



**MILTON KEYNES
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD**

**Annual Report
2008 - 2009**

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009

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CHAIR'S WELCOME

This document reports the work of an active year for the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board (MKSCB). Starting for the first time with a full complement of Independent Chair, Business Manager and Administrator, all of whom had taken up their appointments during the course of the previous year, and assisted by a training coordinator and administrator working part-time with the NSPCC, the Board extended its already committed and enthusiastic membership to include all those organisations statutorily noted within Working Together 2006 and to others working with children and young people in Milton Keynes, to ensure its principle aims of coordinating the work of agencies to safeguard and protect children and young people and monitoring their effectiveness are performed. This is both on the Executive Board and just as importantly at Sub-Committee level, which is where the engine of the work of the Board takes place. Organisations enable staff to attend the meetings but members very often work within pressured environments already and give much personal effort to carry out their tasks for the committees; we are grateful to the many members and to the chairs of these groups that make the work of the MKSCB possible.

The Board aims to ensure that everyone should recognise safeguarding children and young people is everybody's business. Working closely with other multi-agency partnerships such as the Community Safety Group and the Domestic Violence Forum is an important way of maximising all of our efforts and reaching wider services whose activities impinge on children and young people. We have forged links with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Group, whose chair sits on our Executive Board, to endeavour to ensure that the safeguarding messages are heard across children, families and communities, that people know where to turn to if they should have concerns or issues regarding the safety of the young and vulnerable, and to support the tenet of sharing information for these ends according to the Council's Information Sharing protocol, endorsed by the MKSCB. The launch in this year of the MKSCB website, with its distinctive logo produced after discussion with young people in Milton Keynes, and of the inter-agency procedures which are placed on the website, were important developments to this end.

This has been the first year for the operation of the Child Death Review Panel and for the Rapid Response Team. All child deaths in Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire, be they around birth, of medical, accidental or non-accidental causes, are reviewed in order to see if there are any patterns or trends and if the circumstances of the death could be avoided. If there are issues of child protection that should be addressed, these will be forwarded to the MKSCB for consideration for a serious case review, which takes place whenever there has been a death or serious injury to a child with inter-agency and serious safeguarding implications. Historically, there have been very few in Milton Keynes. One case in which we were assisting a Local Safeguarding Children Board elsewhere was completed this year and one

local tragic incident was investigated. The work was thorough and required significant energy, stamina, determination and commitment from all who contributed to this endeavour. The Report was rated 'good' by Ofsted. Lessons have been and will continue to be learnt and disseminated from this review, which was its purpose, both for areas of improvement within Milton Keynes, where clear action plans have been set in place by the appropriate organisations, but also from the good practice evidenced by the overview report writer, particularly where organisations have been working together effectively for the safety and welfare of children and young people.

Learning from local and national reviews is incorporated in to the safeguarding training programme that has been provided by MKSCB. Of particular prominence has been the highly publicised report on Baby P and the reports and plans that have stemmed from this. The Board's popular and highly successful annual conference, in which young people from Milton Keynes College played a significant role, provided the opportunity to study further areas of safeguarding including e-safety and bullying, subjects of importance to all the diverse youngsters in Milton Keynes. There has also been a great deal of activity on issues relating to safer employment and allegations management in preparation for the requirements of the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the new vetting and barring scheme which will start to be implemented in the forthcoming year and is relevant to all people working with children and young people.

The new organisations of the Children's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board set up in accordance with the Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2006 are now reaching a level of maturity where it is appropriate to review and to restructure in the light of experience in the local context and of the various Government directives, both those planned in advance and those following on from the tragedy of Baby P. The revised structure of the MKSCB has been designed to take forward its role as a coordinating and scrutiny body with oversight of all activities relating to safeguarding the young and particularly the vulnerable children and young people in Milton Keynes. It will continue to evolve as further lessons are learnt from research including the national stocktake of Safeguarding Boards. Not only will the Board wish to probe more deeply in its quality assurance role but will want to consider how best to link with children and young people themselves, their families and carers, in carrying out its work. As we know from young people themselves, "Staying Safe" and feeling safe is their first priority and is an essential bedrock for all our children from which they can develop and achieve all the other outcomes of the Every Child Matters agenda, to reach their full potential. This is and will continue to be our aim for all children in Milton Keynes.



Vivien Salisbury
Chair of MKSCB

INTRODUCTION

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are a requirement of the Children Act 2004 and its accompanying guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006).

The core objectives are set out in Section 14(1) of the Children Act 2004:

- a) To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Local Safeguarding Children Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

LSCBs also have a role in the planning of Children's Services in the area, through contributing to the Children and Young People Plan and providing challenge to the Children's Trust and partner agencies regarding their focus on safeguarding children and young people.

This is the third Annual Report of Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board which was formally established in April 2006. 'Working Together' states that LSCBs should have a clear work programme, including measurable objectives and a budget. This annual report provides a progress report against the priorities set within MKSCB business plan 2008-9 and identifies areas for further development which will form the basis of the MKSCB business plan 2009-12.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

There has been a strong national focus on safeguarding children and the effectiveness of local arrangements before, but especially since the tragic death of Baby Peter in Haringey.

The government published the 'Staying Safe Action Plan' in February 2008. This plan set out the work nationally over the next three years to drive improvements in children and young people's safety. The plan covered three main areas:

- Universal safeguarding, involving work to keep all children and young people safe and to create safe environments for them
- Targeted safeguarding to reduce the risks of harm for vulnerable groups of children and young people
- Responsive safeguarding, involving responding effectively when children are harmed

In July 2008 The Third Joint Chief Inspectors Report on the Arrangements to Safeguard Children was published and in response to this the government announced that there would be:

- A national stocktake of the effectiveness of LSCBs
- A review of the arrangements for the safeguarding of children in independent schools and boarding schools
- A study of serious case reviews (SCR) to identify what more could be done to improve the quality, consistency and impact of SCRs

Following the issues raised by the case of Baby P the Secretary for State commissioned Lord Laming to provide an urgent report on progress being made across the country to implement effective arrangements for safeguarding children.

This report, 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report' was published in March 2009 as was the review of arrangements for safeguarding children in independent schools, 'Keeping Our School Safe' by Sir Roger Singleton. The recommendations of these reports relating to LSCBs and the impact of the revision of Working Together for Safeguarding Children will form part of the work plan for MKSCB in 2009-10, although the review that MKSCB Strategic Group commissioned in February 2009 has begun addressing some of the recommendations.

LOCAL CONTEXT

During 2008-9 an interim Director of Children's Services was in post in Milton Keynes Council, and a number of senior staff were in interim positions. A permanent Director of Children's Services (DCS), Gail Tolley, took up post in April 2009.

A review of safeguarding arrangements across both adults and children's services in Milton Keynes was undertaken by an independent consultant in October 2008. This identified some key strengths as well as areas for development for MKSCB, and in February 2009 the Strategic Group agreed that a review of the structure, membership and functioning should be undertaken, addressing the recommendations of the report. The outcome of the review has been the development of a new Constitution for MKSCB which will be implemented in October 2009.

Throughout the period the independent chair of MKSCB has continued to meet with the Director of Children's Services on a regular basis as well as being a member of the Children's Trust Board and has been able to raise safeguarding issues and challenge, where necessary, across a wide range of policies and strategies.

The MKSCB has forged links with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Group, with reciprocal attendance of Chairs or other senior personnel at

Board/Group meetings and is working on further coordinating work across each others sub-committees.

The unexpected and tragic death of MKSCB Business Manager in January 2009 has also had an impact locally. Colleagues both locally and regionally miss her dedication and passion for the safeguarding of children and her energy in promoting safeguarding of children in Milton Keynes.

BUSINESS PLAN 2008-9

The MKSCB Business Plan was developed in consultation with MKSCB members and agreed by the MKSCB Executive Committee in February 2008.

The sub-committees each developed their work plan for the year based on the contents on the MKSCB Business Plan, and report to MKSCB Executive Committee meetings on their progress against their individual Work Plans.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2008 - 2009

The following is a brief summary of the main achievements of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board (MKSCB) during the period 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009.

MKSCB Chair provided challenge to the Milton Keynes Children's Trust as a member of the Trust Board and through meetings with the Director of Children's Services.

MKSCB agreed the Milton Keynes Children and Young People Plan update for 2008-9.

Child Death Overview Panel and Rapid Response Procedures were in place from April 2008 and are perceived to be working well.

The MKSCB Interagency Policies and Procedures were ratified by MKSCB in June 2008 and made available via the MKSCB website in September 2008.

Substantial progress has been achieved regarding Allegations Management. Milton Keynes is now meeting all statutory and procedural requirements including LADO, Named Senior Officer and Named Senior Managers for allegations management. Basic inter-agency data collection and reporting has been achieved.

The quality assurance of safeguarding procedures in Milton Keynes identified the strengths of MKSCB as good interagency co-operation, committed members and a clear identity upon which to develop further, strong and

effective sub-groups, strong administration and good use of annual conferences, drawing a wider audience.

A review of the structure and roles and responsibilities of MKSCB and its staff has been undertaken. This has led to the development of a new constitution for MKSCB which is due to be implemented in Autumn 09. This review has incorporated the recommendations made by Lord Laming in his Progress Report (March 2009) that relate to LSCBs, and in the Government's response to this.

One serious care review took place: all individual agency management reports were completed within timescales and overview report was submitted to Ofsted on 18 February 2009. An overall grading of 'Good' was received from Ofsted In April 2009. Processes for reporting key data and highlighting issues arising from this have been developed.

An inter-agency training programme of events was delivered by the inter-agency training project and courses were positively evaluated by delegates.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The third MKSCB Annual Conference 'Staying Safe in Milton Keynes: Time For Action' was held at Jury's Inn on 19 November 2008 during anti-bullying week. Keynote speaker, Rachel Sensicle, Senior Child Protection Advisor at Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) was particularly well received and workshops were offered on the subjects of bullying, young people living with mental health problems, the integrated cycle of abuse, trafficking young people, homophobic bullying, the role of the corporate parent and peer support projects in schools.

MK College students were actively involved in the Conference. Their participation in the event was invaluable in welcoming delegates, helping them sign in and find workshops. The students were also invited to attend the workshops.

A total of 147 people attended the conference; an increase of 30% on the previous year and 49% on 2006 (113 attended in 07 and 99 attended in 06).

REPORTS FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND SINGLE AGENCY GROUPS

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR: ALASTAIR GIBBONS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

The highlight of the work of Policy and Procedures was the ratification of a complete new set of interagency safeguarding procedures in June 2008 followed by their formal launch with new MKSCB website in October.

In addition the group has the group has achieved the following over the last year:

- Child Death Overview Panel Procedure was ratified by MKSCB 14 October and is on the MKSCB website
- Rapid Response Procedure was also ratified by MKSCB 14 October and is available on the MKSCB website
- Education Procedures and Willen Hospice Procedures were considered and commented on (single agency policies)
- Fabricated and Induced Illness procedure was ratified by MKSCB April 2009
- Procedure re: forced marriage was amended to accommodate new guidance and law
- Health Safeguarding Children Policy was received and commented on
- Survey of use of website

Learning and priorities for next year

We realised that we had to work more closely with Communications to make sure that policy and procedures were better disseminated and made better use of. We will make sure this is the case with the implementation of the revised electronic policies and procedures being introduced in the Autumn of 2009.

TRAINING AND LEARNING

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR: LEE WESTLAKE, STRATEGIC MANAGER YOT

The sub-committee oversees the inter-agency training project, which delivered a wide-ranging programme of inter-agency training events last year, including domestic violence, children with disability, safer recruitment training and briefings on the new child death and rapid response procedures. The Annual Report for Inter-Agency Training is provided at Annex 4.

Interim arrangements for the continued co-ordination of the inter agency training programme were agreed by MKSCB from March 2009 when the longstanding contract with NSPCC ended.

A review of the MKSCB training programme is underway and will make recommendations to MKSCB for the future programme and how this can best be delivered, linking this work to the wider developments in the children's workforce. The review has included a survey of what training local agencies are currently accessing and providing and an analysis of government expectations.

Learning and priorities for next year

From our work this year we have learnt that we need to organise MKSCB training more effectively to ensure that it is effectively delivered to the correct audiences. This has led to the review of the training programme, the implementation of which will be a priority area of work for the group over the next year

SAFEGUARDING IN EMPLOYMENT AND ALLEGATION MANAGEMENT

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR: JO HOOPER, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, SAFEGUARDING

ALLEGATIONS MANAGEMENT

Initially the work programme focused on the allegations management agenda, establishing processes and procedures and working on the development of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role and responsibilities. The sub-committee has been supporting the operational aspects of the LADO role, systematically reviewing individual cases through inter-agency discussion and analysis, to ensure effective communication and shared decision-making and opportunity to learn from experience.

