

July/August 2015

NATIONAL
**Water
Safety**
MONTH

Did You Know...

The National Water Safety Month Website has numerous tips, guidance and free resources on how to keep Children and Adults safe in the water this Summer:

[http://
nationalwa-
tersafetymonth
.org/](http://nationalwatersafetymonth.org/)

Water Safety – SCAS Advice

With summer here, it is easy to forget that water hazards exist in a range of public places.

There are many risks and dangers associated with swimming in open water such as reservoirs, lakes, ponds and very cold water. Many of these dangers are not visible. Hidden currents including strength and speed; varying depths of water—shallow to very deep; steep slimy banks can quickly get you into trouble.

Tony Heselton, Paramedic and SCAS Safeguarding Lead, said

“ We are seeing an increase in call outs to children and young people getting into difficulty in open water. We would encourage members of the public to stay safe around open water. It is vitally important that people of all ages heed this advice and only swim in designated areas where there are the appropriate safety precautions such as life rings and other flotation devices should you get into difficulty.”



Understanding Private Fostering Workshops

07 Oct 2015 - 14:00 – 15:30 (2-4 Darwin Close, Reading RG2 0TB)
13 Jan 2016 - 17:00 – 16:30 (2-4 Darwin Close, Reading RG2 0TB)

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.

If you would like to book onto one of the workshops please email the business support team on FPSupport@reading.gov.uk

www.readinglscb.org.uk

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

MASH Live

Reading's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub co-located with Health and Thames Valley Police is now up and running.

To help you, your colleagues and the children/families you may enquire about, a number of leaflets are available which tells you how the MASH works.

These are available to download on the Reading Borough Council website via the following link (click on the MASH leaflets Heading):

<http://beta.reading.gov.uk/article/5351/More-about-the-MASH>



Did You Know....

You can access the lessons learnt from audits by using the following link:

<http://www.readinglscb.org.uk/training/learning-audits/>

Audit Learning

As part of the Learning and Improvement Framework the LSCB develops a regular cycle of audits that seek to assure quality in key areas of safeguarding activity across organisations. The lessons learnt from audits will be published on our webpage. Our latest audit focused on neglect:

Neglect continues to remain the highest category in child protection planning. The focus of the Neglect Audit was to establish identified themes and areas of learning from a multi-agency perspective and identify how well agencies are working together in order to address neglect in Reading. Learning included:

- Lack of evidence of holistic assessments being undertaken led to gaps or inconsistencies in assessments. Inconsistent use and standards of chronologies had a direct impact on the outcome of assessments.
- Lack of coordination between agencies and lack of escalation at an earlier stage led to drift in some cases. Where evidenced, early robust interventions led to timely and appropriate plans being put in place for children. All agencies need to support work in reducing drift and targeting support at an earlier stage
- Voice of the adult appeared to overshadow the voice of the child which resulted in over optimism of parents and disguised compliance. Better evidencing is required of the understanding of the Childs Journey/Voice of the child
- Inconsistent communication between agencies particularly prior to cases escalating to the child protection process led to delay. Schools need to develop a clear system of recording child protection concerns across schools to prevent information being lost during transfer between schools.
- The use of Family Group Conferencing does not appear to be embedded into practice. There was evidence to suggest that in some of the cases this should have been considered.

LSP (Local Strategic Partnership) Priorities

The LSP (Local Strategic Partnership) workshop held on Thursday 4th June involved 30 senior leaders from public, private and voluntary sectors. The purpose was to review the range of issues facing Reading and agree the strategic priorities for partnership working over the next 18 – 24 months.

The agreed strategic priorities are:

Information-sharing to enable joined-up frontline action

Pathways to employment for:

- Children & young people, Care leavers/looked-after children, NEETs (Not in education, Employment or Training) and Older, vulnerable adults – growing 50+ cohort needing help and support

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

- Short term actions to put in place key connections across agencies to minimize numbers subjected to FGM this year
- Learn from Oxford approach
- Organise special, focused conference to draw together key players to develop concerted action plan
- Use this conference as a prototype “action learning” approach that can be applied to other topics and embed this as mainstream way to tackle specific issues across all sectors

Joint Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Conference on 9th October 2015

The conference is aimed at practitioners from adults and children's services and is based on the theme of Challenging Cultural Assumptions in Safeguarding.

Topics will include: cultural sensitivity in safeguarding, radicalisation, forced marriage, working with interpreters, witchcraft and possession, supporting traveler communities, anti-trafficking, and providing culturally sensitive care.

Workshops on: Forced Marriage, Working effectively with Interpreters, Working with Traveler Communities, Witchcraft and Possession, Providing Culturally Sensitive Care and Anti Trafficking awareness.

FRIDAY 9th October 2015

09:30 —16:15

**Easthampstead Park Conference Centre
off Peacock Lane, Wokingham, RG40 3DF
DELEGATE RATE £60**

For more information please contact: Abigail Freemantle, West Berkshire Council, Shaw House, Church Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DR
Email: afreemantle@westberks.gov.uk

Closing date for applications: 18th September 2015

**Keynote
Speakers and
Workshop
Facilitators for
the Joint
Children's and
Adult's include
representatives
from:**

**University
College London
Thames Valley
Police**

**Karma Nirvana
Mothertongue**

**West Berkshire
Council**

Evadney UK

AFRUCA

and

Migrant Help



Single Pathway for Early Help Services Project

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

What does the project aim to do?

This project aims to simplify and streamline the way staff at Reading Borough Council, Partner Agencies and members of the public refer to Early Help services. The aim is to move from many ways of accessing services to one process to ask for help.

What will the Pathway look like?

A single triage system that will involve Reading Borough Council services, Partner Agencies and the Voluntary Sector.

What has happened so far?

A series of workshops with Reading Borough Council services, Partner Agencies and the Voluntary Sector have taken place to find out what the issues are with the current ways of referring to Early Help services and what the requirements are moving forward.

What happens next?

Work with Managers in Early Help Services to develop processes for the triage system and a single referral form. With input from the LSCB there will be development of guidance around the use of the Thresholds.

These developments will be used to inform the development of a number of workshops that will be run in the early Autumn, to train referrers in the use of Thresholds, Troubled Families, Early Help, MASH and the new Single Pathway.

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Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board Structure Chart (July 2015)

