

## Vetting and Barring Scheme - The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

Recommendation 19 of the Bichard Report stated that: "New arrangements should be introduced requiring those who wish to work with children, or vulnerable adults, to be registered. The register would confirm that there is no known reason why an individual should not work with these client groups."

The ISA a new Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) that has been established as a direct response to this, which will decide who is 'barred' from working with children or vulnerable adults. The ISA will play a major part in reforming current vetting and barring practices by barring individuals who pose a risk to vulnerable groups but employers retain their responsibilities for ensuring safe recruitment and employment practices.

The ISA will begin in October 2009 with barring from regulated activity and the duties on providers to make referrals to the ISA

Applications for ISA registration for new entrants to the workforce & those moving jobs will start in July 2010

From November 2010 it will be mandatory for new entrants and job movers to have ISA registration before they start their new posts

- Members of the existing workforce will be phased into the scheme from January 2011
- Individuals in paid employment will pay **£64** when applying for registration with the ISA Scheme.
- There is no discount on this one-off application fee but in most cases a CRB enhanced Disclosure will be included in the initial registration process.
- Those involved only in unpaid **voluntary** activity will **pay no application fee.**

The ISA Scheme is a **mandatory addition** to current safeguarding systems and not a replacement for the Criminal Records Bureau.

For further information contact: [www.isa.gov.org](http://www.isa.gov.org) or call 0300 123 1111

### Criminal Records Bureau reduces fees

The CRB has announced that it will reduce the fee for Standard Disclosures from £31 to £26. The change will come into effect from 1 October this year.

The fee reduction has been made possible due to an expected increase in the volume of disclosure applications being processed as the new Vetting and Barring Scheme goes live in October. <http://www.crb.gov.uk/>

We're on the web  
[www.stockton.gov.uk/slscb](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/slscb)

You can also find us at:

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Who's  
Responsible  
for  
Safeguarding  
Children?

Everyone Is!

### What's Covered in this Issue?

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## Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation

Barnardo's ACE (**Against Child Exploitation**) project provides a specialised service to protect and prevent children and young people from being sexually exploited.

***Barnardo's believe the sexual exploitation of children and young people takes different forms. It ranges from them being given alcohol, food, gifts and accommodation in return for sexual activities through to being exploited through more 'formal' organised exploitation. It is difficult for these children to accept that they are being exploited as often they are coerced in some way by the person whose motive is to create an illusion of love and trust leading to total dependency, power and control.***

The project is funded from Northern Rock Foundation, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Teaching PCT. It operates during the day and on an evening to meet the needs of the children and young people accessing the service and is delivered by a senior social work practitioner and an education worker.

The ACE project offers a safe, confidential environment where young people both male and female can seek help, advice and support. The work is a combination of one to one sessions and group work. The target age range is 12 – 17 years old. The project also offers support to those who are under 21 year olds.

The one to one sessions focus on reducing risk through individual work plans tailored to meet the young person's needs. The sessions are a combination of practical support and awareness raising covering issues such as self esteem, risk management, sexual health, sexual exploitation and the grooming stages adopting a therapeutic solution focused practice approach. The casework is predominantly child protection focused

The group work is delivered within schools and youth setting adopting an interactive approach to raise awareness about protecting self and keeping safe in the community and the internet. The sessions are aimed at preventing grooming and sexual exploitation.

The one to one casework is referral led. The project receives referrals from a variety of statutory and voluntary services. ACE receive telephone referral enquires and requests to visit services to discuss the referral process.

The project works in partnership with services to safeguard children and young people fulfilling child protection and every child matters responsibilities. Services are encouraged to contact the project for advice, information and support surrounding any issues linked to sexual exploitation.

### Contact details:

**Barnardo's ACE Project, 98 Dovecot Street, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1HA. Tel no: 01642 604593.**



The DCSF have recently reissued guidance in relation to safeguarding children from sexual exploitation. The document provides information on different forms of sexual exploitation that can help local agencies to develop prevention strategies. It will help identify those at risk of sexual exploitation and will also help take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way.

Copies can be downloaded from the web: [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/\\_download/?id=6021](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=6021)

### Abuse and Neglect of Children

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

First Contact Team,  
Bath Lane,  
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 2DS.  
Tel: 01642 527764  
Email; firstcontact@stockton.gov.uk

**Or** Emergency Duty Team (Outside of Office Hours)  
Tel: 08702 402994 (Free Phone Number)

In an emergency, contact the Police.

*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*

## Photos and the Data Protection Act

Following recent media articles relating to potential breaches of the Data Protection Act the Information Commission has clarified the matter in relation to schools. The same standards will apply to other children's service organisations and agencies.

Parents who take photos of their children and friends at school events are not breaching the Data Protection Act, and any claims to the contrary are false, the Deputy Information Commissioner has said.

"We recognise that parents want to capture significant moments on camera and we want to reassure them and other family members that whatever they might be told data protection does not prevent them taking photographs of their children and friends at school events. Photographs taken for the family photo album are exempt from the Act and citing the Data Protection Act to stop people taking photos or filming their children at school is wrong."

New guidance for schools has been issued by the Information Commission which gives the following examples to try and clear this issue up.

### Personal use:

A parent takes a photograph of their child and some friends taking part in the school Sports Day to be put in the family photo album. These images are for personal use and the Data Protection Act does not apply.

