



Multi-Agency Resource Service

helping keep children safe

Issue 5, October 2010

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Significant case reviews

The report into the way in which significant case reviews are conducted across Scotland has now been published and is available on the MARS website and at www.marstalk.org.uk. Ten recommendations designed to improve practice have been made and these will be discussed at the national conference **Making Significant Case Reviews Fit For Purpose?** on Thursday 11 November at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Jointly organised by the SCCPN, MARS, and the University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Centre for

Learning in Child Protection (CLiCP), the national conference will explore the conduct and use of significant case reviews. The delegate rate is £99 and bookings can be made at www.mars.stir.ac.uk or by completing the form in July's MARS/SCCPN newsletter. Please book now if you would like to participate as places are limited.



National CPC Coordinator

The National CPC Coordinator Catriona Laird has now established contact with a number of CPCs, chairs and lead officers, and other people within the child protection community.



Catriona's role is to make contact with the child protection community, be accessible and provide support to any initiatives which link into the national agenda. The National CPC Chairs Forum met recently under its new chair, Chief Constable Colin McKerracher, the chair of the North East of Scotland CPC, and Catriona will be working closely with this forum to take forward the emerging strategic priorities.

The dedicated CPC Coordinator page on our website will be used to highlight the work of local CPCs and provide a central collation point for material. There are also links to a number of CPC websites on our connections page.

Website news

Our website will soon feature a new resources page with a wide range of information including reports, guidance, training materials and research that is helpful to the wider child protection community. We'll keep you posted on further developments but in the meantime please let us know if you have any thoughts about what would be useful or send us material you can share.



MARStalk

MARStalk, our online community, is now fully up and running at www.marstalk.org.uk. Please use this online space to raise issues, ask questions (of us or each other), discuss topics of interest or to post any articles or documents that you think would be of interest.



Working in partnership

The team at MARS is keen to work in partnership with you and your organisation. We are looking for partners across Scotland to work together on cases which might benefit from some extra support.

Please contact Jane Scott at jane.scott@stir.ac.uk for more information.



Making SCRs fit for purpose?

A one-day conference to promote best practice in significant case reviews
Thursday 11 November 2010 ■ Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

SCCPN Scottish Child Care and Protection Network

Connecting research and practice

Issue 5, October 2010

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New Communications and Events Manager



Lianne Smith joined the Scottish Child Care and Protection Network as our Communications and events manager in August. Lianne's main role will be to help build upon opportunities for the network to engage with key stakeholders and to disseminate findings. She will help organise a series of events for practitioners throughout Scotland in the coming year. Lianne will also use her background in media relations to encourage considered coverage of research into child maltreatment and protection in the national, regional and local media.

You can contact Lianne at lianne.smith@stir.ac.uk or on 01786 466300.

Official launch of the Centre for Rural Childhood

With Professor Rebecca Wallace at the helm, the Centre for Rural Childhood, based at Perth College UHI and part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, was officially launched on 8 September. The invited audience consisted of national and international guests, all of whom have an interest in the centre's research agenda which is to tackle issues relating to the rights of children and young people to be safe, heard and treated fairly and equally.

Launch highlights diversity of rural life for children

The launch featured a range of contributions highlighting the diverse nature of life for children living in rural areas. The keynote speech by Justice Renate Winter focussed on the plight of child soldiers and children in Sierra Leone. Justice Winter is the former President, and member of the Appeals Chamber, of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), as well as a former President of the International Association of Youth and Family Court Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM).

Her experience has given her a special interest in the lives of children caught in the aftermath of armed

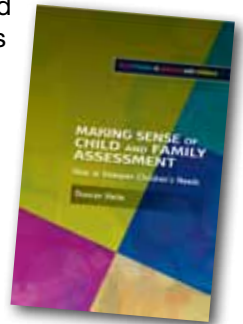
conflict, many of whom come from rural areas. The launch programme also included a short dramatisation of child trafficking, a presentation by children who participate in the Children's Parliament and music recitals from children and students at Perth College UHI.

The centre's particular mission is to focus on childhood-related issues through a rural lens. It will also develop an expertise in research and teaching in which the voice of the child is heard and given due attention in compliance with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989.

For further information please contact Professor Rebecca Wallace at rebecca.wallace@perth.uhi.ac.uk or on 01738 877474.

New book on child and family assessment

Analysing children's needs is a crucial part of assessment in child protection, yet support for practitioners carrying out analysis is often lacking. Duncan Helm, Senior Teaching Fellow, University of Stirling and Programme Director for the Graduate Certificate in Child Welfare and Protection has recently published *Making sense of child and family assessment: how to interpret children's needs*. This book provides best practice guidance on how to analyse the information gathered during the assessment of the needs of children, young people and their families. Professionals working in child welfare and protection roles, such as social workers, health visitors, midwives and teachers, will find this practical guide to analysis invaluable in interpreting needs and outcomes. Published by Jessica Kingsley, it is available in all good book stores and online, priced £20.



Join the network!

Stay informed about the SCCPN's activities by joining our mailing list. Send your contact details to sccpn@stir.ac.uk and we'll make sure you receive the latest updates on news and events.

SCCPN seeks practitioners to review research briefings

Are you interested in research? SCCPN Coordinator Fiona Mitchell is seeking practitioners to peer review early drafts of briefings on a range of issues to help us ensure that they are relevant and useful for practice. Book tokens to the value of £50 will

be provided as an honorarium to reviewers.

