

# Public Document Pack

## AGENDA

### Kent County Council

## THE KENT - CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD

**Wednesday, 12th March, 2008, at Swale 2 -  
Sessions House**

*(free parking very close by in public car park)*

Ask for: **Tom Phillips**

**Starting at 2.00 pm. Doors open at 6:00pm**

Telephone **01622 696897**

- A1. **Substitutes**
- A2. **Declarations of Members' Interest relating to items on today's agenda**
- A3. **Minutes of Board Meetings held on (a) @ and (b) @** (Pages 1 - 16)
- A4. **Chairman's Announcements**
- A5. **Integrated Processes - presentation** (Pages 17 - 28)
- Nikki Patient, ContactPoint Project Manager, will give a presentation and answer Members' questions. Total time 45 minutes.
- A6. **The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and the Independent Safeguarding Authority** (Pages 29 - 48)
- A7. **Meetings with Care Leavers** (Pages 49 - 50)

### **Date Not Specified**

### **County Councillors for Electoral Divisions within the Sevenoaks District:**

**Ann Allen (Chairman)** -  
**Martin Vye (Vice Chairman)** -  
**Valerie Dagger** -  
**David Hirst** -  
**Maureen Newell** -  
**Tony Robinson** -  
**John Simmonds** -

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## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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### CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's Champions Board held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday 26 September 2007.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mrs V J Dagger, Mrs M Newell, Dr T R Robinson and Mr M J Vye.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Arthur, Head of Children's Safeguards Service, CFE; Mrs K Lambourn, Policy and Performance Manager, Child Protection, CFE; and Miss T A Grayell, Democratic Services Officer.

### UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

**12. Membership**  
*(Item A1)*

The Chairman reported that Dr T R Robinson and Mr J D Simmonds had joined the Board in place of Mr M C Dance and Mr C T Wells.

**13. Election of Vice-Chairman**  
*(Item A3)*

The Chairman proposed, and Mrs V J Dagger seconded, that Mr M J Vye be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

*Agreed without a vote*

**14. Minutes**  
*(Items A5(a) and (b))*

(1) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2007 are correctly recorded and they be signed by the Chairman. The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2007 are already approved and signed, and are included for reference only.

(2) There were no matters arising.

**15. Kent Multi-Agency Public Protection (MAPPA) Update**  
*(Item B1 – Presentation by Detective Inspector Derek Cuff, Operations Manager, Public Protection Unit, Kent Police)*

*The slides used in this presentation are attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.*

(1) DI Cuff presented a series of slides which set out the history, purpose and process of the MAPPA system, including the categories and levels of risk under which offenders are listed, and how each level is handled.

(2) Arising from DI Cuff's presentation, and in response to questions raised by Members, the following points were highlighted:-

- (a) Kent is particularly vigorous at mapping violent offenders.
- (b) The Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR) includes more than those who are convicted of offences. Potentially dangerous individuals are also included.
- (c) Internet offending is a huge area of current concern. Kent has the UK's most sophisticated digital computer system which helps trace and identify internet offenders, but police forces in the UK still need to keep up with the fast-changing technology and offenders' knowledge of it.
- (d) Members expressed grave concern at there being no Government-set performance indicator for child protection work. It was suggested that the Board write to the Minister for Children and Young People, Beverley Hughes MP, to lobby for a performance indicator to be introduced.
- (e) Young offenders were also a growing problem for the police and Children's Social Services, as young offenders may not qualify for help/treatment until and unless they are convicted. While on remand, they have Looked After Child (LAC) status, but do not keep this once sentenced, unless they were LAC at the time of the offence. They are then classified as Children in Need, and Children's Social Services, together with the Youth Offender Service, work with them and put together a plan for the time of discharge. While in custody they are placed where services are best able to meet their needs, or where a place is available, and this is sometimes far from their families.
- (f) Board Members offered to help, in whatever way possible, with publicity for DI Cuff's team's child protection campaigns.

(3) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the excellent presentation be noted, with thanks; and
- (b) the Board writes to the Minister for Children and Young People to express its grave concern that no Government-set performance indicator for child protection work exists, and lobby for one to be introduced.

**16. Children's Safeguards Unit Annual Report (for the 2005/2006 Academic Year)**  
*(Item B2 – Report by Director of Strategy, Policy and Performance)*

(1) Mr Arthur introduced the Annual Report and answered questions from Members. Points highlighted in the presentation and in discussion were as follows:-

- (a) Information from schools, regarding allegations against staff, and investigations, is gathered by the Unit and shared with Clusters via the Local Education Officer. Although anonymous, all information is still handled with great care and sensitivity and has a very limited circulation. It is necessary to gather such information to feed into the Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB), and a designated officer takes on this responsibility. Local authorities also have a duty to provide the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) with annual data.

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- (b) All Kent schools, including special and residential schools, now undertake retrospective Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on all staff employed before 1991, as well as on all new appointments. Mr Arthur explained that he chairs the KSCB 'Safe Recruitment and Employment Sub Group' the membership of which also includes the previous speaker, DI Cuff, and Mrs Lambourn. This group is responsible for developing safe recruitment standards in all agencies that work with children on behalf of the KSCB.
- (c) Mr Arthur explained that an allegation of physical abuse can very easily arise from an incident in which a member of staff has had to physically restrain pupils involved in a fight. The intervention may well follow exactly the careful guidelines which are set down for staff, but an aggrieved pupil, whose perception of the incident was different, might tell their parents, who then complain directly to the police. The majority of cases, when investigated, are found to be unsubstantiated, as staff in most cases had acted appropriately to keep a situation safe. A way of reducing the number of parental complaints is for staff to contact parents and inform them of the incident when it happens and send home a copy of the incident report.

(2) Members shared officers' concerns about two issues:-

- (a) An increase in the number of recorded incidents of sexual behaviour by children against other children, whether these happen at home or in school. It is known from work in progress with other agencies that there are currently 52 children of school age on the Sex Offenders Register. The Kent Safeguarding Children Board will shortly be considering a report on the issue, which will set out the nature of the problem and what measures, including staff training on managing risk, are being put in place to address it. A difficulty around this issue is the need to distinguish between natural adolescent experimentation and inappropriate, threatening or coercive behaviour.
- (b) There is an ongoing problem in following up investigations on supply teachers against whom allegations may have been made in previous placements. Supply agencies do not have a disciplinary procedure and, as supply staff can move very easily from agency to agency, they are very difficult to trace. These concerns have been fed into the DCSF as a national response is required.

(3) RESOLVED that the report and the presentation be noted, with thanks, and the development of retrospective Criminal Records Bureau checking for all school staff, set out in paragraph (1)(b) above, be welcomed.