Grandparents are invited to the school nativity play and wish to video it. These images are for personal use and the Data Protection Act does not apply.

### Official school use:

Photographs of pupils or students are taken for building passes. These images are likely to be stored electronically with other personal data and the terms of the Act will apply.

A small group of pupils are photographed during a science lesson and the photo is to be used in the school prospectus. This will be personal data but will not breach the Act as long as the children and / or their guardians are aware this is happening and of the context in which the photo will be used.

### Media use:

A photograph is taken by a local newspaper of a school awards ceremony. As long as the school has agreed to this, and the children and / or their guardians are aware that photographs of those attending the ceremony may appear in the newspaper, this will not breach the Act.

## Safe Practice Tips for Organisations

- Before taking photographs of children and young people, parental consent should be sought in writing.
- Inform parents and carers how the image will be used.
- Make sure the children and young people photographed are appropriately dressed.
- Was possible, focus the image on an activity taking place and not a specific child / young person.
- Images of children and young persons used for publication should not disclose personal details about them such as their nursery, school, home address etc.
- Ensure images of children and young people are stored safely and securely
- Any instances of inappropriate images should be reported to a Senior Manager in organisations and / or the Police
- Do not put images and personal information on website.



### **INTEGRATED WORKING: CAF, Information Sharing, Lead Professional & Contact Point**

is available as one of the on-line courses from the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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 learners 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.

### **HIDDEN HARM (Parental Substance Misuse)**

is also included in our 2009/ 10 programme.

*Everyone is encouraged to sign up to e-learning training that can be undertaken anywhere at any time where there is access to the internet. For further details or to complete an application form please contact:*

*[sfscb@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:sfscb@stockton.gov.uk) Tel: (01642) 524591 or apply on line at <http://www.stockton.gov.uk/citizenservices/safeg/lscbtrain/>*

## Training for the Children's Workforce in August

Details of courses and alternative methods of safeguarding training are available from the Children's Workforce Development Team. Tel: 01642 527698 E-mail: [Childrens.WorkforceDevelopment@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Childrens.WorkforceDevelopment@stockton.gov.uk)

Date	Course Title	Time	Venue
12	MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Awareness Raising)	9:00 – 12:30	Education Centre
19	Neglect of Children & Young People	9:00 -04:30	Education Centre
20	Managing Allegations Against Staff, Carers or Volunteers	9:00 – 12:30	Ideal House
25	Supervising Staff (who are Working with Families where there are Child Protection Concerns)	1:00 – 4:30	Ideal House
27	Assessment, Analysis and Recording	9:00 -04:30	Education Centre

### Questions From The Floor

Questions & Answers – We all have them but sometimes don't want to ask them.

**"I've heard people talking about Core Groups, what are they?"**

Vulnerable children who it is decided are in need of protection due to neglect and or abuse, whether it is sexual, physical or emotional can be made the subject of a **Child Protection Plan**. The Core Group is responsible for developing the plan into a detailed working tool and implementing it within the outline plan agreed at the Initial Child Protection Conference. Core Groups are therefore a group of people (family members, and key professionals) who come together to determine the actions required.

Membership should include the key worker, who leads the Core Group, the child, if appropriate, family members and professionals or foster carers who will have direct contact with the family. Whilst the key worker has the lead role and will usually chair the meeting, all members of the Core Group are jointly responsible for the formulation and implementation of the child protection plan, refining it as needed, and monitoring progress against specified objectives in the plan. The role of Minute Taker can be rotated or shared by Core Group Members, and in exceptional circumstances, another key agency worker can replace the Social Worker as chairperson. This is intended to prevent cancellation of Core Group Meetings in the event of the Social Worker's absence.

**The Child Protection Plan:** The Social Worker's Multi Agency Report to Initial Conference contains recommendations that address the identified risks to the child. These recommendations, if agreed at Conference, will form the basis of the Child Protection Plan that the first Core Group Meeting will put together, and which will be continuously updated and brought to all subsequent Review Conferences as part of the Social Worker's Multi Agency report.

**"Are there time guide lines to keep to for child protection cases and are there checks done on case workloads?"**

There are time guide lines that must be kept to in accordance with legislation and managers must provide regular supervision to staff and quality assure the work they do.

The first or "Initial **Child Protection Conference**" (ICPC) must be held on or before the 15th working day following the multi agency **Strategy Meeting**. If the child is made the subject of a **Child Protection Plan** then this must be reviewed at a multi agency "**Review Child Protection Conference**" (RCPC) within 3 months or 91 days of the ICPC. If the plan remains in place it is reviewed at no more than 6 monthly intervals or 183 days from that meeting for the duration of the plan.

Multi agency "Core Groups" are set up at the ICPC and are required to meet regularly between Conferences to ensure that the Protection Plan is being worked and that relevant information is shared.

Procedures require all managers of staff involved with the child and family to regularly supervise their staff to ensure that correct decisions are made around the Safeguarding of the Child and that any other assessments or work that is required is completed for the child.

At Review Child Protection Conferences this work and that of other agencies is reviewed to ensure that the best service possible is provided to keep the child safe.

*If you have any articles, questions, information, good news notices relating to safeguarding children and young people you would like including in our next Safeguarding Children Briefing please send them to the SLSCB Business Unit at the address on the front page. Help us to celebrate the good work that's happening in Stockton, how we are working to do things better and the impact we are making*

Regards

**Pauline Beall**, SLSCB Business Manage