Substantial progress has been achieved regarding Allegations Management. Milton Keynes is now meeting all statutory and procedural requirements including LADO, Named Senior Officer and Named Senior Managers for allegations management. Basic inter-agency data collection and reporting has been achieved. The LADO reports generally positive working relationships and communication with schools and settings, and other agencies and organisations.

Chapter 12 of the Inter-Agency procedures relating to Allegations Management, ratified by the MKSCB in February has recently been reviewed and updated. Guidance to supplement this for schools was revised in early 2009.

SAFER EMPLOYMENT

The group has also focused on the safer employment aspects of its remit. New Terms of Reference and membership were developed and ratified by MKSCB in August 2008. In July 2008 the Work Plan was revised to address safer recruitment/employment.

SEAM is now working with HR colleagues and other agencies to develop overarching practice guidance relating to Safer Employment. This will include CRB checking and the ISA Vetting & Barring policy and procedure.

SEAM also has the remit of promoting and monitoring uptake of electronic 'live' Safer Recruitment training, particularly in schools. An improvement in take-up of training has been noted and new representatives are undertaking the *Train the Trainer* sessions to increase delivery capacity.

PERFORMANCE

The group continues to collect information in respect of allegations against persons working with children. The LADO is working with the Knowledge & Information Team to improve data capture (including performance indicators), analysis and reporting for MKSCB.

Referrals in relation to allegations against people working with children

Between April 2008 and March 2009, there have been on average 10 referrals per month. Exceptions to this are 25 in March 2009: no obvious explanation for this figure, but interestingly the March 2008 figure was similarly anomalous. In December 2008 there were 28 referrals, most of which related to the Gatehouse enquiry following the interviews with the children.

Over a third of referrals related to school staff. The rest were a combination of foster carers, residential, other education settings, community groups etc. The referral rate from Oakhill STC, previously significantly higher than any other source, has declined greatly since summer 2008. This is attributed to a change of management and much improved systems and processes regarding behaviour management.

Allegations of physical abuse represent the largest category over the year, at 60%. This includes allegations about inappropriate restraint/behaviour management. Increasingly referrals about 'unsuitability' to work with children are becoming a feature of the LADO and HR remit and will be under review with the implementation of the ISA.

The majority of referrals are dealt with relatively quickly and easily by the LADO through Strategy discussions with key agencies (Police, schools, health, foster care services, etc.) and liaison with HR, although a small minority result in criminal proceedings and/or disciplinary procedures.

Learning and priorities for the next year

We have learnt that more needs to be done ensure that the process for responding to allegations is clearly understood in schools and other settings. And ensuring good advice and support is available is one of our priorities for the next year. We will also develop standards for safer recruitment to ensure there is consistency across agencies and settings and develop monitoring systems to quality assure that this is the case.

AUDIT, MONITORING & PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

**SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR: AMANDA BLAKE, DETECTIVE INSPECTOR, CAIU,
THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

Serious Case Reviews

One serious case review was held in 2008 - 2009 in relation to a 15 year old who sadly killed himself. All Individual Management Reports were completed within timescales and the overview report, executive summary and MKSCB action plan were submitted to Ofsted on 18 February 2009. On 27 April the overall grading of 'Good' was received from Ofsted. A Review meeting was held on 23 April to consider the serious case review process and learn lessons.

Monitoring of plans

Two action plans from previous serious case reviews have been completed as well as two action plans from internal management reviews and the learning has been incorporated into the procedures. In addition learning has been incorporated in the Rapid Response to Child Death Protocol and a confidentiality agreement has been developed to cover murder investigations.

The Sub-Committee also scrutinised the audits commissioned by Children's Social Care covering family support, initial assessments and care planning.

Self-audit

A revised self audit was piloted by Milton Keynes Council Early Years and Childcare Team. This will be rolled out to other service areas following review to incorporate learning from the pilot and the recommendations arising from the Laming report and stocktake of LSCBs.

Learning and priorities for next year

Key learning for MKSCB related to undertaking a SCR alongside other investigations and monitoring progress against Action Plans. The SCR also highlighted to us the need for training for writers of individual management reviews.

Priorities for the next year will be to review the SCR process in line with the revision of Chapter 8 of Working Together, ensure we have a system in place for training individual management review writers and rolling out an improved quality assurance programme across all main partner agencies.

COMMUNICATIONS

**SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR (TEMPORARY FROM JAN 2009) VIVIEN SALISBURY,
MKSCB INDEPENDENT CHAIR**

The main focus of the sub-committee's attention at the beginning of the year was the development of the MKSCB website. Seven companies were

approached and after due consideration the work was awarded to a local company, Apollo Digital Developments.

The MKSCB logo was agreed following a wide consultation process that included not only MKSCB members, but also children and young people, and the community. The logo is used on all MKSCB documents, presentations, reports etc.

The MKSCB website went live, and was populated with the MKSCB Inter-Agency Procedures in time for the MKSCB Away Day on 29 September 2008.

An official launch event was held at MK Theatre on 16 October 2008, which also gave delegates the opportunity to access the website and view the Procedures. Promotional materials advertising the website were available at the Launch event and pens with the website address are included in handout packs at inter-agency training events.

The Communications and Policy & Procedures sub-committees worked together to arrange a series of briefing events to raise awareness of the MKSCB website, inter-agency Procedures and the MKSCB in general. A total of 103 delegates from a range of agencies attended the 1.5 hour sessions.

The terms of reference for the sub committee were also reviewed and amended.

Learning and priorities for the next year

We need to work proactively to raise awareness that safeguarding is everybody's business. In particular we will improve the website and produce good and accessible material especially for children and parents, as well as for the general public.

