

# SAFEGUARDING MATTERS



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[www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk)

## Just Living Is Not Enough

The Children's Society Research Director, Gwyther Rees (pictured below), was the keynote speaker at the recent Safeguarding Adolescents seminars.



The seminars which took place in local youth centres in Bromsgrove and Worcester explored themes in relation to safeguarding adolescents including a summary of the research study conducted by The Children's Society into the maltreatment, neglect and abuse of young people aged 11—17 years in England.

**Guest speakers Kim Golding and Gwyther Rees are pictured above with Hilary Thompson (centre), Independent Chair of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board.**

Clinical psychologists, Kim Golding and Emily Barnbrook, from Worcestershire's Integrated Services for Looked After Children (ISL) gave presentations on the challenges of adolescence, focusing specifically on brain development and attachment relationships.

A DVD featuring the experiences of a group of YMCA service users was made especially for the events, with the help of staff and students from Worcester College of Technology. The young people talked about their experiences of using support services when they were at their lowest ebb and in crisis.

The title for the seminars "Just Living Is Not Enough" came from the image used to publicise the events, provided by local student Elliot Parker (see page 3 for more details). Elliot also provided the original art work for the WSCB leaflet "Principles For Working With Young People". The Safeguarding Board produced this guidance by working in collaboration with local young people. The Principles were introduced to delegates at the events by young people from Who Cares We Care. Worcestershire County Council's Children in Care Council.

The seminars form part of a wider strategy in Worcestershire to address the needs of the most vulnerable young people who require a co-ordinated response from agencies. The seminars launched an Audit Tool for use by practitioners to assess how adolescent-friendly their organisation's policies and procedures are. The audit tool and principles can be found on the WSCB web site, [click here](#)

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## Seasons Greetings

The team at the Safeguarding Board would like to extend seasonal greetings to all our partners and colleagues.

We greatly appreciate all your support and collaboration throughout the last year and look forward to working with you in 2012.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyous New Year.





# Safeguarding Matters



## What is MAPPA?

MAPPA stands for Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements. It is the process through which the **Police, Probation and Prison Services** work together with **other agencies** to manage the risk of serious harm posed by violent and sexual offenders living in the community in order to protect the public.

MAPPA allows agencies to assess and manage offenders on a multi-agency basis by working together, sharing information and meeting, as necessary, to ensure that effective plans are put in place to manage the risk of serious harm posed.

Serious harm can be identified as an event which is life threatening and/or traumatic, from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible. The risk of serious harm is the likelihood of this event happening. It should be recognised that the risk of harm is a dynamic concept that should be kept under regular review.

Police, Probation and Prison Services are the **Responsible Authorities**. They have a duty to establish arrangements for the assessment and management of the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders and ensure the performance of MAPPA in its area is fit for purpose. The other agencies involved are **Duty to Cooperate Agencies**. They are the Youth Offending Service, Jobcentre Plus, Local Authority Children’s Services, Local Authority Adult Services, Local Housing Authorities, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Health Bodies, Electronic Monitoring Providers and the UK Borders Agency.

There are three levels of MAPPA management. They are mainly based upon the level of multi-agency cooperation required with higher risk cases tending to be managed at the higher levels. Offenders will be moved up and down levels, as appropriate.

## Who is MAPPA?

MAPPA in West Mercia came into existence in 2003 and during this time it has grown from just one member to a team of five. The MAPPA Team is based in the Public Protection unit at Police Headquarters, Hindlip. The Team consists of three Coordinators, Peter Clarke, Jill Hawes and Esther Vaughan and two administrators, Linda Weston and Wendy Elwell.

**Look out for MAPPA Basic Awareness Training in your area or for more information contact one of the MAPPA Team [mappa@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mappa@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

## **Updates and Additions to the West Mercia Consortium Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures**

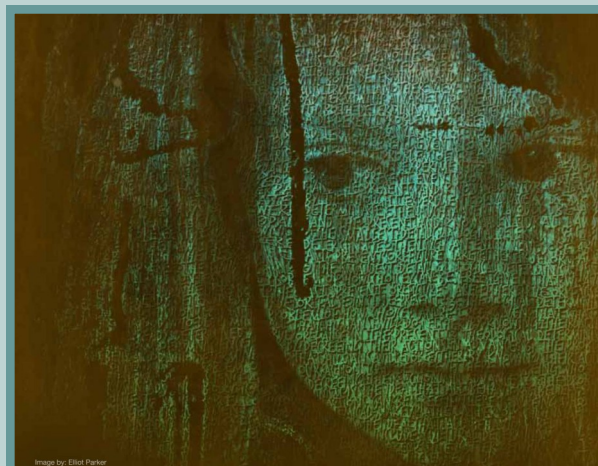
The inter-agency child protection guidance has been updated and amended. A WSCB Briefing Sheet will be circulated to draw attention to the changes, which includes an additional chapter on Child Sexual Exploitation and updates to local procedures. Please make sure that you are familiar with all the changes by visiting the on-line site (click the icon on the right) or go to <http://www.proceduresonline.com/west%20mercia%20consortium/> and follow the link to the Updates November 2011.





## TALENTED YOUNG ARTIST PROVIDES KEY IMAGE FOR RECENT WSCB EVENTS

Elliot Parker a student at Worcester College of Technology provided the image featured on the right to publicise the recent Safeguarding Adolescents seminars held in Worcestershire.



Elliot, who is studying for a HND in Graphics, produced the image as part of his course work. He attended one of the events held at Warndon Youth and Community Centre where he met delegates and showcased his portfolio of images.

The original image features the hard hitting text: **“Approximately, 46,700 children in the UK are known to be at risk of abuse right now.”**

When asked to describe the image Elliot said: “Everybody thinks in words and if you can’t share these they begin to build up ... The image portrays the face of a silent child trapped by words ... words forming layers of desperate thoughts unable to escape from her empty, lonely world. They begin to crawl beneath her skin, throughout her body like a deadly virus until she has reached the point where she feels like there is no escape. Just living is not enough. She needs to be free ... the words that are pulsing through her body are the definition of ‘FREEDOM’ You can see more examples of Elliot’s work on his blog at <http://elliotparker.tumblr.com/>

## Worcestershire County Council Publishes New Guidance For Staff In Education Settings Regarding The Safe and Appropriate Use of Images Of Children



New guidance issued this month has been developed to support the safe use of images in schools and settings. The guidance recognises that there are many occasions when staff and parents will want to take photographs of children. Such occasions include everything from observation, evidence, assessment and curricular purposes in the classroom to award ceremonies, performances, trips and sporting events as part of the extended activities programme. The guidance sets out clear guidelines to balance the use of photography as a source of pleasure and pride with the need to safeguard children and protect the rights of the individual. The full guidance is available to download at: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/Safe%20Images.pdf>



## Recent Serious Case Review, Executive Summary Published

The executive summary of the BW & CW Serious Case Review has now been published and is available on the WSCB website. A summary report prepared by Adrienne Plunkett, Chair of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board's Serious Case Review Sub Group is available to download at: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/SCR%20Report%20BW%20&%20CW.pdf>

In a Press Release issued at the time of the publication of the Serious Case Review findings, Hilary Thompson the Independent Chair of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board said:

"Our thoughts continue to be with this family. Every death and near death are tragedies. This was a devastating event for the family including for a surviving child. It is important that we learn from this case in order to better equip professionals to intervene and protect children where that is possible ... As Independent Chair I know that since this tragic event considerable work has been undertaken to improve safeguarding services by all partners involved. Following a recent inspection of safeguarding, WSCB has led a review of the thresholds used to determine when action should be taken. We can nonetheless never be complacent and the WSCB will continue to monitor the progress of the recommendations."

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) were established to ensure that lessons are learned from the cases of children and young people that will protect and keep children safe in the future. SCRs bring together the records of all agencies that have had involvement with the child or family. An overview report is produced which provides a complete picture of events. This report contains analysis of contact with the child and family and decision making, it draws conclusions and makes recommendations.

