women and families who are at risk, and know about support services and sources of information that are available amongst communities that practise female genital mutilation.
- Reporting by health, education and social care professionals has been mandatory since 31 October 2015

**The message is absolutely clear: FGM is against the law. Do not subject your child to this crime and do not allow anyone else to carry out this act.**

For further information, advice and support, call the NSPCC FGM Helpline on 0800 028 3550 or email [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk). Alternatively, contact Childline on 0800 1111 or visit [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk), or visit the Daughters of Eve website: [www.dofeve.org](http://www.dofeve.org)

**Anyone wishing to report any concerns about FGM in Rotherham should contact South Yorkshire Police on 101 and the MASH 01709 336080.**

## Serious Case and Lessons Learned Reviews

Rotherham LSCB has initiated a Serious Case Review (SCR) on a young child (Child J) who was injured within the family setting. The family had moved across a number of areas including Sheffield and therefore the SCR is being conducted jointly with Sheffield LSCB. It is expected to conclude in September 2016.

A Lessons Learned Review has also recently concluded on another case in which a young child was harmed and there were concerns about multi-agency working. The review involved all the practitioners involved with the case attending a Learning Event to produce a timeline of the significant events and to reflect on their practice. The recommendations have yet to be agreed but examples of learning points from the review included:

- Professionals should keep an open mind to all possible / probable causes of an injury until there is evidence to support or discount it.
- The importance of timely recording and sharing of strategy meeting minutes with those agencies participating and those who were invited but unable to attend.
- The paediatric liaison nurse to be notified and appropriately involved in both strategy meetings and the discharge planning process where children are in hospital and there are safeguarding concerns.
- The need for clarity around decisions made about who could have contact with the child and who was safe to supervise parental contact

## 'Let's Talk About It' - Child Sexual Exploitation Event - at The New York Stadium - 14th July 2016 5pm to 8pm

**This training is aimed at all professionals and organisations who work with children.**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a national issue, and all agencies need to be actively engaged in tackling CSE. NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group is committed to supporting staff and service users in preventing or dealing with the outcome of this heinous crime.

The Key Note will be delivered by Dr Lee Oughton the Named GP for Safeguarding at NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group, followed by Dr Nina Burrowes, who will deliver the main session.

Dr Burrowes is a psychologist, author, trainer and consultant who helps people to understand the psychology of sexual abuse, why it happens, what the impact is and what can be done about it. She specialises in the psychology of sexual abuse looking at it with a wide lens, she helps staff to identify risk factors for abuse in both victims and perpetrators, know how to respond sensitively and effectively to disclosures and understand the behaviours and motives of offenders in order to break the cycle. Dr Burrowes also helps staff to understand myths and misconceptions about sexual exploitation and abuse and therefore be more competent in supporting both victim and abuser. She works extensively to support people in rebuilding their life after sexual abuse.

For more information [click here](#)



**To book a place [click here](#): Registration is required for all delegates**

## Resolving Professional Differences of Opinion in Multi-Agency working with Children and their Families.

We would like to remind everyone about the practice resolution protocol that can be found within the RLSCB procedures. [Click here](#). **This is the protocol to use when you want to escalate your concerns.** We know that there are times when there will be disagreements raised between professionals about how a case is progressing and a concern that it may be impacting on the positive outcomes for individual children and their families. This protocol provides a clear and helpful process for resolving professional differences in practice

## The Importance of Safe Sleeping for babies

Since September 2013 **eleven** infants under the age of one have died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in Rotherham.

SIDS is the sudden, unexpected and unexplained death of an apparently well baby that cannot be explained after thorough investigation. However, there are often a number of possible causal factors and identified risk indicators that are thought to play a role in these deaths. Preventability is recognised to be considerably higher for infants where risk indicators such as co-sleeping, alcohol use and smoking are also prevalent.

While SIDS is rare, it can still happen and there are steps parents can take to help reduce the chance of this tragedy occurring. For information on the key messages for safe sleeping please see the NHS choices [here](#)

In Rotherham a range of interventions are being put in place to further reduce the risk of SIDS. A Joint Safe Sleeping guideline is being developed to support all frontline staff (including Local Authority, NHS and South Yorkshire Police) if they have concerns about infant sleeping. The development of a local Rotherham Safe Sleeping campaign alongside staff training is expected to be rolled out in the Autumn (2016).