#### **17. Kent Child Witness Service**

*(Item B3 – Report by Denzil Peach and Maureen Utting of the Kent Child Witness Service)*

(1) Mr Peach and Mrs Utting introduced the Kent Child Witness Service (KCWS) and outlined its origins and role, and the framework within which it operates. They also showed a video which followed a young woman attending Court to give evidence. Arising from their presentation, and in response to questions from Members, the following points were highlighted:-

- (a) KCWS was established in 1997 by a partnership of Victim Support, the Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and Social Services, in response to an

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- identified need to support children who need to attend Court proceedings to give evidence. These partners still serve together on KCWS's committee.
- (b) The service originally supported 100 children when it was established, but has grown since to help many more. Many attend open court, but 'special measures' (for example, giving evidence using a video link or from behind a screen) is increasing now. 750 children used the video link service to give evidence in 2006/2007.
  - (c) The service works with young people aged 17 years and under, attending both Magistrates and Crown Courts. The service is totally impartial and works with prosecution and defence witnesses. The process followed is exactly the same for each.
  - (d) The role of the KCWS, once a child has been referred to them by the Police, is to prepare that child to attend Court by visiting them at home and talking to them about the procedure, using literature appropriate to their age group and offering a pre-trial familiarisation visit to the Court premises.
  - (e) There are very definite guidelines within which the service has to work, to avoid compromising the case and its own role and integrity:-
    - (i) when visiting a child at home, a volunteer cannot discuss the case or the child's experience;
    - (ii) the volunteer cannot coach the child in the evidence they will be giving;
    - (iii) volunteers have to have an understanding of the rules of evidence and be aware of what behaviour might contaminate or compromise that evidence;
    - (iv) a volunteer must not transport the child/family to court as this may leave the way open for suggestions that the case might have been discussed on the way;
    - (v) volunteers report back to KCWS on their visit to a child and specify what was covered in it. They stick closely to the set literature and standard procedures and approaches.
  - (f) In visiting a child at home, KCWS volunteers have the opportunity to build a relationship with the family. The family is often more anxious about the Court appearance than the child.
  - (g) All KCWS staff and volunteers are CRB checked. Volunteers who wish to work with the service must already be experienced Victim Support volunteers. Volunteers are given 7 days' core training, as a Community Services Volunteer or Witness Service Volunteer and those wishing to become KCWS staff receive a further 2 days' training arranged and delivered by Kent Police.
  - (h) Courts are able to offer some flexibility over how a young person presents their evidence. A request for 'special measures' should be made 28 days in advance of the hearing date, although this can be challenged if it is thought unreasonable, and may not ultimately be granted by the judge or magistrates.

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Unfortunately, at present, giving evidence using a video link would mean the defendant could see the child, but giving evidence from behind a screen in the court room means the defendant could not see the child. The two parties are kept separate throughout the proceedings. Special measures would mean an interpreter or British Sign Language signer can be arranged to assist a child if needed. A child with learning difficulties can have their caseworker present if both parties in the case agree.

(2) Members were most impressed with the care taken to support and accommodate a child through the Court process, the excellent work of the KCWS staff and volunteers, and the quality of the preparative literature. Members were also offered the opportunity to visit the Court to see the facilities available and arrangements made for child witnesses.

(3) RESOLVED that the excellent presentation, video and information given in response to questions be noted, with thanks, and Kent Child Witness Service staff and volunteers be commended on their excellent work.



## Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

### History of MAPPA

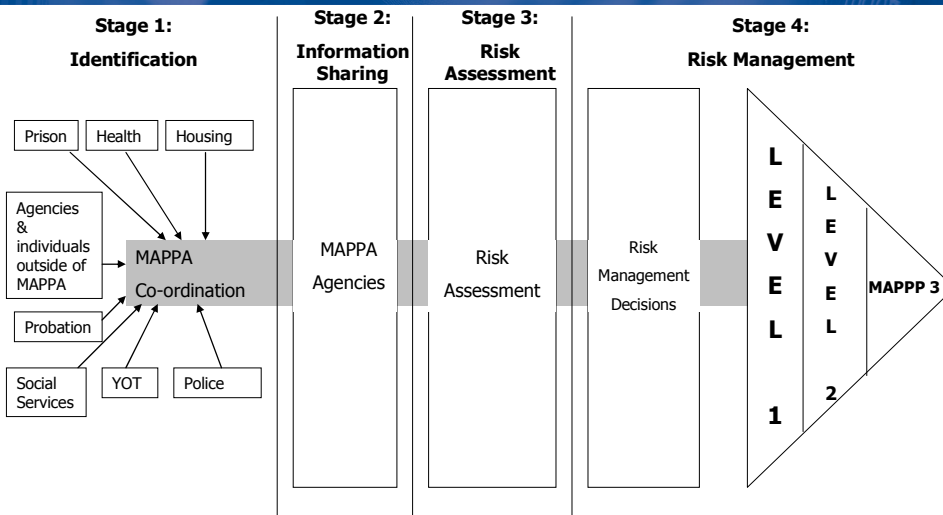
- **Sex Offenders Act 1997**  
Registration of convicted Sex Offenders
- **Criminal Justice & Courts Services Act 2000**  
**Sections 67 and 68**  
MAPPA on Statutory Basis – Responsible Authority  
Includes Violent Offenders sentenced to 12mths plus
- **Criminal Justice Act 2003**  
Responsible Authority and duty to co-operate
- **Sexual Offences Act 2003**
- **ACPO Guidance on Protecting the Public: Managing Sex Offenders & Violent Offenders (2006)**

## Purpose of MAPPA

- Identify who may pose a risk of harm
- Share relevant information about them
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Find ways to manage that risk effectively, protecting victims and reducing further harm



## The Four Core Stages of MAPPA



## Categories of Offenders

MAPPA works on a clear categorisation process:-

<b>Category 1</b>	<b>Category 2</b>	<b>Category 3</b>
Registered Sex Offenders	Violent Offenders <i>or</i> other Sex Offenders who are on licence to the Probation Service	Other Offenders who have a previous conviction for an offence <i>and</i> who pose a risk of serious harm to the public



## Levels of Management

<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>LEVEL 2</b>	<b>LEVEL 3</b>
<b>Single Agency Management</b>	<b>Risk Assessment Meetings</b>	<b>Multi-Agency Public Protection Meetings</b>
An offender who poses a low to medium risk Level 1 – risk management is used when the risk posed by the offender can be managed by one agency without significantly involving other agencies	An offender who poses a medium to high risk Level 2 – risk management is used where the active involvement of more than one agency is required but where either the level of risk or the complexity is not so great as to require a referral to Level 3	One of the 'critical few' Level 3 – risk management is for those offenders who pose the highest risk of causing serious harm to the public and whose management is complex



## Levels of Risk of Harm

- **Low:** no significant, current indicators of risk of harm (ROH) – **Level 1** registered sex offenders
- **Medium:** there are identifiable indicators of ROH. The offender has the potential to cause harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances e.g failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown drug or alcohol misuse – **Level 1**
- **High:** there are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious – **Level 2**
- **Very High:** there is an imminent risk of serious harm. The potential event is more likely than not to happen imminently and the impact would be serious – **Level 3**



## Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR)



ViSOR is a national database accessible to all Police Forces in England and Wales and more recently Scotland and Northern Ireland. It provides up to date information on the names, addresses and description etc, of all registered sex offenders. It includes images, risk assessments and minutes of all MAPP meetings. It went live in Kent on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2005.



## Issues

- Pro active management of sex offenders
- Intelligence – SIU Analysts
- Internet offending
- Missing Registered Sex Offenders
- Management of Potentially Dangerous Persons (PDPs)
- Growth of violent offenders
- Young offenders



- 
- Mental Health
  - Housing
  - Approved Premises
  - Media
  - Disclosure



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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**CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's Champions Board held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, on Wednesday 5 December 2007.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mr M J Vye (Vice - Chairman), Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D A Hirst, Mr I T N Jones, Mrs M Newell, Dr T R Robinson and Mr J D Simmonds.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Brightwell, Policy and Performance Manager (Looked After Children/Leaving Care), CFE; Mr J Mitchell, Joint Commissioning Officer, CFE; Mrs J Doherty, Policy Manager, Central Policy Unit, CED; and Miss T A Grayell, Democratic Services Officer.

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS****18. Minutes**

*(Items A3 (a) and (b))*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2007 are correctly recorded and they be signed by the Chairman. There are no matters arising. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2007 are already approved and signed and are included for reference only.

**19. Dates of Future Meetings**

*(Item A4)*

(1) The Board noted the dates reserved for its meetings on 2008, as follows:-

Wednesday, 12 March 2008 (Child Protection)  
Wednesday, 21 May 2008 (Looked After Children)  
Wednesday, 24 September 2008 (Child Protection)  
Wednesday, 3 December 2008 (Looked After Children)

(2) These meetings will all start at 2.00 pm at County Hall.

**20. Chairman's Announcements**

*(Item A5)*

(1) The Chairman reported and welcomed the news that Beverley Hughes, MP, the Minister for Children and Young People, had made an announcement on reducing the placement of young people outside their home area, a move for which the Board had lobbied.

(2) The Chairman and Democratic Services Officer reported the receipt of enquiries and compliments from other councils on the forward-looking way in which Kent had established its Children's Champions Board four years ago, and on the work it had undertaken since. Other councils admired Kent's pioneering approach and were now starting to look at establishing similar boards. This was a great tribute to the work that Members and officers had put into the Board. The Democratic Services Officer would send the enquirers copies of the Board's past Minutes and reports to illustrate its work.

(3) There followed a brief discussion on how the Board could spread the message about its work to other KCC Members. For example, the Board had tried to encourage the Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee to show the presentation it had seen on child pornography. Although this issue had since been taken forward and was being addressed in other ways, it remained an area of concern for the Board and would continue to be monitored.

**21. Presentation – Summary of Kent Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2006/07**

*(Presentation by Ms P Davies, Manager, Kent Safeguarding Children Board)*

*(The slides used in this presentation **will be** attached to these Minutes at Appendix 1)*

(1) Ms Davies presented a series of slides which set out the background, development and structure of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board and its progress since its establishment. She answered a number of questions from Members. Points arising from the presentation and in response to questions, were as follows:-

- (a) The KSCB had a broader remit and more statutory responsibilities and powers than the former Kent Child Protection Committee;
- (b) staff hosted by KCC but seconded to work with the KSCB were accountable to the KSCB rather than to the KCC;
- (c) the relationship of the KSCB to the Children's Trust Board would become clearer as the Children's Trust is developed. The two Boards may have some common membership;
- (d) Members were concerned that the Child Protection ("at risk") Register would cease to exist from April 2008, but were assured that, although the register itself would no longer exist, every child considered to be at risk would have a Child Protection Plan. The KCC had no choice about discontinuing the register – it was a Government directive.
- (e) Members were concerned that the broader remit and responsibilities of the KSCB may lead to resources being spread too thinly;
- (f) some agencies who were partners on the KSCB did not currently contribute any resources to its operation. KCC could press those who did not currently contribute to do so; and
- (g) the KSCB would shortly be producing a three year plan and this would be shared with the Children's Champions Board.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the content of the presentation, and the information given in response to questions, be noted, with thanks;
- (b) the KSCB's three year plan be reported to the Children's Champions Board, along with regular updates on the KSCB's work; and
- (c) the County Council press the KSCB's partner agencies who do not currently contribute resources to do so.

**22. Education Provision for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People**

*(Item B1 – Report by Director, Commissioning (Specialist Services))*

*(Ms J Robson, Head of Language and Traveller Achievement Service, Minority Communities Achievement Service, and Ms K Goodman, Head of Operations, Service for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, were in attendance for this item)*

(1) Ms Robson and Ms Goodman presented the report and highlighted the key challenges facing Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People (UASCYP). Points arising from the presentation, and in response to questions from Members, were as follows:-

- (a) Kent has a particularly high percentage of UASCYP who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) – 30% compared to the national average of 8%. However, Kent had a good record of the number of UASCYP gaining admission to university;
- (b) 45% of this year’s arrivals had received two years or less of formal education in their home country;
- (c) it was vital that UASCYP are kept engaged and found useful occupation to help them achieve some stability and recover from the emotional trauma of leaving their home country;
- (d) services for UASCYP were currently underfunded by approximately £4m per annum, and KCC was lobbying Central Government to address this. This underfunding related only to the Social Services aspect of providing service – the education aspects of the service were funded separately;
- (e) addressing the needs of UASCYP for appropriate training to gain employment was a complex challenge, and KCC was working with Colleges of Further Education, the Learning and Skills Council, Key Training Services and others to reduce the percentage of those who were NEET. Vocational training was known to be more successful if good competence in the English language was gained first, or at least was developed alongside vocational training. Training in the English language alone has been proven to be insufficient to engage young people as college-based academic courses do not suit all;
- (f) the high percentage of NEET could lead to a high percentage of unemployed young people and the danger of them becoming dependent on a benefits culture.

(2) **RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) the information given in the report, and in response to questions, be noted, with thanks;
- (b) the work being undertaken, in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council, Colleges of Further Education, Key Training Services and other partners, to address the training issue, be acknowledged; and
- (c) a further update be made to the Children’s Champions Board in six months’ time.

**23. Kent’s Pledge for Children and Young People in Care**

*(Item B2– Report by Managing Director, CFE)*

(1) Mr Brightwell introduced the report and set out the work undertaken in drafting the Pledge and the consultation with young people which had been included. He explained that the Pledge had two parts – relating to Kent’s own children and children and young people placed with Kent by other local authorities.

(2) The Pledge would be expensive – costing £2.4m - £2.5m per annum to implement – but approximately £2m of this is expected to come from the Government under the “Care Matters” implementation grant, with the remaining £.5m already identified by the Children, Families and Education Directorate.

(3) Members praised the report and the volume and clarity of information it gave against each element of the Pledge - in particular, the financial implications of each. This was a good model which could be followed when presenting other issues.

(4) Members noted that the Pledge contained issues which the Board had put forward and/or worked on some time ago, and were pleased to see their influence coming to fruition in this way.

(5) Mr Brightwell and Mr Mitchell explained that the benefits of the Pledge enjoyed by children and young people in care could be monitored by regular six monthly reviews, carried out throughout the period of care and beyond, up to the age of 21. Finance had been put in place for the mentoring scheme to be continued.

(6) The Pledge would be produced in a range of languages as well as formats suitable for those with learning difficulties and sensory impairments.

(7) RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and Members’ appreciation of the layout and clarity of the Pledge be conveyed to all the staff who had worked on it.

#### **24. Proposals for a Corporate Parenting Workshop**

*(Item B3 – Report by Director, Strategy Policy and Performance, and Director, Commissioning (Specialist Services))*

(1) Mr Brightwell and Mr Mitchell introduced the report and proposed two events in the New Year to build on the success of previous events held by the Board.

