



October

BRIEFING SHEET

UPDATES TO THE INTER-AGENCY CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is part of a regional consortium of local safeguarding children boards made up by Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. The consortium has an on-line manual that provides guidance for Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures. The manual can be accessed by following a link on the home page of the WSCB website located at www.worcestershiresafeguarding.co.uk

September 2010 updates:

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010**

WT 2010 sets out how individuals and organisations should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It replaces the previous 2006 version. The changes as a result of this revised guidance have been incorporated throughout the on-line manual and are shown in *italics*.

- **Chapter 2 – Roles & Responsibilities**

Guidance for Safe Recruitment, Selection and Retention of Staff and Volunteers (p 42)

Now includes reference to the role of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and to the Vetting and Barring Scheme. The role of the ISA is to establish and maintain a register of those who work with children and vulnerable adults. It is part of a wider strategy to ensure that unsuitable people are not employed (paid or voluntary) to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Children's visits to Prisons, Special Hospitals and Psychiatric Units (pp 65/66, 73)

Links to the relevant government guidance documents have been added.

- **Chapter 6 – Supplementary guidance on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children**

Sexually exploited children (pp 191/192)

Refers specifically to a document issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2009. It provides information about sexual exploitation, the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies and the procedures practitioners should follow to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people who it is suspected have been sexually exploited.

Local Guidance

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board has produced local guidance documents which have been added to the Worcestershire Guidance chapter of the on-line manual (Chapter 11.2) and also to the downloads section of the WSCB website at www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk:

- **Safeguarding Children and Young People whose Parents have Mental Health Needs**

This guidance was developed in response to a Serious Case Review and was officially launched at events which took place in June and September. It endorses the Think Family approach to supporting parental mental ill health, with a particular emphasis on the roles to be played by adult mental health workers and children's social care services in supporting families to build resilience and manage risk.

- **Working with Violent, Aggressive and Hostile Families**

Many of the families who come into contact with professional agencies are going through periods of stress and anxiety. They may also have had experiences with professionals previously which they perceive to have been negative for them. For this reason they may react in aggressive ways to professionals, be abusive or be difficult to engage in a meaningful way. This guidance addresses the challenges associated with working with families where these issues exist.

- **Promoting the Participation of Children and Young People in Child Protection Processes**

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board has been working collaboratively with partner agencies to promote and increase the participation of children and young people in child protection processes. This has been achieved, in part, by setting up a WSCB Young People's Panel which provides a mechanism for consultation and feedback. This guidance includes a **Policy Statement on the Participation of Children and Young People** (section 11.2.1) detailing the underpinning principles of this work.

www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk