



February 2019

Message from Chris Robson, LSCB Chair

One of the things I believe we need to concentrate on in terms of safeguarding is making sure everyone is engaged. We say safeguarding is everyone's responsibility but for this to really work we need to make sure we listen, consider and act on what our communities tell us.

Last week I presented our annual report to Kingston Council. I sat waiting my turn with a huge smile across my face, I'll be honest it wasn't the thought of explaining an incredibly detailed document to Council Members that was pleasing me, it was the fact that two young people had joined me to discuss the work they had done to create a young person's version of the report. Council Members were engaged, interested, really impressed and listened to their views, asking questions and gaining a valuable insight into what young people thought. I really believe it was a great experience for all concerned. Fancy us 'grown ups' listening and learning from the young people we are trying to keep safe. I know a lot of this goes on across our two Boroughs but if we want to improve, we need to do more of it. Thank you to those of you who are involved, it really does make a difference.

Upcoming LSCB Training

The LSCB offers training courses to all working with children and families. Here is a list of available courses in March;

- LSCB Safeguarding Children: A Shared Responsibility Level 2 (Richmond) - 11/03/2019
- Neglect Toolkit: A Bitesized Session - 15/03/2019
- LSCB Online Safety & Risky Behaviour - 15/03/2019
- LSCB Safeguarding Children: A Shared Responsibility Level 2 (Kingston) - 20/03/2019
- Young People and Emerging Drug Trends (including Xanax) - 20/03/2019
- Child Sexual Abuse (Level 3) - 26/03/2019
- LSCB Safeguarding Children: A Shared Responsibility Level 2 (Richmond) - 30/03/2019

If you work within education and are interested in going on any of these courses and you can apply here: <https://www.afccpdonline.co.uk/earlyyears/courses/bookings/default.asp?curpage=2>

Otherwise you can apply for any here: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/training.php>

Please also book onto our upcoming conference – the "Safe in Faith conference" on the 28th of February in the Kingsgate Church. There is also Neglect to be held on the 14th of March 2019.

You can book onto these conferences from this link: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/training.php>

Calling all Schools and School Nurses

Kingston and Richmond LSCB CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel) has reviewed a number of child deaths which have highlighted that the risk to children from asthma and allergies and the need for plans in Schools / Nurseries. We disseminated learning and resources in May 2017

here: <https://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Kingston%20and%20Richmond%20CDOP%20Newsletter%20May%202017.pdf>

Please complete our survey monkey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2CHNCDS>

Culturally Sensitive Practice

Newham LSCB published this Serious Case Review report about Chris in August 2018 here: <http://www.newhamlscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Serious-Case-Review-Chris-Executive-Summary.pdf>

Chris, was a 14 year old boy, who identified as being of Caribbean heritage. He had a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Conduct Disorder. Chris was shot at close range in Newham and was transported to the Royal London Hospital.

Chris had struggled in school and was close to exclusion, there were serious and significant incidents such as threats to self-harm with scissors and a ligature. Extensive support plans centred on relational, therapeutic, trauma responsive practice were in place from Chris' time at Primary School onwards, which both school staff and his family report he responded well to, and which, overall, had a positive impact on his behaviour and development.

At times the family managed his risk management plan but issues arose as he moved between boroughs in London and information was not communicated. Police reports from April 2016 state that Chris was 'associating with troublemakers'. The officer believed that he may be a target for gangs as he was easily influenced and was associating with gang members. Chris was arrested for a serious sexual assault in July 2016, but was not charged, with no further action being taken.

In July 2016, a direct referral was made by the School to the Youth Offending Team for voluntary support delivered by a Disruption offer. The disruption offer included targeted assessment and intervention for those at risk of youth violence, anti-social behaviour, possession with intent to supply matters and where sexually inappropriate behaviour may be a concern. The family are reported not to have engaged in this offer of support and so the case was closed. Further reports at this time make reference to Chris using his maternal grandfather's address to order the Rambo knife online, along with a bullet proof vest. His grandfather had mental health problems and a poor memory.

From this time until his death, concerns rose further for Chris - he was reported missing by his family, he was involved in assaults, was arrested for carrying acid and a knife, drugs and stolen property. On 4th September 2017, Chris was in Newham in a group of four young people. An unknown assailant passed by in a stolen vehicle and fired multiple shots into the crowd of young people; it is not possible to be sure if Chris was the intended victim of the attack. Chris received a bullet wound to his head and was taken to hospital but died as a result of his injuries the following day.

Importantly, the report said "However, it is important to highlight the potential perception of assessments and interventions being culturally insensitive and contributing to mistrust in professionals". This statement is made to draw attention to the requirement for culturally competent and anti-oppressive practice in safeguarding children from Caribbean families, as well as other Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, and this should be noted. It is acknowledged and understood that culture, and safeguarding concerns, exist in all communities; specific reference is made to the need for cultural competency when safeguarding children of Caribbean heritage as this is how Chris, and his family, identify and during the review process they themselves made reference to some of the cultural and value differences that existed between the family and professional approaches. Best practice acknowledges, explores, reflects on, understands and responds sensitively to these differences".

LSCB Annual Report 2017-18

Our local children and young people have summarised our LSCB Annual report for 2017-18. This was to present at Kingston Council on 13th February. Have a look at their great work and do circulate.

It's here: <https://kingstonandrighmondscb.org.uk/children-young-people.php>

