



E.Bulletin

Tameside Safeguarding Children Board "Working Together to Safeguard Children in Tameside"

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17/02/2012

Edition 005

Welcome:

This is the February edition of the TSCB E.Bulletin. This month marks the commencement in post of Alyson Harvey as the new TSCB Business Manager. Alyson has replaced David Barnes and is based in the TSCB office at Union Street Building Hyde, she can be contacted on 0161 342 4344.

This edition of the E.Bulletin provides an introduction to the [Vulnerable Young Person Process](#), it gives the results of the [online core group survey](#) – mentioned in the last E.Bulletin, introduces DfE [Child Internet Safety Guidance](#) and provides information and contact details about; the [CAF Administration Team](#); Education Welfare Services – [Home School Support](#); the Police [Public Protection Investigation Unit](#) and the Tameside [Service Information Directory](#).

The purpose of this E.Bulletin is to keep everyone who works with children, young people, parents and families in Tameside in touch with the latest Safeguarding developments. Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility; we are all involved in some way. If you have ideas for future e-bulletins please get in touch with anna.cooke@tameside.gov.uk

TSCB Vulnerable Young Person Process

What is it?

The [Vulnerable Young Person Process](#) (VYP process) aims to support practitioners in their decision making when working with vulnerable young people in Tameside. It is presented in the form of a [flow chart](#), with embedded documents and website links and additional [explanatory notes](#).

When should I use it?

The VYP process is intended for use with all vulnerable young people in Tameside and encompasses young people at all levels of the Children's Needs Framework.

Who is a vulnerable young person?

Any young person could be or become vulnerable for a whole range of reasons. Their vulnerabilities may be life long e.g. due to a specific learning disability or may be for a short or prolonged period of time in their lives. As young people become more independent they often encounter additional vulnerabilities such as cyberbullying, sexual exploitation, substance misuse, mental health difficulties, homelessness, loss of education / training placement, criminality, victim / perpetrator of sexually harmful behaviour etc

Why do we need it?

Research and findings from Serious Case Reviews highlight time and time again the vulnerabilities of this age group; it is therefore essential that we have robust multi agency

processes available to support practitioners to safeguard this group of young people to the best of their abilities to give young people the best possible outcomes in life.

Is this a new set of procedures?

No, the VYP process brings together existing Tameside procedures: -

- [Tameside Children's Needs Framework](#) – for children and young people with additional needs using CAF and other common processes.
- [TSCB Safeguarding Children Framework](#) – for children and young people who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing significant harm.

These procedures should be used in the first instance, with the additional multi agency function of a [VYP meeting](#) to be used in certain circumstances.

How will I know when to use VYP Meeting method rather than the existing procedures?

Sometimes practitioners find themselves working with a young person where they have concerns that the young person is at risk of harm but this harm stems from the young person's own vulnerabilities and / or their own behaviour / lifestyle rather than from concerns about the parent / carers ability to keep them safe. In these situations child protection enquiries may not be triggered however concerns of harm remain. This is particularly challenging for practitioners when the young person does not recognise their own vulnerabilities or the risks of harm they face and do not want to engage in the CAF process.

Therefore in cases where child protection enquiries are not triggered and the young person will not engage in the CAF process and yet risks to the young person remain a concern a Vulnerable Young Person's Meeting (VYP meeting) should be convened.

Results of online Core Group Survey

In the last TSCB E.Bulletin we asked practitioners to complete the online survey about Core Groups in Tameside. Thank you to all of you who did, the results really helped to get a practitioner perspective of what is working well in core groups and where the challenges lie. A short life working group will now be established to take forward this work. The full results of the survey can be accessed here; [Core Group Survey - results.](#)

Child Internet Safety – Guidance produced by the Department for Education

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety has produced some guidelines for all organisations and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) on child internet safety. The guidance draws together the most effective messages for keeping children safe online and covers issues such as chatting online, sharing information, gaming and networking. The guidance can be accessed here; [Advice on Child Internet Safety](#)

CAF Administration Team

Feedback from TSCB Focus groups 2011/12 highlighted that practitioners wanted to know more about the CAF administration team and how to contact them. The CAF Administration team supports the implementation of the CAF process by;

- Offering support and guidance to practitioners regarding the completion of CAFs
- Providing CAF templates
- Arranging multi agency 'Team around the Child' meetings

- Arranging reviews to monitor progress.
- Send correspondence to practitioners involved.