We will also develop the role of lay members of MKSCB and a plan for improving the engagement of communities in the work of MKSCB and safeguarding generally

DATA ANALYSIS AND REVIEW

CHAIR: ADRIAN WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STRATEGY AND COMMISSIONING

The Data Analysis and Review Group met six times between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. During this period, officers from the newly formed Knowledge & Information Team and from the Crime and Disorder partnership joined the group. Work carried out during the year included:

- Development of a reporting mechanism for MKSCB based on the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP)
- Scrutiny and monitoring of staying safe targets in CYPP
- Review of family support plan system and reports

- Development of criteria for inclusion of data in new dataset and consideration of new dataset for the MKSCB based on Bracknell Forest dataset. (This work has not been completed and will carry forward into 2009-10)
- Setting up new data system for recording and monitoring LADO information (this work is still underway and will be carried forward into 2009-10)

Learning and priorities for the next year

We have identified an agreed data set and our priority for the next year is develop systems within and across agencies for collating this data and interpreting it in order to improve the scrutiny role of MKSCB.

CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL (CDOP)

Working Together 2006 required all LSCBs to have arrangements in place to review all child deaths from April 2008. Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board established with Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board Child Death Review Panel. A consultant was jointly commissioned to undertake the role of Child Death Overview Project Co-ordinator to help develop the necessary systems to meet the requirements set out in Working Together 2006 and a joint panel was set up by April 2008. The annual report for this panel is attached as Appendix 5.

A Rapid Response Procedure for Milton Keynes was also developed and this together with the Child Death Overview Panel process was ratified by MKSCB in October 2008. These have been incorporated into the MKSCB Inter-Agency Procedures.

In April 2009 a review of how the joint arrangement was working was undertaken with Bucks Safeguarding Board staff and it was agreed that whilst the joint panel was working well there needed to be better arrangements for the co-ordination. Stronger local co-ordination arrangements are now being put in place.

Learning and priorities for the next year

CDOP has not yet identified significant pattern or trends in child deaths that would require further investigation. One area of learning has been that while the 'investigation' processes work well, more attention needs to be given to supporting the emotional needs of the family.

RESTRAINT WORKING GROUP

CHAIR: OLIVIA LEONARD, OAKHILL STC

Early in 2009 MKSCB identified a need to develop an overarching restraint policy for all staff working with children in Milton Keynes.

Three Restraint Forum Meetings were held, open to practitioners across children's services in Milton Keynes, to explore issues and concerns amongst

this group regarding restraint. These Forum meetings were generally well attended, particularly by schools. The issues explored during these Forum meetings will inform development of a Restraint Policy document.

From the Forum meetings a Restraint Working Group was formed. The Working Group comprised representatives from special and mainstream schools, and Milton Keynes Council's residential care, Independent Review Service, Local Authority Designated Officer and Children with Disabilities team. The Crown Prosecution Service also offered indirect input.

The first meeting of the Restraint Working Group took place on 21st April 2009. The focus of the group is to develop a draft policy, on behalf of MKSCB, under which agencies' own policies will sit, taking into consideration the input from the forum meetings, recent publications and research, and policy from other areas.

LICENSING

Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board is one of the statutory agencies required to consider all applications for gambling and alcohol premises licences in the local area. Specifically, to take into account the effect the opening of a new premises providing these activities may have in respect of the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people, and whether the applicant has given due consideration to addressing these matters.

MKSCB Officers considered 58 applications submitted during the period April 2008 - end of March 2009. Contact was made with a number of applicants to clarify with them the safeguarding measures they would be putting in place to ensure protection of children and young people from harm. Advice was given where necessary on matters that required more robust measures to be taken to meet registration conditions.

OTHER AREAS OF WORK

In addition to the issues reported upon to the Board by the sub-committees, the MKSCB has scrutinised and discussed a range of matters including: the Children's Social Care Looked After Children service, private fostering, safeguarding at Oakhill STC, sexual exploitation of children and young people and child trafficking, e-safety, children missing school and the Gatehouse School investigation report and action plan.

The MKSCB has also been kept up to date with national and regional initiatives and guidance, through regular reports by the Business Manager and Chair and responded to consultations on safeguarding issues.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS LIAISON GROUP FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Background

The Health Professional Liaison Group for Safeguarding Children is a stakeholder group of Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board and is accountable to Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board and Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust Board.

Membership includes:-

- Designated and Named Child Protection Professionals.
- PCT link professionals including Health Visiting / School Nursing, Specialist CAMHS, Woodhill and Oakhill, Adult Mental Health, and Children With Complex Needs.
- Milton Keynes Hospital Foundation Trust link professionals with representatives from Accident and Emergency Department, Sexual Health Clinic, Paediatrics and Midwifery.
- Representatives from commissioned and contracted services including GPs, dental services, pharmacists, optometrists, Willen Hospice, Saxon Clinic, Walk In Centre, and MKDOC (out of hours GP Service).
- Link professionals from NHS Direct and South Central Ambulance Service.

The meeting is currently chaired by the PCT (provider) Children and Secure Settings Director. The group meets three times a year and an e-mail dissemination list is utilised for information sharing and consultation purposes.

Terms of Reference

- Facilitate the exchange of information between practitioners, the MKSCB and Primary Care Trust Board.
- To ensure all practitioners and other staff are aware of their responsibilities towards safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.
- To identify current issues for health workers in relation to safeguarding children and identify ways of addressing these.

- Promote Milton Keynes inter agency procedures and other relevant policies and procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Develop and monitor implementation of guidelines relating to children in need including children in need of protection.
- To consider national guidance and current research and its effect on practice.
- To ensure that learning from reviews and audits is disseminated through the healthcare economy.
- To work with the MKSCB to ensure that training needs are identified and training offered is relevant to staff needs.
- Ensure stakeholders, for example children, young people and their families, are encouraged to participate in the safeguarding work of the group.
- To ensure robust inter-agency communication by engaging with other agencies and organisations appropriately.

Achievements in 2008-09

- Information shared about Inter-agency policies and procedures and work of MKSCB.
- Presentations on Child Death Overview Panel; Abolition of Child Protection Register; Haringey JAR and SCR and The Protection of Children in England - Progress Report (Laming).
- Consulted on HIV policy, Fabricated and Induced Illness Policy, Health Safeguarding Children Policy, Information Sharing Protocol, A4 brief procedures.
- Monitoring implementation of action plans following SCR and IMRs.
- Learning from local and some national serious case reviews and internal case review shared.
- Information provided on recently published national documents.
- Issues to specific service areas discussed as required.
- Annual Report produced for PCT Trust.