There are currently a range of national and local resources to reduce the risk of SIDS. Rotherham's risk assessment framework has been recognised nationally as an excellent tool for assessing the risk of SIDS to aid frontline staff. [Download a copy here](#)



The Lullaby trust also have a range of useful resources for frontline staff. Go to <http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep> or more information including video clips.

Information is also available from Bliss <http://www.bliss.org.uk/safe-sleeping> including a help line number.

## Messages from the RLSCB Sub Group and Board meetings

### Changes to CP Register Checks

Please be aware that there are changes to child protection 'Register Checks' that come into effect on 31 July 2016. A separate briefing is to follow and will be circulated across the partnership.

### LSCB Peer Challenge

Between 18 July- 27 July 2016 the LSCB will be working with our Practice Partners from Lincolnshire through a peer challenge event helping us to continue the positive progress and further develop our effectiveness.

### CSE information/intelligence gathering form

The partnership has developed a **CSE information/intelligence gathering form** that will assist information to be evaluated using elements of the National Intelligence Model, 5x5x5, which is used by all Police forces. It is envisaged that the implementation of this form will improve and enhance the opportunities for all soft information/intelligence and assist in making the identification of credible information easier.

To ensure consistency and improve the quality of **soft intelligence/ information sharing** across the partnership the template will go live on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016**. This has been developed for use by all multi-agency partners and voluntary and community sector organisations.

A separate briefing is to follow and will be circulated across the partnership.



## In Brief



On Thursday 23 June 2016, National Crime Agency officers arrested two men in Rotherham and Sheffield in connection with an investigation into non-familial child sexual exploitation and abuse in the town between 1997-2013, **Operation Stovewood**. One man was arrested in Rotherham on suspicion of indecent assault. The offence is believed to have taken place against a girl aged under 16. The second man was arrested in Sheffield on suspicion of sexual assault. The offence is believed to have taken place against a different girl, also aged under 16.

Operation Stovewood has now made a total of **three arrests**. A man arrested on Wednesday 8 June on suspicion of rape, drug offences and assault was interviewed and released on bail until November while investigations continue.

Since its launch about 12 months ago, the investigation has:

- collated, analysed and electronically recorded 16 years' worth of material from local agencies - in excess of 120,000 documents.
- Instigated eight 'specific major investigations' involving 82 victims and survivors.
- recorded 91 serious sexual offences from interviews with victims and survivors, with 29 designated suspects and hundreds more potential suspects



### How safe are our children?

'How safe are our children?' is the NSPCC's fourth annual state of the nation report. The report provides an overview of the child protection landscape and compiles the most robust and up-to-date child protection data that exists across the four nations in the UK.

Full report [here](#)

Key messages for Practitioners:

- The changing landscape of the child protection system means that children and young people are exposed to new risks in an increasingly digital world, and as a result professionals must work in different ways to understand and respond to the risks children and young people face both on and offline.
- Working together to share knowledge and learning between agencies is essential
- Within Rotherham Neglect is the most prevalent category for children subject to a plan of protection, with 51% of all children having neglect as a primary or secondary reason.

### Contact information and Useful Links

RLSCB Website:

<http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/safeguarding/>

RLSCB Safeguarding Procedures:

<http://rotherhamscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board  
1st Floor Wing B  
Riverside House  
Main Street  
Rotherham S60 1AE Tel: -01709 382121

[CYPs-SafeguardingBoard@rotherham.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:CYPs-SafeguardingBoard@rotherham.gcsx.gov.uk)

## Things To Note

### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility— in Rotherham it is !

This was evidenced recently by an electrical contractor who was working in the community who became concerned about the conditions he observed during a visit to a house. The contractor was aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and immediately reported their concerns regarding child neglect within the family home. This has resulted the necessary intervention being undertaken in order to safeguard the child .

### Impact of FGM awareness Raising

Following the recent FGM awareness raising events there was an immediate recorded impact. Two referrals were made that week to the MASH and Police by professionals who had attended the training. In both cases, the professionals said they may not have considered FGM as a risk to the girl and may have believed the mother's story if they had not attended the training events.

## If you are worried about a child

If the child is in immediate danger contact the police on **999 (in an emergency)**

If the child is not in immediate danger then contact **Call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01709 336080**

[See referring safeguarding concerns about Children](#)

If the child is not in immediate danger but you believe a crime may have been committed then call the **Police on 101**