The CAF Admin team maintains a central CAF database, and updates the Jasper system whenever a CAF has been completed. If you complete a CAF, please securely forward a copy to the CAF Administrator for the area where the child resides either by:

- Post (marked Private and Confidential)
- Fax
- Email - if using non-secure email then CAF should be password protected.
If a CAF is emailed, please send a copy of the signed back page dated with parental signature, giving consent to share information.

The team can be contacted anytime for advice, for example if a practitioner wishes to establish whether there has been a previous CAF completed on a particular child/young person.

You can access a full contact details poster here; [CAF Team - contact details.](#)

The four CAF administrators are;

Denton/Droylsden/Audenshaw

CAF Administrator: Rona Weatherby
E-mail: rona.weatherby@tameside.gov.uk
Tel: 0161 342 5422

Stalybridge/Dukinfield/Mossley

CAF Administrator: Katie McGarry
E-mail: katie.mcgary@tameside.gov.uk
Tel: 0161 338 8645

Hyde/Hattersley/Longendale

CAF Administrator: Shaunna MacDonald
E-mail: shaunna.macdonald@tameside.gov.uk
Tel: 0161 368 0076

Ashton

CAF Administrator: Sally Catlow
E-mail: sally.catlow@tameside.gov.uk
Tel: 0161 343 5482

Home School Support; Education Welfare Services in Tameside

School attendance really matters. Poor school attendance may be an indicator of other risk factors or that a family are experiencing problems. Children who don't attend school regularly are less likely to achieve and are more likely to have poor outcomes in later life. The Education Welfare Service is traditionally the service that has driven attendance improvement work at both individual and school levels. The service has worked in partnership with schools and a wide range of other agencies to engage families and young people to make the most of their educational opportunities. This has achieved a year on year improvement in school attendance and a fall in the number of pupils with persistent absence (attendance below 80%).

In response to the changes taking place within local authorities and a reduction in the staff numbers, the service has recently undergone redesign. Education Welfare is now a work strand within Home School Support, a service which brings together the LA support services

relating to home and school and includes the Young Carers Project and support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and refugee and asylum seeker children (formerly COLT). The Education Welfare offer to schools is no longer universal although many schools have chosen to keep the services of an Education Welfare Officer by purchasing time through traded services.

Home School Support continue to support the safeguarding in schools agenda by providing training, facilitating networks and providing a link between schools and various multi agency forums. Home School Support managers are members of each of the safeguarding board implementation groups and liaise with schools when required.

Attendance improvement work continues to take place through schools own internal systems or through the commissioning of services from the Traded arm of the service or elsewhere.

Home School Support is delivered in three strands as follows;

Central /Statutory Services

- Borough Wide Attendance Overview
- Children Missing Education
- Children in Employment and Entertainment
- Parental Responsibility Measures (Prosecutions and Penalty Notices)
- Register Checks (Annual Offer)
- Represent schools at safeguarding board groups and MARAC
- Vulnerable Groups Attendance (incl. Children in Care, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and refugee and asylum seeker children
- Elective Home Education

Youth and Family Support

There are Education Welfare Officers in each locality Youth and Family Team.

Referrals for early intervention may be made via the Family Information Service for pupils who have additional needs at levels 2 and 3 of the Children's Needs Framework and where a multi agency approach is required.

Engagement with this service is voluntary and therefore the use of parental responsibility measures is not appropriate.

Traded Services

A traded service is currently offered through the [Tameside Support for Schools](#) website.

Schools and other settings have the option to purchase Education Welfare Officer support on a regular basis or for specific interventions. Level 1 Child Protection Training is also available along with a range of other relevant training.

Greater Manchester Police - Public Protection Investigation Unit (PPIU)

What is the PPIU?

The Public Protection Investigation Unit (PPIU) in Tameside is a team of specialist officers who deal exclusively in Child Protection, Safeguarding Adults and Domestic Abuse. Although local to Tameside, the PPIU is managed centrally from the newly formed Public Protection Division which is located in Nexus House in Ashton-u-Lyne. Greater Manchester Police have invested heavily in the arena of safeguarding and this has seen the staffing of the PPIU rise from 15 to 24. Tameside PPIU is one of the busiest in the force and they work very closely with partner agencies, particularly Children's Social Care, Adult Services and the Health Services. Although primarily designed to investigate offences against the vulnerable the PPIU also play a major role in supporting the victims of these crimes and their families.

Child Protection

The Child Protection Team work, again in partnership, to protect the needs of children and young people. Very recently, a specialist arm of this unit has been created to deal with the threat of Child Sexual Exploitation. All the work undertaken by the staff within the PPIU is very demanding and can be, at times, very harrowing. However, the rewards available in keeping someone safe or successfully prosecuting a dangerous offender means that the work is always very fulfilling. Although the staff within the PPIU are very specialised in their skills, they can achieve nothing without the support of fellow professionals. Our links with key partners are very strong and the relationship we share is looked upon enviously by other authorities.

Vulnerable Adults

The work of the Safeguarding Adults Team has grown massively over the last 18 months. Specialist officers now work in tandem with Adult Services Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals to keep vulnerable people safe and apprehend and prosecute offenders.

Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Team is incredibly busy with Tameside having the highest number of reported incidents per 1000 of population in the whole of GMP. All such incidents are risk assessed by the attending officers and they complete a DASH (Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment) booklet, detailing events. This is then reviewed by staff from the PPIU who grade the incident in terms of severity. The more serious matters are discussed at the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk assessment Conference) which is a monthly meeting attended by a vast array of partner agencies whose remit is to formulate and manage a risk assessment plan and keep victims safe.

Contact us

We are always available to give advice and signpost if necessary but any referrals to us must be made via e-mail.

Our contact details are:-

For Child Protection ring 0161 856 9314

For Safeguarding Adults and Domestic Abuse ring 0161 856 9363

Our e-mail address is: tameside.ppiu@gmp.pnn.police.uk

Finding Services for Children, Young People & Families in Tameside

A common question for those working with children and families in Tameside is 'Where can I find resources and services?'

Whether you are looking for activities for children and young people or looking for services that might be able to meet their needs, Tameside's [Service Information Directory](#) will help you. The directory is available for everyone to use, there are sections devoted to children, young people, families and practitioners. The directory gives information about services to help with a particular problem and will provide information about what is going on in Tameside – for example local parenting groups or activities for children during the holidays.

The administrator for the Service Information Directory is Kathryn Astley who works for the Family Information Service in Tameside. The directory is due to be updated and Kathryn is keen to hear from anyone who would like information about their service to be updated or added to the directory – there is a simple format Kathryn can provide for this purpose.

kathryn.astley@tameside.gov.uk

So, get up to date about what is available to help the people you are working with and make sure that your service and what you have to offer is reflected there. The directory is user friendly and takes seconds to access – so what is stopping you?

And Finally..

If you would like the bulletin to be sent to you directly in future please send a blank email to LSCB@tameside.gov.uk and put 'SIGN UP' in the subject line. Alternatively, if you wish to unsubscribe please put 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.

All of the TSCB E-Bulletins are available on the TSCB website at;
<http://www.tamesidesafeguardingchildren.org.uk/news/tscb-newsletters>