Priorities for 2009-10

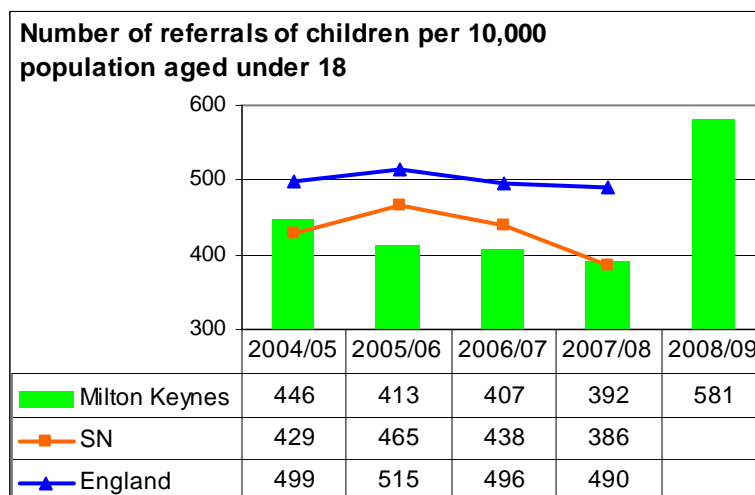
- NHS Milton Keynes is currently reviewing its accountability arrangements for the named and designated child protection professionals. The terms of reference and functioning of group will be reviewed in line with any changes.
- Produce 2008-09 Annual Report.
- Monitor action plan produced to address issues primarily arising from Laming Report and Healthcare Commission safeguarding children benchmarking review.
- Maintenance of communication channels across healthcare economy regarding safeguarding children agenda.

SAFEGUARDING STATISTICS

During 2008-09 the Data Analysis and Review sub-committee has been working to develop a wider range of multi-agency reports to enable MKSCB to effectively monitor safeguarding across all agencies. This work is nearing completion but the data monitored during this period has been primarily Children's Social Care referral information and that relating to children with Child Protection Plans.

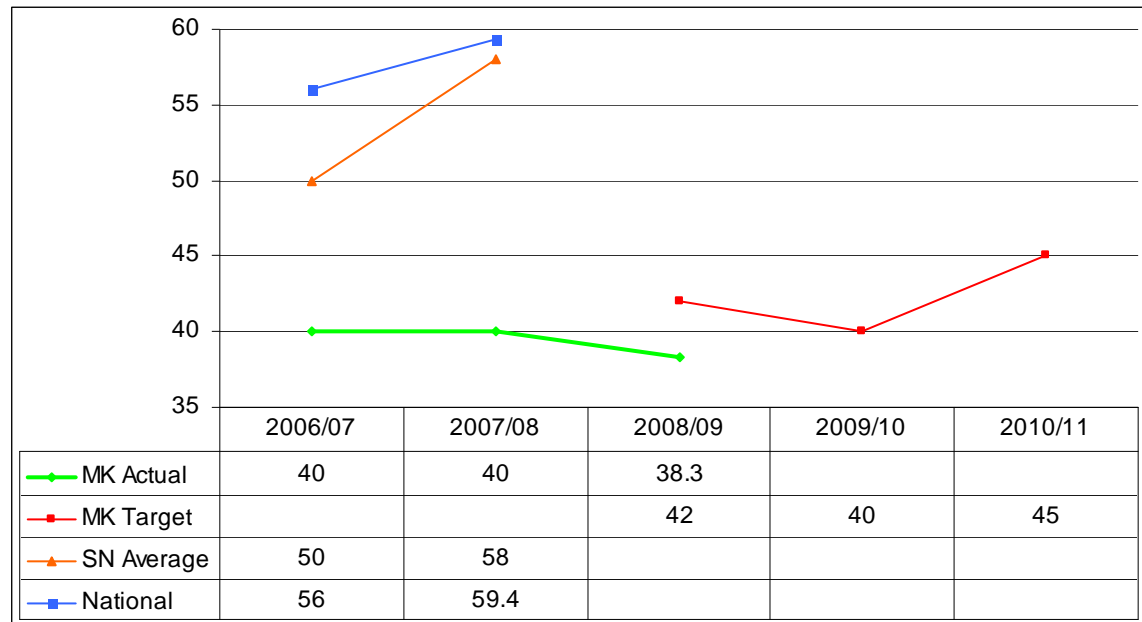
There were 3,177 referrals made to Milton Keynes Children's Social Care between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 - a significant increase on 2,160 the previous year. However, anecdotal information from other authorities suggests this is a national phenomenon. Until this year, referral rates were in line with both Statistical Neighbour and England averages.

28% of referrals during the year were repeat (*ie* a referral within one year of the previous on a case which is not already open).



NI 168 Percentage of Referrals to Children's Social Care going on to Initial Assessment

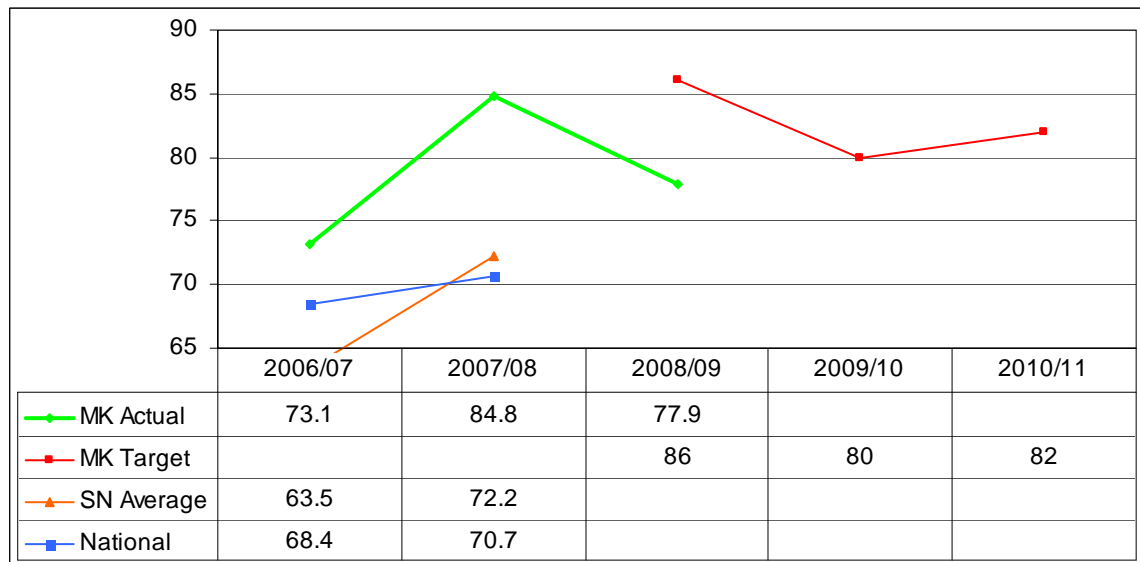
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Milton Keynes Actual	40	40	38.3		
Statistical Neighbour	50	58			
National			64		



An Initial Assessment is carried out following referral as appropriate and national guidance requires that these are completed within seven working days. As with referrals, the number of initial assessments in 2008/09 showed an increase to 1240 from 726 the previous year. Although there was a rise in the number of referrals, the proportion of referrals resulting in initial assessment has remained the same as the previous year (39%).