(a) Firstly, another meeting with young people leaving care, like the one held in October 2005. To avoid asking young people to miss school or college to attend, this would need to be in an evening and the aim was achieve the meeting in January 2008.

(b) Secondly, another Corporate Parenting event, to which all Members of the County Council would be invited. This would update Members on developments in the role since the last event in September 2006 and could make use of new training materials being produced by the National Children’s Bureau in the new year.

(2) Members welcomed the proposals and agreed that such events were vital in allowing Members to meet young people in an informal setting and hear at first hand their experiences, views and concerns as a way of developing Members’ role as corporate parents.

(3) RESOLVED that the proposals be welcomed and work continue on finding a date for the meeting with care leavers in January 2008 and the Corporate Parenting event in Spring 2008.

#### **25 Updating the Board’s Terms of Reference**

(1) The Chairman reported that the idea of amending the Board's Terms of Reference, to reflect the development of Children's Trusts, had recently been raised. Once the Children's Trusts were more developed and the Board's relationship with them had become clearer, the Board would need to discuss at a future meeting what changes it wished to make to its Terms of Reference, and have the benefit of appropriate officer advice on how this could be undertaken.

(2) RESOLVED that the issue be revisited at future meetings.

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Children's Trust Development

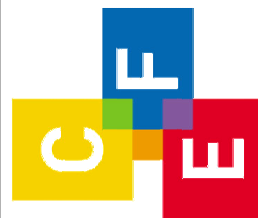
# Engaging you

Children's Champions Board

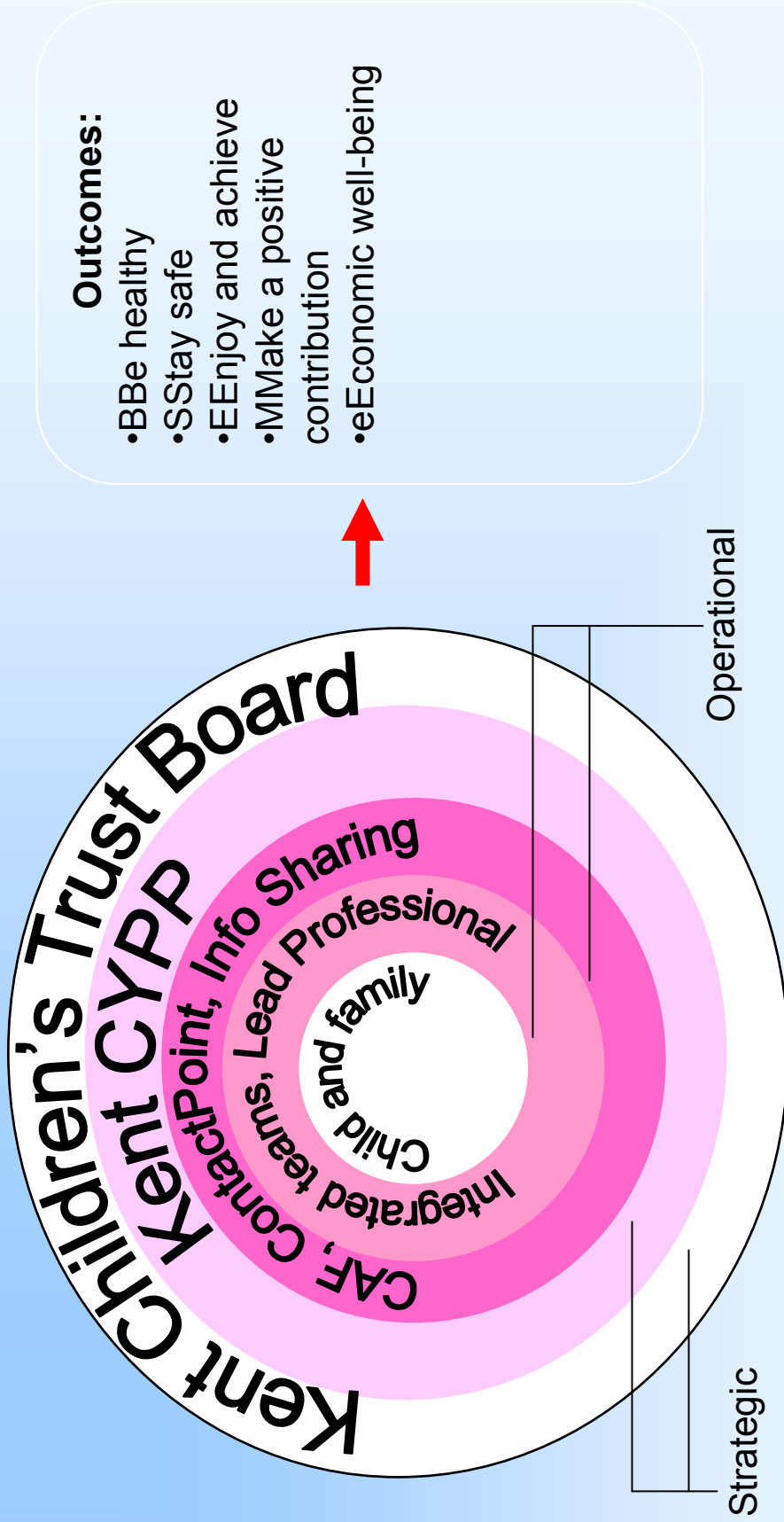
Integrated Processes



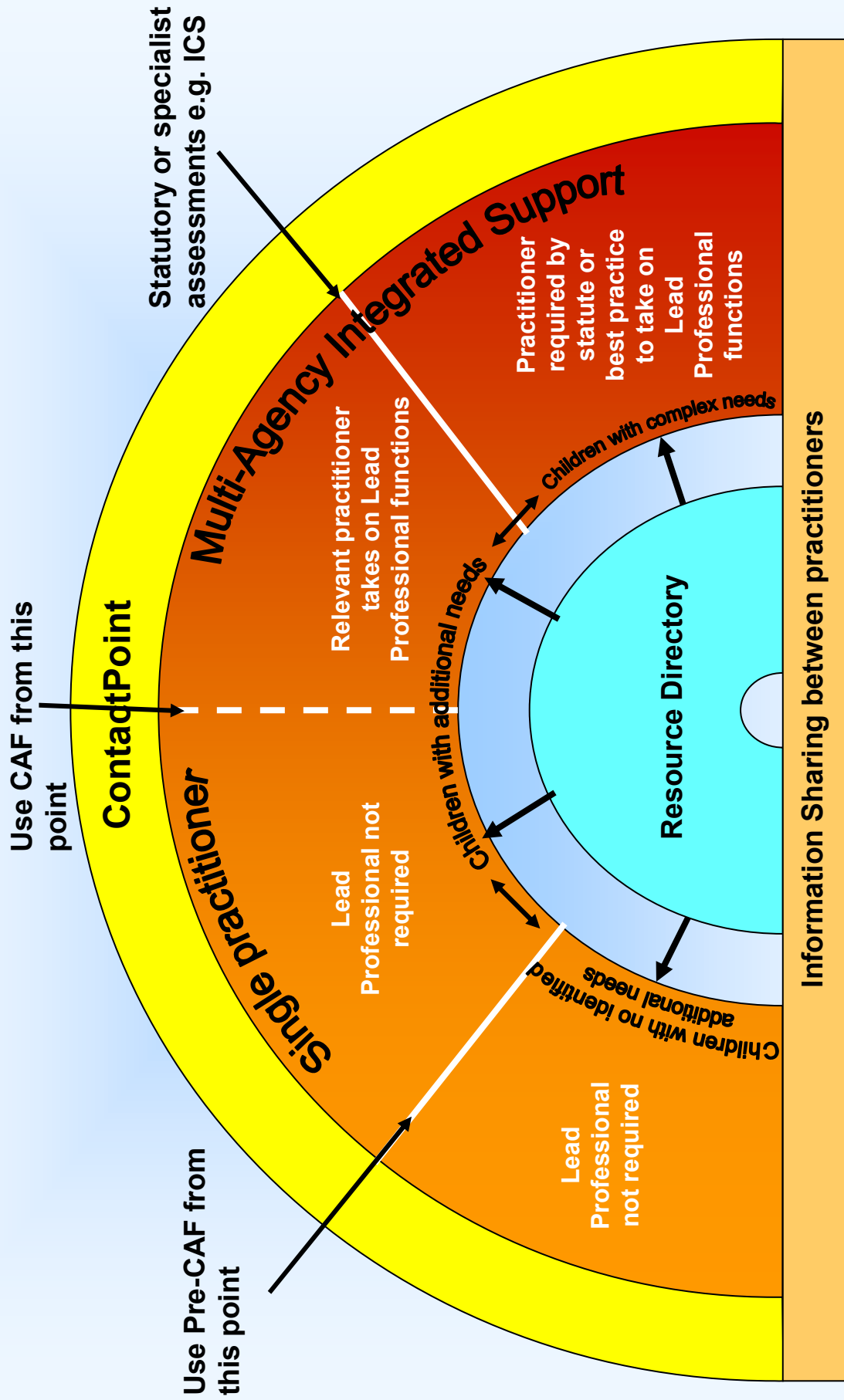
*In partnership with*



# Improving outcomes: the context



# Supporting integrated working: tools and processes



## ContactPoint ... Principles

- ContactPoint will be the quick way to find out who else is working with the same child
- Will store very basic information for all children (0 to 17) in England - no case information
- Data will be drawn from existing national and local systems
- ContactPoint will be available across England by the end of 2008

# ContactPoint: What information will it hold?

## BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Child's Name

Gender

Date of Birth

Address

Parent / Carer  
Contact Details

Unique Identifier

## UNIVERSAL SERVICES

General Practice  
Contact Details

Health Visitor  
Contact Details

Educ/School  
Contact Details

School Nurse  
Contact Details

## ADDITIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Youth Worker  
Contact Details

Social Worker  
Contact Details

SENCO  
Contact Details

Lead Professional  
Contact Details

Sensitive Service  
Contact Details

CAF  
Who, when, where?

CONTACTPOINT WILL NOT HOLD CASE DATA OR ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

# ContactPoint

## Update and What Next

- National timetable revised: main roll out to LAs, including Kent, due from Jan - May 2009 (previously Aug - Oct 08)
- Statutory requirement for organisations to supply data to ContactPoint came into force on 1 August 2007
- Kent Workforce Analysis (WFA) has identified 10,400 potential ContactPoint users. Half have a current eCRB
- 24 main local case management systems identified that will need to feed data to ContactPoint
- District councils participated in WFA and identified homelessness and community safety data sources
- In coming months services need to review current local policies and processes to include ContactPoint
- Training from Early 2009 onwards

## **CAF . . . Principles in Kent**

- Draft guidelines based on Signs of Safety
- CAF assessment tool not a referral mechanism
- Solution focused approach
- Undertaken with consent
- Holistic and takes account of strengths as well as needs
- Building a working partnership
- Enables information to follow the child

## **CAF . . . How it will help**

- Provide a single method of early assessment
- Reduce duplication and requests for information
- Improve joint working and communication.
- Actively engage children, young people and their families.
- Form a front sheet to specialist assessments
- Provide better evidence-based referrals for advice and support

# Lead Professional . . . Functions

**Vision:** All Children and young people with additional needs who require support from more than one practitioner should experience a seamless and effective service in which one practitioner takes a lead role to ensure that services are co-ordinated, coherent and achieving intended outcomes

## Core Functions

Act as a single point of contact for the child or family

Co-ordinate the delivery of actions agreed by the practitioners involved

Increase coherence in the services received

# **CAF and Lead Professional Update and What Next**

- Pilots to be evaluated in Shepway and Canterbury to inform Kent CAF Process
- CAF Practitioner guidelines for pilots in place
- Lead Professional guidelines for pilot in place
- Policies and processes ready for agreement by Kent Children's Trust Board
- 120 Multi-agency practitioners trained to lead CAF/Lead Professional/Information Sharing Training
- Training Practitioners on CAF, Lead Professional and Information Sharing in localities. Up to 30% of multi-agency practitioners have registered

# Resource Directory Update and What Next

- CFE and Communities Directorate working in partnership to provide a comprehensive online multi-agency directory
- Information on services and activities for children and young people available from April 2008
- Developing in line with CAF and ContactPoint
- Gathering information for the Directory now for

# Contact Information

For further information please contact:

- Nikki Patient, ContactPoint Project Manager:  
nikki.patient@kent.gov.uk
- Mary Burwell, CAF/Lead Professional Project Coordinator:  
mary.burwell@kent.gov.uk

Link to information via Clusterweb:

- [www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/childrenstrust.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/childrenstrust.cfm)



By: Marilyn Hodges - Director, Strategy Policy & Performance

To: Children's Champions Board - 12 March 2008

Subject: **THE SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE GROUPS ACT 2006,  
AND THE INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING AUTHORITY**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This paper provides information on new registration arrangements for those who wish to work with children.

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## Introduction

1. (1) The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 are major elements of a wide-ranging and ambitious programme of work established across Government and jurisdictions of the UK to address the systemic failures identified by the Bichard Inquiry. The legislation was enacted in response to recommendation 19 of the Bichard Inquiry Report which states:

'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 clients'.

- The new Vetting and Barring arrangements will see the introduction of the **Independent Safeguarding Authority**. The ISA will be a panel of experts chaired by Sir Roger Singleton who will assess cases referred regarding individuals who may be unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults.
- The new arrangements will require all staff employed (including volunteers) within the children's workforce and those working with vulnerable adults to register with the new scheme.
- New Vetting and Barring arrangements will see the merging of existing barred lists (POCA, POVA and List 99).
- It will be an offence for a barred individual to seek employment with vulnerable groups. It will also be an offence for any agency to employ a barred individual (unless risk assessment by ISA has approved supervised work in another capacity).
- It is understood that a retrospective review of all staff currently on barred lists, POCA, POVA and List 99, will be undertaken to align unsuitable people within the new arrangements.

- It should be recognised that there will be a huge cost and resource implication for all agencies that employ staff within the Children's Workforce. It is unclear at this stage how this will be funded, but it will involve the registration of up to 11 million people.

(2) The Kent Safeguarding and Children Board's guidance on minimum standards for safe recruitment and employment is attached at appendix one.

## **Recommendations**

2. Members of the Children's Champions Board are asked to note that this scheme is likely to be implemented in Autumn 2008 and will have a resource implication for all agencies.

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*Background Documents:*

None

*Other Useful Information:*

None

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# DRAFT – OUT FOR CONSULTATION



**Kent Safeguarding Children Board**

## Safe Recruitment & Employment

**(Practice Guidance on  
Minimum Standards)**

**October 2007**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Messages from research show the importance of organisations that provide services to children and young people needing to operate recruitment and selection procedures that help to deter, reject or identify people who pose a risk, or are unsuitable to be part of the children's workforce.
- 1.2 Generally the vast majority of people who work with children and young people in paid or voluntary settings have their best interest, safety and welfare at heart. However, inquiries, research, child protection investigations and disciplinary proceedings have alerted us to the fact that some people seek access to children and young people in order to cause them harm. This harm includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, including intimidation and bullying. It is also well known that abused children often do not disclose the harm they have suffered at the time it occurs.
- 1.3 Children and young people can often be abused and harmed when employees fail to act to report abusive behaviour, including professional misconduct. This colludes with and protects the adult rather than safeguarding the interest of children and young people and protecting them from abuse and harm. This is contrary to statutory expectation that defines safeguarding children as everyone's business.
- 1.4 KSCB is committed to raising standards and introducing consistency across the County. It is therefore essential that all organisations sign up to complying with the minimum standards laid out in this practice guidance on safe recruitment and employment of staff within the children's workforce.

## 2. Statutory Duties

- 2.1 Section 13 of the Children Act (2004) places the Local Authority's safeguarding duties in a wider context and onto a statutory footing. KSCB now assumes responsibility for monitoring safeguarding practice in all agencies that work with children, and robust Safe Recruitment policy and practice is a fundamental part of this process in ensuring that people employed to work within the Children's workforce are fit to do so.

*'To fulfil their commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, all organisations that provide services for children, or work with children, need to have in place recruitment and human resource management procedures that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, including arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers'. (Section 2.8 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006)*

This guidance is informed by nationally recommended standards in safe recruitment and employment arising from key reports including;

Choosing with Care (Warner 1992)

People Like Us (Utting 1997)

Protection of Children Act 1999

Lost in Care (Waterhouse 2000)

Education Act 2002

Bichard Enquiry (2004)

Second Joint Chief Inspector Review of Children's Safeguarding (2005)

Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2006)

Working Together To Safeguard Children 2006

- 2.2 District Councils, Local Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trust, Strategic Health Authorities, the Police (including British Transport Police), Probation, YOS, Prison Services & Secure Training Centre and Connexions all have a duty under Section 11 of The Children Act 2004, to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. All agencies must have a named Senior Officer (NSO) who is accountable for this as outlined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)'.
- 2.3 CAF/CASS also has a duty under Section 12 (1) of the CJCSA 2006. Whilst some organisations are not specifically named in their duty to safeguard and protect young people up to the age of 18, they do have a common law duty of care that includes safeguarding children and young people.
- 2.4 Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 also places a statutory duty on schools, Local Authorities and FE Colleges to have policies and procedures in place that safeguard children and promote their welfare. Section 157 of the same Act places a similar duty on Independent sector schools.
- 2.5 The Child Care Act 2006 and the implementation of the Foundation Stage (which effectively replaces the National Minimum Standards in 2008) places a specific duty on Early Years Providers to adopt safe recruitment procedures.

### 3. Parameters of this Practice Guidance

- 3.1 This Practice Guidance is applicable to all agencies in the public, private and voluntary sector that involve services to children. Minimum Standards in safe recruitment must be considered for all appointments of staff (paid or unpaid) including volunteers, committee members, Governors etc., who have:
  - Direct access to children
  - Supervisory or management position relating to staff who have such access
  - Managerial capacity that enables them to influence the formation of services to children
  - Positions that enable access to sensitive or personal information relating to children and families (e.g. Contact Point).
  - Unregulated activity with children and young people (e.g. Language Schools, Sport and Leisure facilities etc.)
  - Employment / Supply agencies that provide staff to work with children.
  - Those responsible for commissioning services for children from the independent and voluntary sector must ensure that organisations have appropriate Safe Recruitment and Employment Procedures in place prior to contracts being agreed.

#### 4. Developing a Safe Culture within Organisations

4.1 All agencies and organisations that work with children have a duty to set standards of safe working practice and raise awareness of safeguarding issues within the workforce. All staff need to receive formal induction training on what constitutes a safe working culture and be familiar with procedures that advise what they should do if they have a concern.

4.2 The Agency / Organisation should have in place:

- **Safe Recruitment and Selection Policy and Protocols**
- **Complaints Procedures**
- **Whistle Blowing Procedures**
- **Procedures for Managing Allegations Against Staff**

Such procedures provide a strategic organisational framework that is both informed and transparent. When understood and put into practice such procedures should prevent the appointment of unsuitable people or help to identify and address the concerns posed by those who show the potential of risk to children and / or question the integrity of the organisation.

#### 5. Safe Recruitment and Selection Policy Statement.

5.1 This should declare the organisations commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and how the recruitment and selection processes applied by the organisation proactively supports this commitment, i.e.

5.2 *“This authority/organisation/school/charity/District Council/PCT is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, engages with children and staff in policy and practice developments, and proactively encourages feedback”*

5.3 It is consistent with national recommended practice for such a statement to include:-

- Publicity Material
- Recruitment Website (where appropriate)
- Job advertisements
- Candidate information packs
- Persons Specifications
- Job description
- Competency Frameworks
- Induction Programmes
- Equality Impact Assessment

5.4 It is also good practice to ensure that each employee’s specific duty of care and personal responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is built into Codes of Practice, Contracts of employment and Disciplinary procedures

## 6. Adverts

- 6.1 Within adverts and information to candidates, reference should be made to the requirement of employees to obtain a Criminal Records disclosure via the CRB, including checks against the statutory lists. This enables candidates to make informed decisions about whether or not they wish to apply.
- 6.2 Adverts should also convey that the employer views safeguarding children as paramount within the organisation's culture.
- 6.3 It is also essential that adverts consider the ethos of the organisation in relation to equality of opportunity and disability discrimination legislation.

## 7. Job Descriptions:

- 7.1 Job descriptions should clearly state the
  - Main duties and responsibilities of the position
  - Clear expectations and post-holders individual responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.
  - Line Management accountability for supervision and performance.

## 8. Person Specifications

- 8.1 Person specifications should
  - Clearly convey the selection criteria against which the applicants ability to do the job will be assessed
  - Contain selection criteria which specify the experience, skills, qualifications and personal qualities required
  - Explain how these requirements will be tested and assessed during the selection process. I.e. by interview, tests, presentations, observation of group exercises etc.
- 8.2 It is vital that candidates are aware that, in addition to their ability to perform duties of the post, selection will consider their personal suitability for the role. This includes their:
  - Motivation and suitability to work with children
  - Attitude towards the use of authority and control
  - Integrity and ability to form and maintain appropriate professional relationships with children
  - Emotional resilience when working with challenging behaviours and situations
- 8.3 It is recommended that the selection criteria, including those relating to personal qualities, should be defined through competencies as this provides increased opportunity to test behaviours and allows for a more objective, evidence-based approach to selection.

