

Family Group Conferences

As part of the Stockton-on-Tees Parenting Strategy the **Alliance Psychology Service** has been commissioned to deliver a number of Family Group Conferences (FGC) to take place between now and March 2011. A family group Conference is an effective way to give families the opportunity to get together to make the best plan for their child or young person's welfare and future well being.

What is family group conference?

Decision making and planning meeting that puts families in the driving seat. Every family is unique with its own culture, dynamics, history and personalities all experiencing problems from time to time.

An independent facilitator who is known as a 'Convenor' would encourage and use the families own skills, strengths and personal knowledge to resolve difficulties for their children and young people.

Families will be given private time to discuss and come up with an agreed plan. This plan will be supported, if it keeps the children/young people safe from significant harm and the resources requested can be provided.

The family will be supported to put their plan into action with the help of referrers and other agencies involved.

When should I refer?

The role of the referrers and other agencies is to provide information and resources to enable the family to make a safe realistic plan.

Facilitating families with decision making and encouraging participation is the key to successful Family Group Meetings.

The term 'family' is seen in its broadest and inclusive sense to include wider sources of support.

FGCs plan to work as early as possible with family difficulties, this model has successfully been used:

- Supporting families to improve relationships and cope better **before crisis**
- **Prevention** of school exclusion, poor attendance and youth crime

Referrers Role

Family group meetings work alongside Child Well Being and Safeguarding Procedures. Referrers discuss FGC with families and seek agreement to refer.

Referrers would need to provide clear information when referring a family and may be required to attend as part of normal professional duties.

Referrers will liaise with the convenor before during and after FGC.

Contact Kaye Pickering, Parenting Strategy Co-ordinator for the referral form.
kaye.pickering@stockton.gov.uk 01642 526408

We're on the web
www.stockton.gov.uk/slscb

You can also find us at:

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The Review Unit, Parkside
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**Who's
Responsible
for
Safeguarding
Children?**

Everyone Is!

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Children’s professionals ‘miss signs of child grooming’

A report produced by Barnados says that Professionals often fail to notice the tell-tale signs of vulnerable children being groomed for sexual exploitation. It warned that GPs, teachers, youth workers and the police needed to be made more aware of the risk indicators of these vulnerable children, and be better equipped at spotting those at greatest risk of sexual exploitation. These indicators included: disengagement from education; risky behaviours, including secretive use of mobile phones and the internet; unexplained gifts; involvement with ‘older’ boyfriends/girlfriends; and sexual health issues. Barnardo’s is calling for specialist training for professionals working with children in England, to help to them recognise and respond directly to the early signs of child sexual exploitation . It would also like to see better co-ordination and information sharing between social services, health, education, specialist services and the police.

Training on [Child Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation](#) is already available to the Stockton Childrens Workforce at Intermediate / Advance Level

Intermediate Level courses are designed for practitioners and managers who work directly with children and/or adults who are carers. Training course content will assume that practitioners have attended the introductory level training and/or have a knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children issues. Advanced Level Training courses are aimed at practitioners and managers who are involved in assessment and interventions to safeguard children and address specific areas of child protection practice.

The course aims to:

- Increase effectiveness and understanding of working together to safeguard children and young people from trafficking and
- Raise the profile of Children and Young People who are sexually exploited in order to improve multi agency working.

Dates from the 2010 / 11 programme are 21 July 2010 and 14th February 2011, 9:30 – 4:30 at the Education Centre.

Further details can be obtained from Workforce Development Team (Children’s Services) Tel: 01642 527675, Fax: 01642 528676 or E-mail Childrens.WorkforceDevelopment@stockton.gov.uk

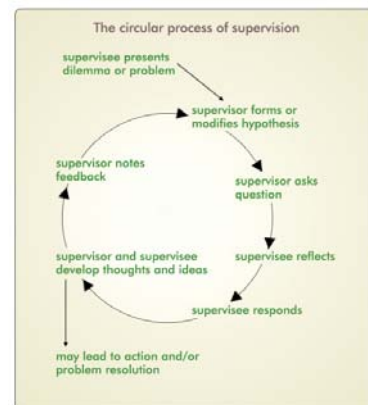


Concerned about an employee or volunteer?

Since January 2009, all employers are now expected, and have a legal duty, to refer any individual (paid or voluntary) who may cause concern, to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Although the Vetting and Barring Scheme has been put on hold this requirement to refer still stands. This will normally be decided as part of a multi-agency strategy group in liaison with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

If you need further advice or want to discuss a concern contact Connie O’Neill, Stockton LADO - (01642) 527413 connie.oneill@stockton.gov.uk

Effective support and supervision



‘Working Together’ states that to ensure children are protected from harm requires sound professional judgements to be made. It is demanding work that can be distressing and stressful. All of those involved should have access to advice and support from, for example, peers, managers, named and designated professionals. Those providing supervision should be trained in supervision skills and have an up to date knowledge of the legislation, policy and research relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Supervision can be defined as:

“an accountable process which supports assures and develops the knowledge, skills and values of an individual, group or team. The purpose is to improve the quality of their work to achieve agreed outcomes.”

Providing Effective Supervision (Skills for Care and CWDC 2007, page 5)

The key functions of supervision are:

- management (ensuring competent and accountable performance/practice);
- development (continuing professional development);
- support (supportive/restorative function); and
- engagement/mediation (engaging the individual with the organisation. (Morrison, T. (2005) *Staff Supervision in Social Care. Third edition. Brighton: Pavilion.*)

Supervision should enable both supervisor and supervisee to reflect on, scrutinise and evaluate the work carried out, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the practitioner and providing coaching development and pastoral support.

Supervisors should be available to practitioners as an important source of advice and expertise and may be required to endorse judgements at certain key points in time.

Supervisors should also record key decisions within the child's case records.

It is therefore important that supervision is provided on a regular basis by staff who have the appropriate level of experience and professional standing to undertake this important task.

Hi ho, hi ho it's on the move they go (or gone in this case)

First Contact, the Duty and Domestic Violence team are all now based at Wrensfild House, Wrensfild Road, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 0AT. Telephone, fax and email details have not changed.



Children need to feel loved and valued, and be supported by a network of reliable and affectionate relationships. If they are denied the opportunity and support they need to achieve these outcomes, children are at increased risk of not only an often impoverished childhood, but of disadvantage and social exclusion in adulthood. Abuse and Neglect pose particular problems

If you think a child is being abused or neglected, or that they may be at risk of harm, **contact:**

First Contact Team, at the above address, Tel: 01642 527764 Email; firstcontact@stockton.gov.uk

Outside of Office Hours call the Emergency Duty team on 08702 402994.

In an emergency the Police should be contacted.



Team Meeting Training

In busy times when you don't think you have the time to attend training why not look for alternative ways of keeping your knowledge up to date. Why not try '**Team Meeting Training**'.

If Managers contact us (slscb@stockton.gov.uk or 01642 524591) we can provide sign ons for everyone in the team to do the same or different e-learning courses at the same time. Everyone could log on at the same time and do their individual learning. By doing it in a team session staff could discuss issues that arise or help each other.

The downside is that this only provides discussion on a single agency basis unless you open up your team meeting and access to PCs to a few colleagues from other agencies.

E-learning can provide basic awareness or be used as a refresher / introduction prior to attending Intermediate or Advance Level delivered training provided by the Childrens Workforce Development Team.

Working Together (DCSF 2010) states that '*Employers should ensure that all those in contact or working with children and young people and / or adults who are parents or carers have a mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with their child protection responsibilities and policies and procedures to be followed if they have concerns about a child's safety or welfare. Regular refresher training should also be provided at least every three years.*

E-Learning the alternative training route.

Courses are **free to staff and volunteers working for SLSCB member organisations or not for profit agencies**. The training is hosted by the Virtual College, one of the UK's leading e-learning sites who are working nationally with LSCBs, including Stockton-on-Tees, to develop safeguarding children courses.

Please complete the attached booking form to enrol on any of the courses listed below and return it to slscb@stockton.gov.uk

Integrated Working: CAF, Information Sharing, Lead Professional & Contact Point

This basic awareness course is made up of four learning objects: The common assessment framework (CAF), information sharing, the role of the lead professional and Contact Point. The course will give an in depth understanding of these topic areas so that they can confidently discuss the concepts with families, should they need to. It will provide underpinning knowledge for lead professionals or practitioners, prior to face to face training.

Safeguarding Children Refresher Training

The Safeguarding Children e-Academy has developed an online refresher course in collaboration with experts from 6 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), which covers all the changes in Safeguarding over the last three years. It is regularly updated to reflect changes.

On completion of this course learners will be able to:

- Identify the changes to practice over the past three years
- Identify different levels of harm and the appropriate safeguarding processes to be followed
- Understand safeguarding children issues from a national perspective

Hidden Harm

The course aims to raise awareness of the issues affecting the children of problem substance users. It helps the learner to spot the signs of harm and identify appropriate windows of opportunity to break the cycle and safeguard the child.

Awareness Of Child Abuse – Foundation Module

This course covers a variety of child protection issues and is suitable for anyone **who may come into contact with children**. It is a reduced version of the Safeguarding Children (Core) course and it is designed to be suitable for all, not just child

specialists. It aims to inform about the various types of abuse or neglect to a child and then explain what you must do if you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected.

Awareness Of Child Abuse And Neglect – Core Module

This course covers a variety of child protection issues and is suitable for anyone **who regularly comes into contact with children**. It aims to inform about the various types of abuse or neglect to a child and then explain what you must do if you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected. This is the full version and is suitable for members of **staff who regularly come into contact with children** throughout the day. A reduce version of this course is available as safeguarding children (foundation) this is aimed at staff who don't deal with children on a daily basis.

We are also able to offer a few people access to the following courses:

Childhood Obesity and Henry

This course on Childhood Obesity and the HENRY programme is made up of five learning objects: The HENRY approach and the obesity epidemic, Establishing healthy eating patterns, Addressing food, Being active and Parenting for a healthy lifestyle. The material within this module will give you a detailed and in-depth understanding of the HENRY programme and its promotion of ways in which adopting parenting and lifestyle strategies can help to combat the obesity epidemic amongst young children.

Domestic Abuse

This e-learning course is suitable for any worker who is in regular contact or works regularly with children, young people and their families. The course will raise your awareness of the issues surrounding domestic abuse particularly for those workers that come into contact with survivors.

Runaways

This e-learning module will provide you with the information to:

- Enable staff and managers to understand the national and local context for runaways.
- Enable staff and managers to make an informed and effective response both individually and in a multi-agency context.
- Prevent children and young people from running away where possible.
- Ensure children and young people are kept safe from harm.
- Minimise the risk of repeat running away.

This module was produced in partnership with Connexions South Yorkshire and has a number of

screens specifically aimed at South Yorkshire protocols. However, the majority of the module deals with general and national issues.

Children with Disabilities

The course contains an overview of the national and local agendas in relation to children with disabilities, basic knowledge of the range of protection needs of disabled children and information on how you can enable them to communicate about their experiences and provide support.

Parental Mental Health

This e-learning course aims to increase awareness of the main issues surrounding mental distress in parents, and how this impacts upon their children. It is aimed at anyone who comes into contact with children and young people during the course of their work.

Teenage Pregnancy and Wellbeing in Sexual Health

The aim of the module is to increase awareness of the main issues around teenage pregnancy and young people's sexual health. By helping to give the learner a better understanding of these issues, it will help to develop the learner to work in a way that improves outcomes for young people. This module looks at the risk factors associated with teenage pregnancy, including positive interventions aimed at reducing the under 18 conception rate. It is intended for all workers who are in regular contact with young people and/or their families to help them work towards achieving the above objectives.

Information Sharing

Over four million people in the UK work with Children, young people and families. This module will be useful to all frontline practitioners who deal with children and who will need to share information about cases. The focus of this module is the importance of information sharing, why it is important and who it can affect.

Think Safe, Be Safe, Stay Safe

This module was adapted from the Awareness of Child Abuse & Neglect course for access by members of the South Tees Junior Safeguarding Children Board. It is suitable for young people who work with children, for example young volunteers, volunteers, peer mentors, babysitters etc.

Equality & Diversity in the Workplace.

This course will help your staff to become better placed to play their part in promoting equality and diversity within your organisation. The course consists of

- Welcome and Learning Objectives

- Knowledge awareness quiz – not marked just to get your thinking.
- Introduction to Equality and Diversity
- Equality and Diversity Legislation
- Understanding Diversity
- You and Promoting Equality and Diversity
- Online Test

Awareness of Child Abuse & Neglect – Young People version.

This course is aimed at those who work with young people aged 12-18.

Mental Capacity Act 2005 Practice Learning Guidance

This course is aimed at anyone who provides care and support for vulnerable adults as part of their duties. This will include formal and informal carers, volunteers and health and social care professionals.

The course consists of

- Welcome and Learning Objectives
- Overview of the Act
- Assessing mental capacity
- Protection from liability
- Making decisions in a person's best interests
- Other important changes introduced by the Act
- Case Studies + Summary
- Online Test

Moving and Handling for Parents and Carers.

This module is suitable for parents, carers and child care workers and will show what is needed in order to handle objects and people safely and minimise risk of injury,

The course covers

Introduction
The Law
The Spine
Moving and Handling Objects Safely
Moving People Safely
Inequality of Risk and Reducing Risk
Prevention and Consequences
Supplementary Information

For further information regarding access to or further information on the suite of e-learning courses that are available please contact: slscb@stockton.gov.uk or by telephoning 01642 524591.





Registration Form for Safeguarding Children E-learning Courses
 Provided by
Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board & Children's Trust

***MANDATORY FIELDS ARE MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK**

Please ensure these sections are completed to enable your application to be processed.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

***Course Applied For**
 Please insert title

*** Surname**

*** Forename**

*** Title**

*** Organisation:**
 If you know please state which ISA you work in.

*** Sector:**
 Please state which you work in.

Public	Private	National Voluntary	Community / Voluntary
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Address

***Postcode:**

Contact Number:

*** Email:**

Line Manager's Name:

Line Manager's E-mail:

Send your e-learning application to: slscb@stockton.gov.uk or **SLSCB**
 Parkside,
 Melrose Avenue
 Billingham
 Stockton-on-Tees
 TS23 2JH
 Fax: 01642 524907
 Tel: 01642 527632