NI 159 Percentage of Initial Assessments carried out within 7 working days of referral

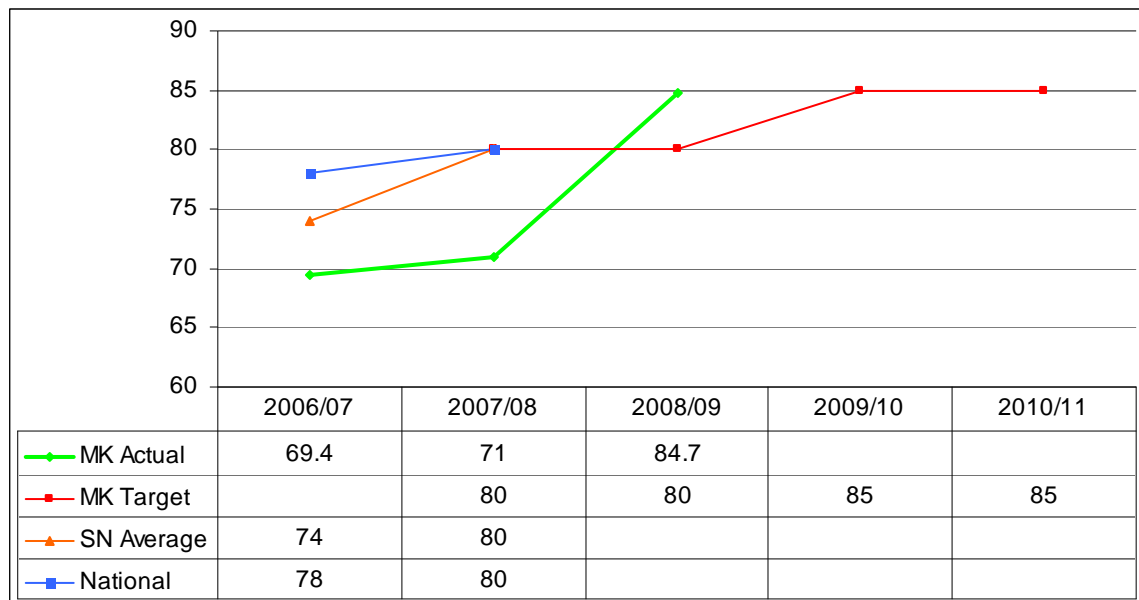
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Milton Keynes Actual	73.1	84.8	77.9		
Statistical Neighbour	63.5	72.2			
National	68.4	70.7	72		



There has been an improving trend of initial assessments completed to timescale from 2004 to 2008, but a small decrease in 2008-09, although performance is still well above the national average. The decrease is partly due to implementation of the government's new Integrated Children's System (ICS) for electronic case recording, as well as an increase in the number of Initial Assessments required.

NI 160 Percentage of Core Assessments carried out within 35 working days of their commencement

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Milton Keynes Actual	69.4	71	84.7		
Statistical Neighbour	74	80			
National	78	80	78		



Historically, Milton Keynes has undertaken a lower rate of Core Assessments per population compared to average, but that has not been the case in the last two years. In 2008-09 300 Core Assessments were completed and there was a big improvement in the % completed within the 35-day timescale, so performance is now well above the average.

Children and Young People subject to a child protection plan

There were 69 children subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31 March 2009, an increase from 40 the previous year and equating to 12.6 per 10,000 under-18 population. The number in Milton Keynes has historically been much lower than statistical neighbours and England average because of the focus on inter agency family support plans, as the table below shows.

Children and young people who are subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population, aged under-18

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-7	2007-08	2008-09
Milton Keynes Actual	3	6.7	4.4	7.3	12.6
Statistical Neighbour	19.4	19	21.1	22.4	
England	23.4	23.9	25.3	26.5	31

As at 31 March 2009, there were no unborn children subject to a Child Protection Plan. Of those children subject to a Child Protection Plan, 39 were male, and 30 female. Neglect and 'multiple categories' were the most prevalent categories for both boys and girls.

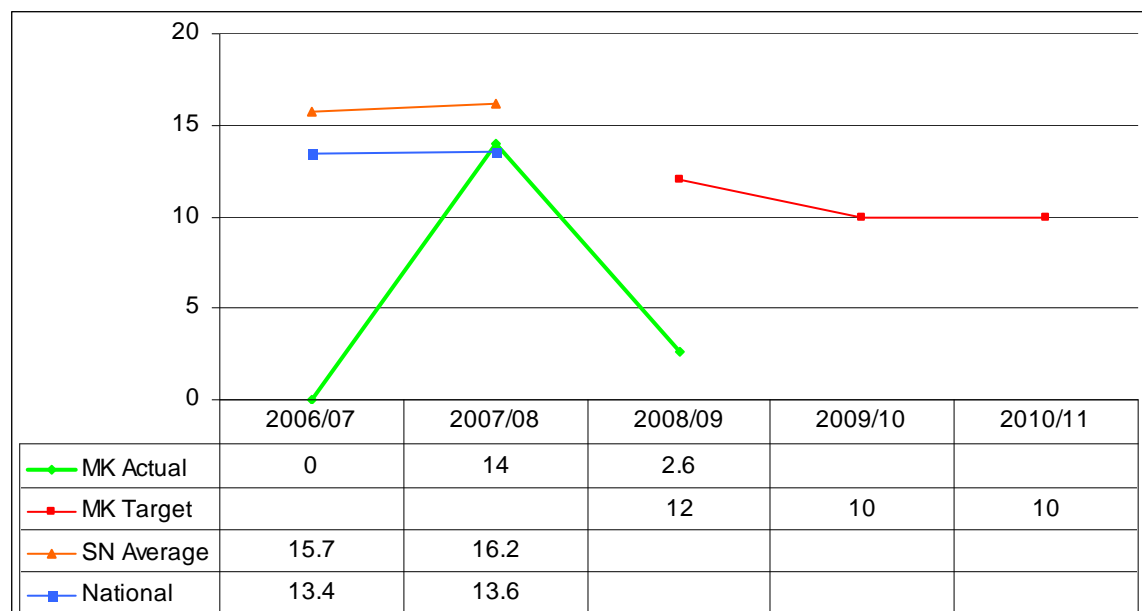
83% of the 69 children subject to a Child Protection Plan were White British, which is in line with the overall proportion for Milton Keynes population, and slightly above the 2008 school census breakdown. However, as the number of children is small, any difference in children subject to a Child Protection Plan by ethnic group is not statistically significant.

Number of children subject to Child Protection Plan at 31 March 2009, by category and gender

	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Multiple categories
Boys	12	4	7	6	10
Girls	10	3	4	3	10

NI 165 Child become subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

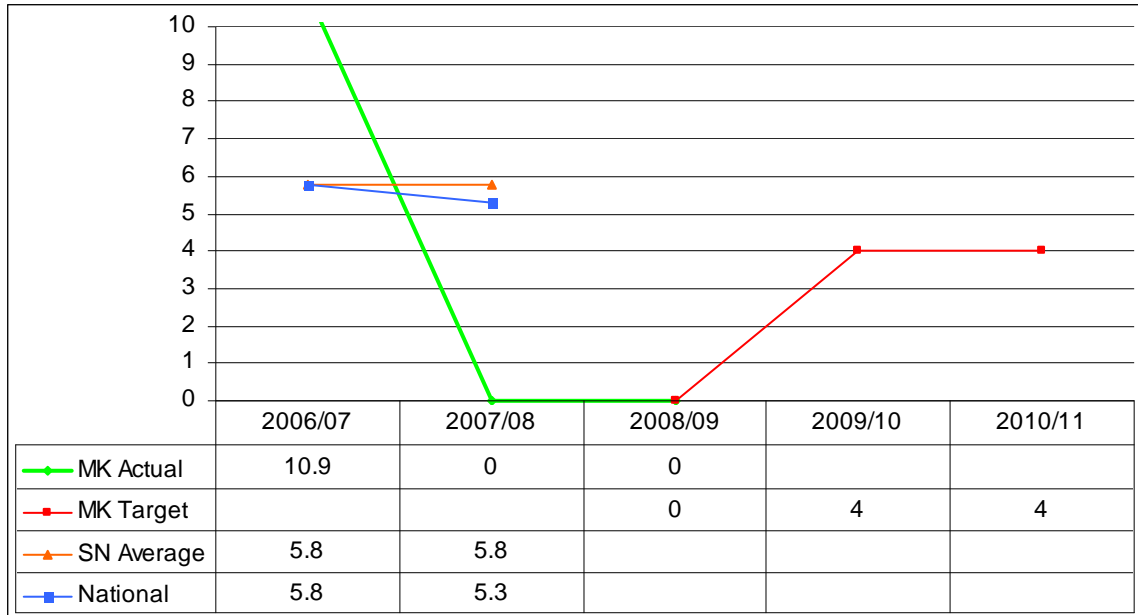
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Milton Keynes Actual	0	14	2.6		
Statistical Neighbour	15.7	16.2			
National	13.4	13.6	13.0		



2.6% of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan in 2008-09 were for a second or subsequent time.

NI 164 Child Protection Plans lasting two years or more

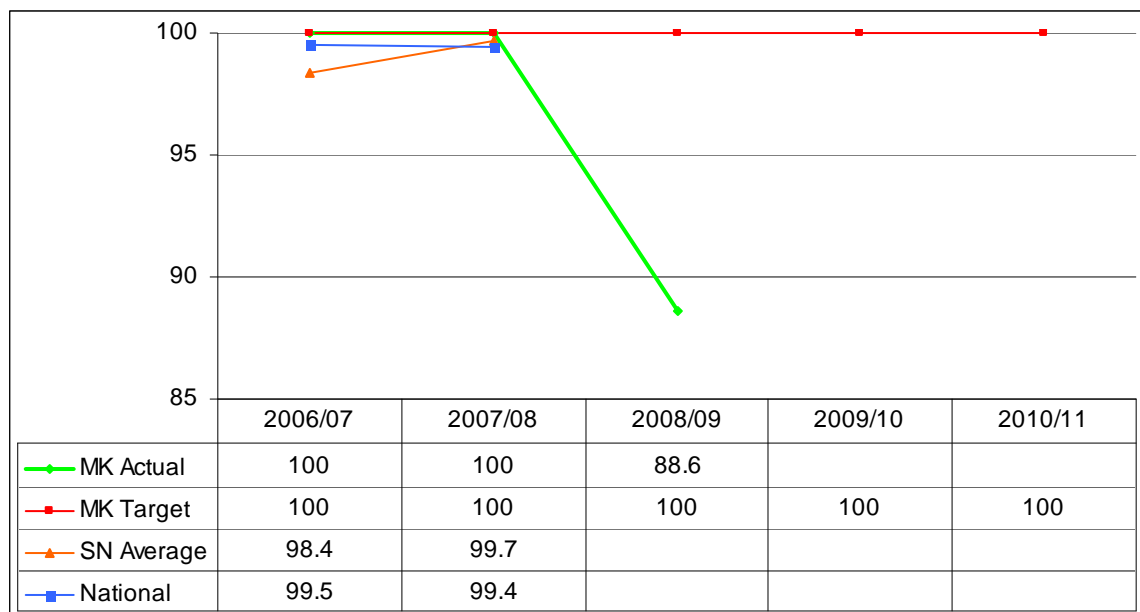
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Milton Keynes Actual	10.9	0	0		
Statistical Neighbour	5.8	5.8			
National	5.8	5.3	6		



No children had been subject to a Child Protection Plan for two years or more, of those who ceased to be subject to a Child Protection Plan in 2008-09.