## 9. Application Form

- 9.1 It is **not** good practice to accept a CV in place of an application form because this will only contain the information the applicant wishes to present. Application Form allows for a common set of core data from all applications

that can then be used as a part of full vetting and verification of short-listed candidates.

- 9.2 Employers should be aware that serious deliberate fraud of deception in connection with an application may amount to a criminal offence (obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception). Any case involving false declarations on an application form should be reported to the Police and the Secretary of State and could lead to summary dismissal.
- 9.3 Essential information requested as part of the application should include:-
- Full identifying details including current and former names, date of birth, current address and National Insurance Number (verification of identity and CRB disclosure request can be completed on the day of interview).
  - Academic and Vocational qualifications, including awarding body, name of institution and date (original certificates should be evidenced).
  - Full employment chronology (any gaps in service or anomalies to be pursued)
  - All training post education including dates and awarding bodies.
  - Declaration of any family or close relationships to existing employees or employers including councillors, governors, trustees
  - Details of at least two referees. One from current or from most recent employers must be pursued (see Section 11 References)
  - Explanation that the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all convictions, cautions and reprimands including those regarded as 'spent' and 'pending' must be declared. It should require a signed statement that the person is not on List 99, or POCA, is not disqualified from work with children or subject to any sanctions imposed by a regulating body, such as the General Teaching Council (GTC), General Social Care Council (GSCC).
  - A question about any outstanding complaints or investigations against the candidate that could bring the organisation into disrepute at a later stage.

## 10. Vetting Arrangements if Appointed

- 10.1 All organisations should carry out the mandatory check of List 99 and / or the Protection of Children Act List (POCA) for the previously defined posts. (It is an offence to employ an individual who is the subject of a Barring Order). These can be carried out in conjunction with the **Mandatory** enhanced disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).
- 10.2 Research tells us that many individuals who pose a risk to children will not have any convictions or barring orders, so it is essential that robust checks of employment history and references from previous employers are obtained. **Testimonials presented by the candidate should not be accepted.** Any breaks in employment or anomalies should be actively pursued with the individual.
- 10.3 Soft information that may be disclosed as part of the CRB enhanced disclosure (e.g. no conviction but individual was subject of Section 47 investigation) must be discussed with the candidate before an informed decision can be taken on their suitability to work with children. In such circumstances organisations should consult with the LADO and / or their HR provider.

- 10.4 **Overseas Candidates:** Employers need to ensure that overseas candidates have the legal right to work within the UK and verification of identity is essential. Once this has been established applicants from overseas should be subject to checks other than CRB which would not generally show offences committed by individuals whilst living abroad (other than Service Personnel and their families). In these circumstances employers should seek to obtain a certificate of good conduct from the relevant Police force or Embassy in their country of origin and candidates can request such disclosure themselves which should be followed up by employers. Further information regarding the overseas information service can be obtained from [www.crb.gov.uk](http://www.crb.gov.uk) or telephone CRB Enquiry line on 08700 100 450
- 10.5 It should be recognised that the new Vetting and Barring scheme as defined by the Vulnerable Group Act 2006 is likely to be implemented in Autumn 2008 and this will require that all professionals working with children, including those employed in an advisory capacity, will be required to register as part of the scheme. The scheme will be administered by the Criminal Records Bureau

## 11. References

- 11.1 Specific questions regarding conduct and sickness record etc., can be put to previous employers in the form of a questionnaire. It is also good practice to follow up anomalies by telephone with referees directly where appropriate.
- 11.2 Employers also need to consider how they respond to reference request for individuals who have been the cause for concern. References should provide objective verifiable information and not subjective opinions.

## 12. Health

- 12.1 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)' emphasises the importance of anyone appointed to a post involving regular contact with children or young people must be medically fit to do so. It is a statutory duty for employers to satisfy themselves that candidates have the appropriate level of physical and mental fitness **before** appointment. Assessment of physical fitness must also be considered within a context of disability discrimination legislation that allows for reasonable adjustments.

## 13. Face to Face Interview

- 13.1 All interview panels involved in the appointment of staff to the Children's Workforce should have at least one panel member who is knowledgeable and experienced in safeguarding issues and has received training in this area.
- 13.2 A specific question or scenario relating to child protection should be part of the standard selection procedure to assess the candidate's awareness and responses to safeguarding concerns.

## 14. Involving Children and Young People

- 14.1 It is good practice to empower service users and involve them in the selection process once relevant risk factors have been considered and overcome.
- 14.2 Agencies should develop a culture of listening to and engaging in dialogue with children – seeking their views in a manner that is appropriate to their age and understanding.

## 15. Conditional Offer of Employment

- 15.1 Any conditional offer of employment to the successful candidate should be made subject to all satisfactory checks being undertaken **before** they take up the post.
- 15.2 Diligent planning of the recruitment process should prevent individuals taking up their post **prior** to all vetting checks having been completed. **Only in exceptional circumstances should this not be adhered to after risk factors have been considered and no substantial unsupervised access to children has been ensured. Such action should require the written consent of the Organisation's Senior Officer for Child Protection.**

## 16. Single Central Records

- 16.1 All employers should maintain a single centrally held record of staff employed, dates of appointment, qualifications held and evidence of identity checks and vetting undertaken.
- 16.2 Information disclosed as part of a CRB Disclosure must be treated as confidential, however before the disclosure is destroyed in line with CRB guidance, records need to be kept detailing the date the disclosure was obtained, who obtained it, the level of disclosure and the unique reference number. Apart from this being good safeguarding practice, it is also a source of primary evidence for regulatory bodies who will be looking closely at Safe Recruitment Practice (Appendices).
- 16.3 Exemplar Single Central Record of Vetting (Appendices).

## 17. Arrangement for Multi-Usage Settings

- 17.1 Increasingly, agencies are co-locating staff to enable integrated services to be delivered. This will enable the needs of children and families to be met more appropriately and in a more responsive way. Where staff from different agencies work on the same site, there is a need for lines of accountability to be clear, and written agreements of standards and expectations provide a format for achieving this.
- 17.2 Registered early years settings for children under 8 years will apply via Ofsted for CRB Enhanced Disclosures in the case of the registered person and the manager. Ofsted will also request Local Authority checks as part of the 'fit person' process. It is the responsibility of the childcare provider to make sure that any new member of staff, or new people who live or work on the premises are suitable to care for or have regular contact with children. Generally, in order to fulfil this responsibility they will have to apply to the CRB for an Enhanced Disclosure.

- 17.3 Written agreements should be in place between any third party providers or groups using a multi-use site including extended schools. These should set out the respective responsibilities of the Governing body / Accountable body and those of the provider or group, for areas such as health and safety, recruitment, vetting checks and insurance arrangements.

## 18. Complaints Procedures

- 18.1 All Agencies will have Complaints Procedures in place for customers / service users who feel aggrieved about a particular aspect of provision. These generally relate to Service Standards or the conduct of staff. **It is inappropriate for the Complaints Procedure to be used whenever an allegation is made against a member of staff when child welfare is the concern.** In these circumstances specific KSCB procedures informed by 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)' and related guidance should be adopted to ensure effective multi-agency working and transparency.

