



Stockport LSCB Safeguarding News

Issue 2 November 2009

Welcome to the second issue of the Stockport LSCB Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to our second issue, the first issue has had excellent feedback and recognition of the newsletter is gaining momentum. We have some informative contributions from the Voluntary sector in this edition, who the LSCB works closely with to promote the Safeguarding of our children in Stockport. The articles below outlining the diversity of events and happenings in Stockport show the very real commitment to safeguarding by all those involved.

Children & Young People's Community & Voluntary Forum

The Children and Young People's forum, is for all voluntary and community groups that work with or are involved in children and young people's issues. The forum is a platform for news, information, advice, training and feedback on all work in this sector. The group has been formed as a mechanism for consulting with different groups in the voluntary sector and a structured way of ensuring that views and issues are taken forward.

If you would like further information then please contact nadia@stockportcvs.co.uk

Stockport Council Funds Wellbeing Boost for Residents of Adswood

Stockport based registered charity Beacon Counselling has been awarded £27,000 from Stockport Council's Main Grants Scheme to extend its counselling service to the residents of Adswood and Bridgehall for 3 years. This new service will use the Beechwood Cancer Care Centre and will commence in June 2009 on Friday afternoons.

The service targets people suffering from anxiety and depression. With 1 in 4 people experiencing some form of mental distress at some point in their lives (Mental Health Foundation) this issue impacts on children's lives significantly. 91% of people state their wellbeing suffers during recessions (MIND '09), so the level of need is huge but counselling can help people to learn coping skills and gain confidence.

Beacon Manager James Harper says "We are looking forward to the chance of helping local residents".

For further information contact James Harper;

Telephone 0161 440 0055

Email office@beacon-counselling.org.uk Web www.beacon-counselling.org.uk

Youth4U Young Inspectors to inspect the Children's Rights Service.

Stockport's Services for Young People are supporting young people to take part in the national Youth4U Young Inspectors Programme (managed by the Look Listen Change Consortium). The programme supports young people to carry out 'Ofsted style' inspections of services that affect them, and the Children's Rights Service will be the second inspection the group has undertaken. Young Inspectors will interview staff, volunteers and service users on all aspects of the service from complaints to advocacy and the independent visitor scheme. A report, including recommendations

will then be completed by the Young Inspectors and submitted to Service Managers, and the Look Listen Change Consortium.

The programme provides a great opportunity for services to gain in depth user feedback, which should prove invaluable in helping to ensure that services are listening and learning from young people and in this way striving to achieve the highest possible standards.

The Inspection is due to take place in the October half term and there will be a follow up inspection to look at how change has been implemented in approximately six months time.

The Young Inspectors team would like to thank the Children's Rights Service for their support in making preparations for the Inspection.

For information on the Young Inspector's Programme please contact Linford McFarquhar on 0161 218 1168

Young People Speak Out Against Bullying

We are young people who represent 3 youth groups in Stockport, run by the Equality and Diversity team, part of Services for Young People. On October 15th we spoke at the Anti-bullying Conference. I'm Kerry and I am from the base youth project for young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and I spoke about homophobia. Rabiha represented BME young people and spoke about racism and religious discrimination, and Andrew represented young people who are bullied because of a disability.

The conference went really well and everyone listened to what we had to say about these different kinds of bullying in Stockport. It felt very rewarding and we are hoping we have made some sort of difference in making teachers understand what it was like for us at school. After our speeches a lot of head teachers wanted to talk to us about what we can do to make a change in schools. We have already got one meeting booked to talk to year 9 pupils at Werneth School about bullying and we are hoping to be given other opportunities like this.

Kerry Malone, Rabiha Ali and Andrew Bennett

For further information contact Georgina Edye at georgina.edye@stockport.gov.uk

CYPD Annual Staff Conference

The CYPD Conference made its welcome return to Stockport County on 7th October 2009. It was a great turn-out with over 270 people attending one of the two sessions. As well as briefings from Andrew Webb and the four Service Directors we had entertainment from Werneth School Band and a presentation from young people involved in the Lounge Lizard project. Both of these were a huge success based on the feedback we got and we hope to involve even more young people in our future events. The theme updated on last year about Stockport Children's Trust and the exhibition reflected how our services fit into this. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank-you to everyone who exhibited and attended this year. A special big thank-you goes to the speakers from the Lounge Lizard Project who were extremely brave to share their experiences with such a large audience and Werneth School Band who were fantastic opening the event for us.

For further information contact Catherine Wall at catherine.wall@stockport.gov.uk

St Mary's Parent and Toddler Group

Here at St Mary's we offer a wide range of activities for the whole community. Busykidz is a voluntary group offering daily activities for children aged 0 to 12yrs plus a community cafe.

Mon: Cookery 9.30—11am for pre - school & 3.45—5.15pm for 5yrs to 12yrs

Tues: Parent and Toddler Group 9am till 11.30am

Weds: Community Cafe, offering hot & cold meals and snacks 9am till 3pm

Thurs: Parent and Toddler Group 9.30am till 11.30am

Crafts 3.45pm till 5.15pm: 5yrs to 12yrs
Fridays: Parent and Toddler Group 9am till 11.30am

For details on any of the groups call Sue on 07505269001.

ALL TOGETHER ACTIVE (A2A)

All Together Active is a free, 12 month support programme for families that have 7-11 year olds who are overweight. The Team realise that parents want their children to grow up to be happy and healthy but sometimes it's difficult to get started. They have designed a tailored support programme that has been developed to offer practical tips that help families to make changes.

All Together Active is currently running across a number of leisure centres in Stockport, and offer weekly sporting and physical activity opportunities, food and nutrition workshops, and behavioural and lifestyle changes delivered to families in a confidential one to one environment. The programme is a joint initiative between Stockport Sports Trust and NHS Stockport and caters for 7-11 year olds children and their parents/guardians.

Workshops cover topics such as:

- Healthier snacking and sugar swaps
- Meal times & how to survive them
- How to encourage your child to try new foods
- Getting portions right
- Physical activity that is fun and can be enjoyed as a family

For further information contact Denise Irving

Tel: 0161 495 3610

Email: denise.irving@stockportsportstrust.org.uk

Independent Safeguarding Authority

From October 12th 2009 the ISA's (Independent Safeguarding Authority) responsibilities for barring individuals who pose a known risk from working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults have been further strengthened as more sectors – such as the NHS and the Prison Service – will come under the Scheme and new criminal offences will come into force.

Currently the ISA is taking all decisions on barring individuals from working with vulnerable groups, based upon the criteria set down in the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Act (POVA) and Protection of Children Act. However, from October 12th 2009 this changed and all barring decisions will come under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, which created the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS).

While the ISA is presently making decisions based on the current legislation, it is also ensuring that both the right people and systems are in place for all phases of the Scheme. From **26 July 2010** all new entrants to roles working with vulnerable groups and those switching jobs within these sectors will be able to register with the ISA and be checked by them. The legal requirement for employees to register with the VBS and employers to check their status will come into force in November 2010. Registration will also include employers being continuously informed of an employee's suitability to work.

For more information see www.isa.gov.uk

Criminal Records Bureau

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued a revised code of practice for registered bodies and other recipients of CRB disclosure information.

The revised code is intended to ensure organisations do not breach the spirit and requirements of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 by submitting ineligible disclosure applications and that registered bodies correctly verify the identity of disclosure applicants. Registered bodies should also ensure that sensitive and personal data in disclosures is correctly managed and that their applicants are treated fairly when considering sensitive disclosure



information. The new Code of Practice brings together all of the legislative changes which have come into force since 2001 into one document for easy reference.

The new Code of Practice is available to download from

www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/media/news/new_crb_code_of_practice.aspx

Any copies of the previous code should be destroyed.



We Want to Hear From You!

We want your views on safeguarding issues that are important to YOU. Articles should be 200-300 words in length. We also welcome feedback, comments, and suggestions for future articles. We aim to issue the newsletters quarterly and you can expect the next newsletter at the end of February 2010.

For contributions/information; Farrah Rahman, Stockport Safeguarding Board Business Manager Tel: 0161 474 5652