If you are interested in reviewing a briefing please contact Fiona at fiona.mitchell@stir.ac.uk for more information.

Making SCRs fit for purpose?

A one-day conference to promote best practice in significant case reviews
Thursday 11 November 2010 • Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

The conference

Recent high profile cases have once again brought into sharp focus the question of how best to review child deaths and serious cases and effect learning from their findings in a way that does not blame or demoralise professionals.

This conference – jointly organised by MARS, SCCPN and the Centre for Learning in Child Protection (CLiCP) – provides professionals with an opportunity to learn from research and practice across the UK and contribute to the development of best practice in Scotland. Drawing on previous work by CLiCP, the conference will explore the processes used in all four UK countries and consider what needs to be done to make them an effective tool for learning. In particular, it will focus on the proposals for developing best practice in Scotland.

The background

Scotland has had national guidance in relation to significant case reviews (SCRs) since 2007. Prior to this each local authority had its own process for reviewing and learning from child deaths and serious cases of abuse and neglect. The Scottish guidance contains principles similar to England, Wales and Northern Ireland but there are also key differences in the arrangements. Reform or discussion about reform of these processes is currently underway in each of the four countries.

Recent developments in Scotland

A working group, chaired by Beth Smith, Director of the MARS, recently considered the options for enhancing skills and the capacity to undertake significant case reviews. Bringing together members with practice and research expertise, the group considered:

- » how can we best inform learning and practice development as a result of reviews
- » what training might be required for review teams, including identifying a skill set for the lead reviewer or chair

- » what practical aids could help local child protection committees undertaking SCRs
- » what would be the scope and purpose of an analysis of reviews undertaken since 2007

This conference will include consideration of the work of the group in addition to subsequent developments in Scotland.

Understanding child death review processes

Learning for practice and policy

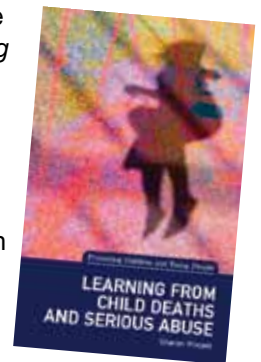
Child death reviews are a key priority for the University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Centre for UK-wide Learning in Child Protection (CLiCP). Work includes a review of high-profile child death and serious abuse cases in Scotland; an analysis of cases for a local safeguarding children's board in England; and a briefing paper comparing child death review processes across the UK. In March 2009, CLiCP hosted the seminar *Learning from review of child deaths and serious abuse cases in the UK* bringing together policy makers and academics from across the UK to identify key themes emerging from reviews.

The speakers

- » **Marian Brandon**
University of East Anglia
- » **Wendy Rose** *The Open University*
- » **John Devaney**
Queen's University, Belfast
- » **Anne Lazenbatt**
Queen's University, Belfast
- » **Sharon Vincent**
CLiCP, University of Edinburgh
- » **Anne Black**, *Independent consultant*
- » **Moira McKinnon**
Glasgow Social Work Services
- » **Philip Raines** *Scottish Government*

Whilst there is a wealth of information on child deaths and significant abuse cases in England and Wales, there is far less published information available in Scotland. *Learning from child deaths and serious abuse* by Sharon Vincent, addresses this gap. Drawing on findings from a review of high profile child death and abuse cases in Scotland, it extracts the key themes

from cases including Caleb Ness, Kennedy McFarlane, Carla Nicola Bone and Danielle Reid, considers what we can learn from such cases and compares the findings with those from research undertaken in other parts of the UK.



Delegate information

The delegate rate has been set at £99 to enable as many professionals working in child protection as possible to attend. There are a limited number of places at the conference so please book early to secure your place. The delegate costs include access to a full programme of seminars and breakout sessions plus all catering. The event content will qualify for CPD and PRTL.

How to book

- » book online at www.mars.stir.ac.uk or www.sccpn.stir.ac.uk
- » fill out the booking form below (enclosing your cheque or purchase order number if applicable) and send it to **MARS Conference 2010, c/o the Publishing Bureau, Suite 102, Baltic Chambers, 50 Wellington Street, Glasgow, G2 6HJ**
- » make a booking over the phone by contacting Andrew Miller on 0141 332 7067

If your payment requires a purchase order number please ensure that you include this on your booking form so that we can send you an invoice.
If you are paying by cheque please make this payable to 'University of Stirling'.

Contact information

Title First name Last name.....
Organisation/authority.....
Email address Contact telephone number.....

Delegate names

Delegate 1 Same details as above

Title First name Last name.....

Job title

Delegate 2 Title First name Last name.....

Job title

Delegate 3 Title First name Last name.....

Job title

Total amount (£99 per delegate): £

Payment information

I enclose a cheque for the total amount (above) made payable to 'University of Stirling'

Please send an invoice to the following address (institutional bookings only)

Title First name Last name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Purchase order number (if required).....

Additional information

Do any of the delegates have any special dietary/accessibility requirements?

*You will be sent a receipt and confirmation once your payment has been processed.
If you have any queries, please phone 0141 332 7067.*

Terms and conditions. Bookings are non-refundable, but delegates may be substituted at any stage. In the event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to a refund of the fees paid. For reasons beyond the control of the organisers it may be necessary to make changes to speakers, content or timing of the programme.