More information about Serious Case reviews can be found at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/safeguarding-children/serious-case-reviews.aspx>



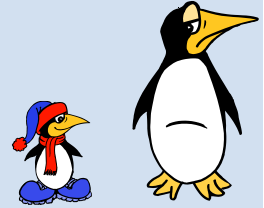
## WSCB INFORMATION SHARING AND THRESHOLDS GUIDANCE LEARNING EVENTS

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board has recently hosted a number of locality based multi-agency learning events for front line practitioners and managers. The events focus on Information Sharing practice and the application of the Thresholds Guidance. The initial three events were so heavily subscribed that a further three events are planned for the New Year. There remains a small availability of places on two of the events. Further details can be obtained by emailing [WSCBtraining@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:WSCBtraining@worcestershire.gov.uk)





## SEASONAL SAFETY MESSAGES



### About Ice Safety

Over the last decade, 20 people have drowned after falling through ice on frozen lakes or waterways, and many others have been rescued and resuscitated. Because of their inquisitive nature, children are especially at risk. The most important message to give to children and families is to keep clear of iced-over ponds and lakes. Links to the RoSPA Ice Safety Advice can be found on the Child Accident Prevention Trust website: go to <http://www.capt.org.uk/year-planner/ice>

### Christmas Safety



Christmas is a great time for children and there are lots more things to be aware of both around the home and when visiting relatives and friends. Why not use this opportunity to promote key safety messages to children and families around Christmas safety? New toys, Christmas decorations and lots of food and drink means that toy safety and falls are things to be more vigilant about.

CAPT has lots of information and advice for keeping safe over the festive period go to <http://www.capt.org.uk/year-planner/christmas>

### The Safe Network: Safeguarding children and young people

The Safe Network provides safeguarding information related to activities outside the home – from after school art clubs to weekend reading groups. The organisation is jointly managed by the NSPCC, Children England and Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), and was created as a result of the Government's Staying Safe action plan. The Safe Network's website contains practical safeguarding information and advice for community and voluntary groups, as well as training events, and an enquiry service and community-based support. <http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

### Your Child's Health & Safety - Direct Gov

This site offers lots of advice, resources and links to issues around child safety including: common parental concerns; internet safety; road and travel safety; young people's health; young people and alcohol; and, children's safety in the home. Go to <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealthandsafety/index.htm>

### Road Safety For Children - Child Alert

Did you know that over 130 children die and more than 4,500 are seriously injured whilst walking or cycling on UK roads every year? More than double those who die in car crashes.

The Government have ambitious targets to reduce the number of children who die or are injured by 50%. For useful resources, advice and tips visit the childalert web site at [http://www.childalert.co.uk/article.php?articles\\_id=267](http://www.childalert.co.uk/article.php?articles_id=267)

# WSCB Safeguarding Training Pathways

During 2011 WSCB developed its training pathway which is now available via our new website; <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/safeguarding-children/information-for-professionals/training-opportunities/training-pathway.aspx>

The pathway provides a range of learning opportunities for the 8 'Target Groups' outlined in the current statutory guidance. These courses are further supported by a range of additional learning opportunities supported by inter-agency workshops, E learning and the Boards communications events. Further details of how to access WSCB training are contained in the ' How to book your training section of the website.

## WSCB Training Pathway

**Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategic Leadership**

**Target Group 8**

**1 Day: Inter Agency Training**

**Safeguarding and Organisational Governance**

**Target Group 7**

**½ Day: Single/Joint Agency Training**

**Promoting Effective Practice to Protect Children and Young People**

**Target Group 5 & 6**

**1 Day: Inter Agency Training, plus mandatory & optional workshops**

**Protecting Children & Young People - Assessment and Intervention**

**Target Group 4**

**1/2 Day: Inter Agency Training, plus mandatory & optional workshops**

**Working Together to Protect Children and Young People**

**Target Group 3**

**1 Day: Inter Agency Training or Single Agency Training Alternative**

**Awareness of Abuse and Neglect - Induction Level Training**

**Target Group 1 & 2**

**E Learning or Single Agency Alternative**



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