



SAFEGUARDING CROYDON'S CHILDREN

Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB)

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**"Keeping
Croydon Safe
for Children"**



Hannah Miller
Chair of Croydon Safeguarding Children
Board & Director of Adult Social Services

**Happy New Year to all our readers
from Croydon Safeguarding Children
Board**

Welcome back after the holiday season. The Board hopes that you found our first news letter interesting and informative.

What is the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB)?

The CSCB operates as part of the wider children's trust arrangements, operating within the framework of the Children and Young people's plan. The CSCB has an independent statutory role in bringing together all agencies involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Croydon children.

CSCB – Mission Statement

Croydon Safeguarding Children Board aims to safeguard children by promoting safe practice and early intervention with children/young people and their parents/carers.

As a Board, we aim to act as a model for working in partnership by continually seeking the common ground between all concerned and making decisions on this shared information. It is our view that this represents the best way of keeping the focus on the welfare of children and young people of Croydon.

The CSCB Responsibilities and Functions can be listed as follows:

- Managing the strategic direction of the work of safeguarding children in Croydon across all services
- Co-ordination of the work of safeguarding
- Promotion of the need to safeguard within the community
- Scrutiny of professional practice
- Monitoring and Quality Assurance.
- Oversee Serious Case Reviews
- Work to ensure Best Outcomes for children

CSCB Achievements since October 2005

- We have established a robust, active and highly committed Board
- The Board is well connected within Integrated Children's Services
- There is good attendance at all Board meetings
- The Board has a clear Work Programme
- We have established a broader Safeguarding Agenda
- The Croydon Board has a high profile in London amongst the other Safeguarding Boards



As promised in the last newsletter, this edition will present more information on the work of the Executive Board and the 'engine' of the CSCB – the Policy and Practice Group.

The Executive Board

- The Executive meets a minimum of 6 occasions each year.
- The Executive Group meetings are chaired by Hannah Miller, chair of the CSCB and Director of Adult Social Services. The Chair is also co-opted onto the Corporate Parenting Panel and is a member of the Children's Trust Partnership Board.
- The CSCB Executive Committee consists of first and second tier managers with the capacity to commit resources and make policy decisions from a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies.
- The CSCB Executive also leads a number of reference groups, aimed at engaging members of the independent and community sectors.
- Any three members of the Executive may request a meeting of the Executive.
- The Executive also commissions the Annual Business Plan and will forward it to the DCSF (formerly the DfES), as required
- The Executive is responsible for commissioning and agreeing all procedures, policies, protocols and other documents created on behalf of the CSCB

The Executive Board has had oversight and scrutinized the following areas of Safeguarding and Child Protection Work to date:

- Fatal Traffic Accidents involving children up to the age of 18
- Gang Operations in Croydon
- Sexual Exploitation of children and young people
- Anti-Bullying
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Child Exploitation 'On-line'
- Unaccompanied Minors/Trafficking of children and young people into the U.K.
- Faith and Culture – working with Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups
- MAPPA Connection – monitoring the activities of those individuals known to pose a threat to the safety of children and young people
- The 'Hidden Harm' Report and the recommended Agenda for dealing with the problems of safeguarding children where there are issues of alcohol and drug abuse in the family

Executive Board Membership

- Chairperson - Director of Adult Social Services
- Director: Children Young People and Learners
- Assistant Director CYPL
- Assistant Director, Development & Care CYPL
- Head, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (SLAM)
- Director of Community Health Services Croydon PCT
- Representative of the local Learning Skills Council
- Director of Nursing - Mayday NHS Healthcare Trust
- Borough Commander Metropolitan Police
- Assistant Chief Officer, London Probation Area, Croydon
- Deputy Borough Director, Integrated Mental Health Services (SLAM)

- Service Manager CAFCASS
- Deputy Council Solicitor for Legal Services
- Director of Environment, Culture and Public Protection
- Chief Immigration Officer Immigration & Borders Agency
- Every Child Matters Facilitator CYPL
- Assistant Director NSPCC

Officers of the Board

- Children's Quality Assurance Manager
- Child Protection Manager; Croydon Primary Care Trust
- Designated Doctor (Croydon PCT)
- Designated Nurse SLAM
- CSCB Learning and Development Manager
- CSCB Business Manager
- Manager for safeguarding children and child protection Croydon PCT



The Policy and Practice Group

The 'engine' to the Board develops and reviews local safeguarding protocols in response to legislation and guidance and ensures they are embedded in multi-agency practice. This Group is currently chaired by the Divisional Director Children's Services.

The purpose of the Policy & Procedure Group is to ensure that:

- Staff in Croydon's statutory and voluntary agencies and community groups have access to the necessary range of multi-agency Safeguarding Children and Child Protection policies and procedures;
- Local policies, procedures and protocols produced by the Safeguarding Board and individual agencies and groups, are in keeping with child care law and guidance and the London Child Protection Procedures.

Tasks include:

- Being responsible for the creation and review of multi-agency Safeguarding Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Standards
- Make recommendations about the need for other activities, for example, the creation of Reference Groups.
- Provide assistance to local agencies to ensure compliance with the Croydon Safeguarding Board approach in safeguarding documentation
- Report to each meeting of the Safeguarding Board Executive Committee.

The Policy and Practice Group has to date led in Safeguarding and Child Protection work to develop local protocols in the areas scrutinised by the Executive Board as listed on the previous page. In addition work has been completed on the following areas:

- Faith and Culture – working with Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups
- The local launch of the London Safeguarding Children Board Procedures for safeguarding children who are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation
- Libraries Child Protection Policies and Procedures document

Policy & Practice Group Membership

- Representatives of Children Young People and Learners
- Representatives of Health Services
- Representative of the Borough police
- Representative of the Police Child Protection Team;
- Representative of the Probation Service
- Representatives of Croydon Voluntary Action
- Representative of Housing services
- Representative of Connexions
- Representative of the Voluntary & Community sectors
- Representative of the YOT
- Representative of the Youth Service
- Representative of Leisure Services
- CSCB Learning & Development Manager
- CSCB Business Development Manager
- Solicitor for Social Services
- Representatives of other involved agencies
- Manager for safeguarding children and child protection Croydon PCT

If you would like further information about the CSCB you can go to our website www.croydon.gov.uk/lscb

COMING IN THE NEXT EDITION:

**Joint Area Review: How did we do?
Highlight on the Serious Case Panel**