

Message from Deborah Lightfoot, LSCB Chair

I want to start 2015 by focusing on a particularly vulnerable group of children and young people - young carers. Many of you will be aware that in July 2014 a young man aged 15 committed suicide in Kingston. He was a young carer and the Kingston LSCB is undertaking a serious case review into the circumstances which led up to this sad event. It is really important that all front line practitioners and managers across the safeguarding communities in Richmond and Kingston, continue to reflect upon the quality of their service and learn from their own practice and that of others in respect of this vulnerable group. Over the next few months there will be opportunities to look in more depth at the specific issues relating to this serious case review. Young carers may experience social isolation; a low level of school attendance, some educational difficulty, impaired development of their identity and potential, low self-esteem, emotional and physical neglect and conflict between loyalty to their family and their wish to have their own needs met. It is important that all of the agencies are fully aware of the potential safeguarding needs of young carers and also that any organisations providing services to adults remember to think about who is caring for that adult. As the chair of the LSCB, I have met with young carers and front line practitioners and in this newsletter we highlight responsibilities to this group. In Richmond there are approximately 297 young carers and around 391 in Kingston. This is of course only the number of children that we know about, many young carers remain hidden and their needs potentially unmet.

Young Carers

➔ What is the definition of a young carer?

“Young carers are children and young people who often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. The tasks undertaken can vary according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level and frequency of need for care and the structure of the family as a whole.”

A young carer may do some or all of the following:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care, such as lifting, helping a parent on stairs or with physiotherapy.
- Personal care, such as dressing, washing, helping with toileting needs.
- Managing the family budget, collecting benefits and prescriptions.
- Administering medication.
- Looking after or “parenting” younger siblings.
- Emotional support.
- Interpreting, due to a hearing or speech impairment or because English is not the family’s first language.

➔ Here are some facts...

- A Carer's Trust survey of 295 young carers aged between 14 and 25 has found that only 22% received a formal needs assessment from their local authority.
- Nearly 45% of young carers responding to the survey reported suffering from a mental health problem.

The levels of care may vary amongst some young carers, however despite this, all levels of care can heavily affect children and young people. (Source: www.carers.org/what-carer)

Young carers are entitled to an assessment of their needs (please click on the following link to view

legislation on young carers assessment in the Children and Families Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/section/96/enacted?view=plain>). Within the Carer’s Trust Survey report, various recommendations have been made in order for young carers to receive adequate support and appropriate assessments. To access the full report and recommendations that have been presented please visit http://www.carers.org/sites/default/files/time_to_be_heard_report_final.pdf)

➔ Young Carers, parents and their families: key principles of practice

The Children’s Society have published some supportive practice guidance for individuals that work directly with or commission services for young carers and their families. Please click on the following link to access the guidance:

http://www.youngcarer.com/sites/default/files/imce_user_files/Resources/KeyPrinciples/key_principles_of_practice_with_cover.pdf

➔ Assessments and the Care Act: Getting help in England from April 2015

The Care Act 2014 strengthens the rights and recognition of carers and the Act comes into effect in April 2015. Carers UK have produced a factsheet which provides an overview of the Care Act/Children and Families Act 2014 relating to carers – please click the following link to read the full factsheet - <http://www.carersuk.org/files/section/4630/factsheet-e1029--assessments-and-the-care-act-after-april-2015.pdf>

➔ Young carers service in Richmond

Richmond Carer's Centre provides support to adults and young carers living in the London Borough of Richmond. The service provides information and advice, support programmes for young carers, one to one support, referrals of young carers and their parents to other support agencies. To see the current services that are on offer to young carers or to contact the Young Carers Support Team in Richmond, please visit <http://www.richmondcarers.org/#!young-carers/cb7b>. You can also contact the service on 020 8867 2383 or via email youngcarers@richmondcarers.org. To arrange a young carer's assessment please contact the Single Point of Access in Richmond on 0208 891 7963.

➔ Young carers service in Kingston

Young Carers' Project run by Kingston Carers' Network provide support to young carers living in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The service provides one to one support including information and advice, opportunities to meet other young carers, advocacy and whole family support, activities and regularly drop in services. For further information please visit www.kingstoncarers.org.uk/young-carers/ or contact the Young Carers Team on 020 3031 2754 or via email youngcarers1@kingstoncarers.org.uk. To arrange a young carer's assessment please contact the Single Point of Access in Kingston on 020 8547 5008.

New LSCB Policies and Procedures

A series of LSCB Policies and procedures have now been published:

- ➔ Multi Agency Threshold Document
- ➔ Delayed Reporting - Historical Abuse
- ➔ Organised and Complex Child Abuse Investigations
- ➔ Safer Recruitment
- ➔ Serious Incident Notifications
- ➔ Keeping Children and Young People Safe from Harm, Abuse and Neglect Independent Schools and Private Fostering

Please visit <http://richmondlscb.org.uk/practitioners/> to also see other guidance and policies.

Safer Internet Day!

The UK Safer Internet Day will be on Tuesday 10th February 2015. This year's theme is **let's create a better internet together**. In preparation, the UK Safer Internet Centre has produced resource packs for schools to use with 3-11-year-olds and 11-19-year-olds, as well as the parent and carer pack. These provide lots of ideas to help schools, youth groups and other organisations get involved. Please visit http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2015/education-packs?utm_content=buffer2cef4&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer to access the education packs.

New Kingston LSCB Lay Member wanted



Kingston LSCB is looking to recruit a resident from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames to become a new Lay member on the Board. Please click on the following link http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200236/kingston_local_safeguarding_childrens_board/475/about_the_local_safeguarding_childrens_board/4 to be able to view the job description and application form. For more information please contact Vivienne White (Kingston LSCB Coordinator) – vivienne.white@achievingforchildren.org.uk or 0208 547 4655

Would you like to become the New School Governor member for the Richmond LSCB?



The Richmond LSCB are seeking a School governor representative to join the board. If you are a serving Richmond governor and would like to apply, please contact Maha Gadhur (Richmond LSCB Coordinator) – maha.gadhur@achievingforchildren.org.uk or 0208 831 6323.

Working together to safeguard children: revisions - consultation

The Department for Education (DfE) are seeking views on the revisions to 'Working together to safeguard children' statutory guidance, published in 2013. Please follow link for further information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions>