



Agenda Item 12.1

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 7 DECEMBER 2010

HARINGEY LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD SECOND SERIOUS CASE REVIEW 'CHILD A' PUBLISHED 26 OCTOBER 2010

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) of the recent publication of 'Haringey Local Safeguarding Children Board, Serious Case Review Child A' by Haringey Department of Education and to give consideration to the key recommendations within the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the tragic death of 'Baby P' on the 3rd August 2007, and The Lord Laming report published in April 2009 which contained fifty eight recommendations, Haringey Local Safeguarding Board (HLSB) commissioned a Second Serious Case Review relating to Peter Connelly.
- 2.2 Independent author, Alan Jones was commissioned to write a Second Serious Case Review and his report was published the Department of Education on 26 October 2010 and contained fifteen recommendations.

3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Second Serious Case Review published fifteen key recommendations within the report. All fifteen recommendations from the report are pertinent for all staff in services who are involved in safeguarding and protecting children and young people.
- 3.2 An Appendix of all fifteen recommendations is attached for reference.
- 3.3 The Performance & Quality sub group will consider the recommendations of the Second Serious Case Review and report to the next Child Protection Committee in March 2011.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is asked to:

- i) note the contents of the report.

Susan Taylor
Chair of Child Protection Committee
5 November 2010

Report prepared by: Elaine Wright, Child Protection Co-ordinator

**HARINGEY LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
SECOND SERIOUS CASE REVIEW 'CHILD A'
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COMPLETE LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The LSCB and the Partnership must ensure that staff in the four protecting professions – doctors, lawyers, police and social workers – are appropriately trained, individually and together, in the principles of authoritative practice described in this Serious Case Review.
2. The LSCB and the Partnership must ensure that staff working as 'safeguarders' - the universal services provided by health, education, early years provision and the police – are appropriately trained, individually and together, to recognise the authority in their role and to use it to safeguard children.
3. The Partnership should give active consideration to the creation of an 'expert pool' from the four protecting agencies. This pool, both virtual and real, will be trained to ensure authoritative knowledge of assessment and intervention. It will be a source of learning, advice and support to ensure effective multi-agency working.
4. The LSCB will ensure that all agencies fulfil their legal or moral duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under s.11 Children Act 2004, and train all staff who have contact with children in safeguarding awareness. The board must seek reports on progress and publish them in their Annual Report.
5. The LSCB will ensure that the system by which child protection conferences are conducted is changed in order to address the concerns which have emerged from this Serious Case Review. The LSCB will assure itself that conferences are administered efficiently, attended assiduously, managed authoritatively and produce decisions which are child-focussed, with child protection plans that are purposeful and authoritative. The findings should be reported in the LSCB Annual Report.

6. The LSCB must ensure that children and young people are effectively protected and safeguarded through the regular multi-agency audit of all child protection and safeguarding interventions. It should make report to the Partnership on the quality of their safeguarding and child protection work, and publish the results in its Annual Report.
7. The Partnership must communicate its passion for an excellent safeguarding service and provide the means for its staff to deliver it. An agency's vision of itself and its sense of drive and purpose is created by its leadership at every level, from the Leader and elected Members down.
8. The Partnership must fulfil its duty to ensure early intervention in the lives of vulnerable children by addressing with urgency the development of local delivery teams, the widespread use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), and the role of the lead professional. It should make report on progress to LSCB and invite the Board to audit the safeguarding dimension of the delivery of the services.
9. The Partnership must challenge the low expectations of parental care widely held by services and assure itself immediately, through audit, that all children subject to child protection investigation and planning are properly protected.
10. The Local Authority should assure itself that all schools are well trained in the practices associated with welfare and child protection and are clear about their responsibilities in relation to Every Child Matters. This recommendation equally applies to early years and other educational providers.
11. The Local Authority should secure an external audit of resources made available to children's services between 2005 and 2008, to satisfy themselves that their expenditure was sufficient to meet the needs of those services and with a view to establishing the appropriate level of resource to meet the requirements of the JAR Action Plan.
12. Haringey CYPS will ensure that social workers and their managers are trained, supervised and supported to fulfil their statutory role, with the skills to purposefully and authoritatively drive forward child protection plans with the support of other members of the core group.
13. Haringey CYPS should immediately review the use of Solution Focussed Brief Therapy in their work with families. While the approach may have value where families have the motivation and capacity to benefit from family support, it is not appropriate for use in s.47 investigations, in initial child protection conferences or with families subject to child protection plans until they are assessed as being able to benefit from family support

approaches. Its impact on the present ethos in the department should be checked as a part of the review. The department should ensure proper processes are in place for the initiation and evaluation of any change in approach to social work practice.

14. All agencies offering a family support service to children who are the subject of a child protection plan or to parents of such children, should train their staff how to work in a complementary role to the social worker who leads and coordinates the child protection plan. The recommendation applies equally to agencies offering parenting programmes and to adult-focussed services.
15. Haringey LSCB is required to ensure that any outstanding recommendations arising from the previous Serious Case Review (SCR) are fully implemented in accordance with the Joint Area Review (JAR) Action Plan. The JAR Action Plan will sit alongside and take forward the learning from this Review and the LSCB should scrutinise each development to be assured of its co-ordination, implementation and effectiveness.