## 19. Whistleblowing Procedures

- 19.1 All Agencies should have appropriate Whistleblowing procedures as legislated for in the Public Disclosure Act 1998 and encourage an organisational culture that enables concerns about staff conduct in relation to child welfare to be reported without fear of reprisal.
- 19.2 Safeguarding children is everyone's business and all professionals have a duty to share concerns. It is a potential disciplinary offence not to share concerns that subsequently are discovered to have been known, but not reported.
- 19.3 It is recognised that whistleblowing is a sensitive and potentially divisive issue and staff are fearful of getting it wrong. It is therefore essential that all agencies build this into their recruitment and selection policies and include detail and expectations in induction training for new staff.

## 20. Managing Allegations Against Staff

- 20.1 The framework for managing allegations of abuse against people who work with children is set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)'. Appendix 5 of this guidance has helped to inform how KSCB is implementing these procedures. All agencies must have a Named Senior Officer who is accountable for ensuring such processes are in place.
- 20.2 Children can be subjected to abuse by those who work or have contact with them in any and every setting. All allegations of abuse and maltreatment of children by a professional, staff member, foster carer or volunteer must therefore be taken seriously and treated in accordance with consistent procedures. KSCB has responsibility for ensuring that there are effective inter-agency procedures in place for dealing with allegations against people who work or have contact with children, and for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of those procedures.

- 20.3 Indicative time-scales for completing investigations as laid out in Appendix 5 of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)' should be adhered to by all agencies whenever possible.
- 20.4 Detailed guidance can be found in Chapter 11 of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures (2007). Any agency / organisation that has a concern and is not sure how to respond can access advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

## **21 Referral to Registering / Regulatory Bodies**

- 21.1 In addition to employers checking an individual's registration with professional bodies (e.g. GSCC, GTC, GMC etc.) and the relevant barring lists at the time of appointment, referrals also need to be considered following criminal prosecution or serious disciplinary action taken against a member of staff.
- 21.2 Protocols are in place within the statutory agencies (Police and Social Services) for the release of evidence, when appropriate, to help inform agency disciplinary investigations. On the conclusion of the case following an allegation against a member of staff, a view will need to be taken by the employer (after consulting with the statutory agencies and HR advisors) whether a referral will need to be made to the registering professional body and / or the Secretary of State for consideration for inclusion on the barring list (List 99, POCA and POVA).
- 21.3 Referrals need to be made directly to the respective professional registering bodies for consideration in line with their standards and procedures.
- 21.4 Referrals to the Secretary of State for consideration for inclusion on a barred list are currently heard by the Children's Safeguarding Operations Unit at the DCSF. (The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 provides the primary legislation that leads to the implementation of the new Vetting and Barring arrangements in Autumn 2008. The Independent Safeguarding Authority will assume responsibility for merging the existing barring lists under one body and decisions will be taken by a panel of experts established by Sir Roger Singleton.



**Safe Recruitment and Employment  
Self Assessment Audit Tool for Posts Involving Contact with Children and Their Families**

Agency:.....

Lead Officer:.....

Date:.....

<b>Expectation of Minimum Standards</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
1 Does your organisation have a current Policy Statement on Safe Recruitment?						
2 Which of the following checks are undertaken prior to appointment?						
a Identity and National Insurance No.						
b CRB enhanced disclosure						
c List 99 / POCA / POVA						
d Check registration with Professional Body						
e Check qualifications (original certificates						
f Undertake references with current / previous employers						
g Do reference requests ask specific questions on pro forma?						
h Do you accept testimonials						
l Do you employ staff from overseas?						
j If yes what checks do you undertake? Statement of good conduct from Embassy / Police in country of origin?						
3 When placing adverts does your organisation:						
a Convey safe culture?						
b Convey Equality issues?						
c State vetting requirements for the post?						

<b>Expectation of Minimum Standards</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
4 Do job descriptions emphasise the individual responsibility for safeguarding children and promoting welfare?						
5 Does your agency provide child protection training as part of induction and safe working practice?						
6 Is CP training provided on a regular basis, at least bi-annually for Designated Person and 3 years for other staff						
7 Have managers involved in selection process received CP training?						
8 Does CP feature in the interview questions as a matter of course?						
9 Are service users involved in the selection process?						
10 Does your agency seek medical evidence that applicants are fit to do the job?						
11 Does your agency adopt a single central record for easy reference on staff vetting and qualifications?						
12 Does your agency have a complaints procedure in place specifically for children?						
13 Does your agency have a Whistleblowing Policy in place?						
- Is this understood and put into practice?						
14 Does your agency have specific procedures in place for managing allegations of a child welfare nature?						

Expectation of Minimum Standards	Yes	No	Comment	Action Required	Who	When
15 Does your agency maintain a single central record of misconduct cases referred to regulatory bodies (eg List 99, POCA, POVA, GTC etc)						
16 Is your agency accepting in principle to sign up to the KSCB Safe Recruitment and Employment Standards?						
Any other comments						





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By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager  
To: Children's Champions Board – 12 March 2008  
Subject: **MEETINGS WITH CARE LEAVERS**  
Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on a successful recent meeting with young people in care and leaving care, and plans for future work.

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## Background

1. At its meeting on 5 December 2007, this Board agreed to meet once again with young people who are in, or have recently left, the care of the County Council. A previous meeting had been held in October 2005 and had proved very successful. A number of areas of concern had been highlighted by the care leavers at that meeting, and these were addressed at subsequent meetings of this Board and later contributed to the County Council's Pledge to Children and Young People in Care.

## Wednesday 23 January 2008

2. (1) The second meeting took place on 23 January at County Hall. Nine young people aged between 15 and 20 visited County Hall to meet Members and officers. They were accompanied by youth workers and staff from the Upfront Rights Service in Maidstone and Rainer Kent 16+ from across the county.

(2) A note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1. This has been shared with and agreed by all the young people who attended.

(3) This Board has often acknowledged that such events are vital in allowing Members to meet young people in an informal setting and hear at first hand their experiences, views and concerns. Hearing and addressing the issues which arise at these meetings contributes towards the development of Members' role as Corporate Parents.

## Future Meetings

3. (1) It was agreed that Members and officers should meet up again with the same party of young people in six months' time to see what progress has been possible in addressing the issues which arose at the January meeting. Members are asked to support this meeting, which is due in July.

B3:1

(2) One of the challenges in arranging these meetings is that young people cannot be asked to take time out of school or college to attend, so meetings have so far been held in the evenings. In July it is possible that the event could be placed in the summer holiday, and so could possibly be held in the daytime. I welcome Members' views on timing, and will obviously also need to consult the young people on the timing which best suits them.

### **Corporate Parenting**

4. Work also continues on a second Corporate Parenting event, planned for Spring 2008, to which all Members of the County Council will be invited. This will update Members on developments in the Corporate Parenting role since the last event in September 2006, and aims to make use of new training materials being produced early in 2008 by the National Children's Bureau.

### **Recommendations**

5. Members are asked to:-
- (a) note the successful outcome of a meeting with care leavers held on 23 January 2008, and the points which arose;
  - (b) support a future meeting between Members and officers and the same group of young people in the summer of 2008, and give their views on the timing of the meeting; and
  - (c) note that work continues on a second Corporate Parenting event, planned for Spring 2008.

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Background Information: *Nil*