

May 2015

Information

Sharing:

The Eight Golden Rules for Information Sharing are provided on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Why Don't You?

Print the 8 Golden Rules for Information Sharing and share them on notice boards in your workplace.



Do you know a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) who isn't cared for by a parent or 'close' relative?

.....If you do then this is called Private Fostering.

Children who live away from their families with people who are not closely related to them, for a period of 28 days or more may be privately fostered. Private fostering arrangements are often made directly between the child's parents/guardian and the people who look after them. Local Authorities have a legal duty to safeguard the health and welfare of children living in private foster care. However we cannot meet our statutory responsibilities if we do not know that a private fostering arrangement exists.

As someone working with children you have an important role in helping parents and private carers meet their legal responsibilities and keeping children safe. If you come across what you think may be a private fostering arrangement in Reading you should:

- Ask parents and/or private foster carers if they have notified Children's Services of the private fostering arrangements.
- Inform the private foster carers and the child's parents of their legal responsibilities (information leaflets are available for parents and private foster carers and this information is also available on the Council's website) and encourage them to contact Children's Services.

Ideally, notification should come from the child's parents and carers. However, to ensure all private fostering arrangements are brought to the attention of the Children's Services please contact the: **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0118 9373641.**

To learn more about Private Fostering the following workshops are taking place:

Thursday 2nd July 2015 - 5.00pm to 6.30pm at 2-4 Darwin Close, Reading RG2 0TB

Tuesday 7th October 2015 - 2.00pm to 3.30pm at 2-4 Darwin Close, Reading RG2 0TB

Wednesday 13th January 2016 - 5.00pm to 6.30pm at 2-4 Darwin Close, Reading RG2 0TB

If you would like to book onto one of the workshops please email our business support team on FPSupport@reading.gov.uk with the date you would like to attend. We would recommend that at least one person from each organisation attends a workshop so that the information can be shared with other members.

www.readinglscb.org.uk

Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Boards Child Protection Procedures available on line
<http://berks.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

NSPCC Share Aware Campaign

The Share Aware campaign that the NSPCC launched in January 2015 is a campaign that encourages parents to speak to their children about online safety and gives them the knowledge and confidence to do this effectively.

The NSPCC has launched an interactive parents' guide, Net Aware, which explains what other parents and young people think about 60 of the most popular social apps and games, what's the right age, and details on privacy and safety settings. You can access Net Aware on line at www.net-aware.org.uk

To help parents stay on top of what's new in the digital world the NSPCC has updated their free Net Aware guide for parents by adding 12 new sites, apps and games. The next wave of the campaign is about making sure parents cover the right topics when they talk to their children about staying safe online. Young people have told the NSPCC that the thing they most want parents to cover in online safety conversations are privacy settings (81%) followed by support on cyber bullying (76%) and staying safe from strangers online (74%).

The NSPCC also wants to see all online accounts for under-16s:

- block messages from strangers
- prevent users making their location or contact details public
- set profiles as private by default on sign-up
- alert children to the risks if they choose make their profile public.

Finally, the NSPCC would be pleased if you could let them know about any action you take in support of the campaign. Please email the information to at CPAS.Requests@nspcc.org.uk



DID YOU
KNOW.....

From next month, the NSPCC will have a free KS2 lesson plan which teachers can download and use with their children as part of the curriculum.

NWG Network

The NWG is a Charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 2500 practitioners who disseminate information down through their services, to professionals working on the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and trafficking within the UK. The Network covers voluntary and statutory services and private companies working in this field. They offer support, advice and raise the profile, provide updates, share national developments, influence the development of national and local policy informed by practice. They have developed 'Our Voice' Young People's Participation' to enable their voices to be heard. Reading LSCB has provided every Board member with their own access to this valuable resource. If you have any queries then please contact Donna Boseley: donna.boseley@reading.gov.uk

New LSCB Website

Our new stand alone website is now live! It contains a wealth of information and web links so please take a look at:

www.readinglscb.org.uk.

If you wish to know more about the LSCB or have some suggestions about our website, then please get in touch via our email LSCB@Reading.gov.uk

LADO Documents

The LADO documents have been updated in light of the Working Together March 2015 publication and can be viewed on the LSCB website.

There is a duty on all agencies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children — Children Act 2004 and Education Act 2002. These Safeguarding principles apply to the management of staff and volunteers

All organisations that provide services for children, or provide staff or volunteers to work with or care for children, should operate a procedure for handling allegations that is consistent with Working Together 2015 (Chapter 2) and the Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Boards Child Protection Procedures (Chapter 1.9)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> and <http://proceduresonline.com/berks/>)

Allegation Management Thresholds

Where an adult working with children may have:

- **Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child ***
- **Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child**
- **Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children ****

* Where the harm to a child may be at a Child Protection level (Significant Harm).

** Working Together 2015 notes this threshold as – “behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children”.

** Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015 notes this threshold as – “behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children”.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

DID YOU KNOW.....

We have recently reviewed the safeguarding thresholds used by all front line practitioners. The resulting document is produced by RSCB to promote a shared responsibility to meet the safeguarding needs of children and young people. The Practitioners Guide to Threshold Criteria for Children in Need and in Need of Protection can be found on the ‘Information for Professionals’ page of the RSCB website.



Eight Golden Rules for Information Sharing

If you would like to contribute to a future newsletter, or tell us about an achievement in safeguarding by your team or service, please let us know.

Send items to:

LSCB@reading.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Please cascade this newsletter to your team members

Business Manager:
Esther Blake

Tel: 0118
9373269

Email:
LSCB@reading.gov.uk

- 1. Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information** but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living persons is shared appropriately.
- 2. If there are concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm or an adult at risk of serious harm**, then it is your duty to follow the relevant procedures without delay. Seek advice if you are not sure what to do at any stage and ensure that the outcome of the discussion is recorded.
- 3. Be open and honest** with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
- 4. Seek advice** if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
- 5. Share with consent where appropriate** and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You should go **ahead** and share information without consent if, in your judgement, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest, or where a child is at risk of significant harm. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case.
- 6. Consider safety and well-being:** Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
- 7. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure:** Ensure that the **information** you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
- 8. Keep a record** of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