NI 167 Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Milton Keynes	100	100	88.6		
Milton Keynes Target	100	100	100	100	100
Statistical Neighbour	98.4	99.7			
National	99.5	99.4	99		



During 2008-09 one conference was postponed because of a police investigation. This conference involved five children and had a significant impact on the indicator.

MKSCB BUDGET

The Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board has a pooled budget made up from contributions by all Key Partners. The individual contributions for 2008-09 are provided below:

CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT (£)
Milton Keynes Council - CYPS	78,721.00
PCT	43,572.00
Police	18,051.00
Probation	3,830.00
CAFCASS	508.00
STC	1,470.00
Woodhill	1,470.00
MK Hospital Trust	1,470.00
Milton Keynes Council - Training	14,995.00
Underspend brought forward 2007-08	25,030.63
Area based grant	34,150.00
Specific grant contribution (one-off)	25,000.00
TOTAL	£248,267.63

The total expenditure for the MKSCB was £165,854.07. A breakdown of this expenditure is provided below:

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT (£)
Staffing costs	81,373.69
Training	34,219.10
Website	8,702.66
Conference	1,550.06
Miscellaneous expenses	4,720.81
Serious Case Review	34,062.00
Publicity	1,225.75
TOTAL	165,854.07

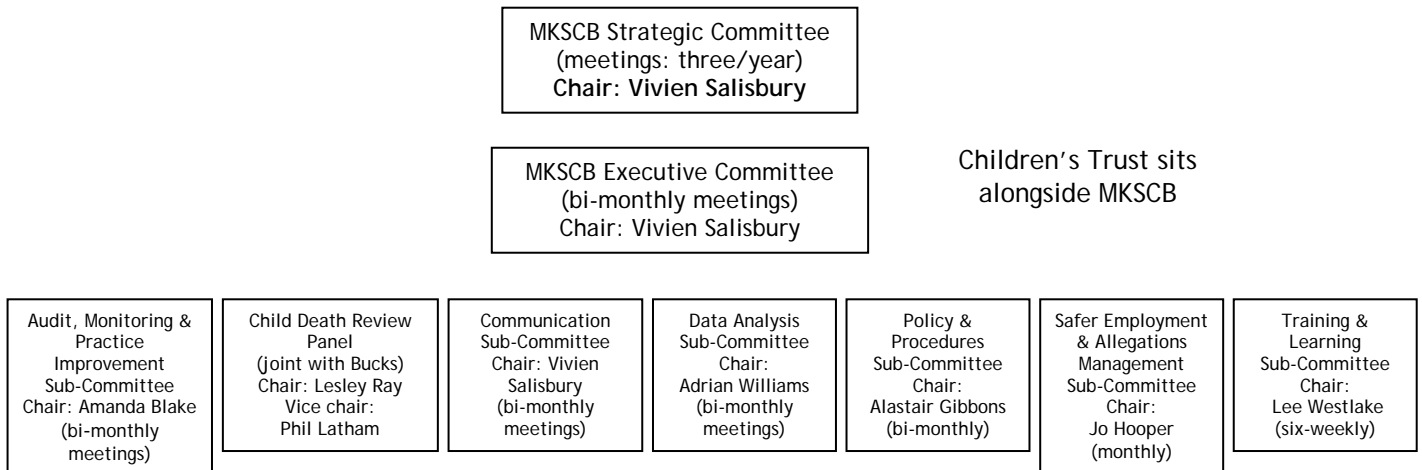
The balance at the end of the financial year was £82,433.56 which the Strategic Committee agreed to roll forward into the 2009 - 10 budget.

PRIORITIES FOR 2009 - 2012 BUSINESS PLAN

1. Improve the effectiveness of MKSCB's functioning by implementing the new Constitution, incorporating lessons learnt from the national stocktake of LSCBs and responding to Laming and Working Together.
2. Develop further the participation strategy for children and young people and communities and implement this, taking account of current mechanisms for participation in Milton Keynes.
3. Develop further the communication strategy for raising the awareness of safeguarding in Milton Keynes and the work of MKSCB.
4. Develop robust systems to audit and quality-assure multi-agency safeguarding processes and practice.
5. Improve information, written and electronic, about MKSCB and Safeguarding for children, parents, those working with children, and for the public.
6. Develop the interagency training strategy taking account of the areas identified for development in the review of training underway.
7. Review and make more accessible inter-agency policies and procedures and make these available to all working with children and young people electronically.
8. Ensure inter-agency guidance regarding safer employment including CRB checking, Vetting & Barring scheme etc, is in place and widely known.
9. Ensure recommendations from the Serious Case Review undertaken in 2008-9 are implemented.
10. Audit safeguarding within agencies and provide support/challenge where required to improve these.
11. Improve quality and analysis of data provided to MKSCB.

APPENDIX 1: MKSCB STRUCTURE

The current (April 2009) structure of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board is:



STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

The strategic committee's main areas of responsibility are to agree the business plan of MKSCB and ensure agencies are supporting its implementation, to endorse major changes to policy and procedure and to agree the contributions of agencies to MKSCB budget.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to coordinate the work of its member organisations and to ensure their effectiveness. In order to undertake this duty effectively an agreed level of commitment is required from members. Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board Compact, agreed in April 2008, provides the mechanism whereby members sign up to the aims, objectives of MKSCB and their roles and responsibilities as members.

Working Together (2006) stipulates the statutory partner agencies and organisations who should be members of the Board. The MKSCB Compact also provides more detail of these.

MKSCB Executive Committee membership is attached at appendix 2.

APPENDIX 2: MEMBERSHIP OF MKSCB

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE (as at end of March 2009)

Ray Summers	Detective Chief Inspector Public Protection, Thames Valley Police
Kilvinder Vigurs	Assistant Director/ACO, Thames Valley Probation
Diane Gray	Director of Strategy & Planning/Deputy Director of Public Health NHS Milton Keynes
Sharon Scott	Director of Children's Services, MK Council
Vivien Salisbury	MKSCB Independent Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (as at end of March 2009)

Name	Agency
Amanda Blake	Detective Inspector, CAIU, Thames Valley Police
Julie Bootle	Head of Joint Mental Health Service, MK Council &PCT
Amanda Carter-Philpott	Thames Valley Probation Service
Irene Chittenden	Head of Service, MK-ACT
Tina Douglas	Service Manager Milton Keynes Children & Young People's Rights Service - Barnardos
Alastair Gibbons	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care,
Jane Gilbert	Assistant Director Sure Start and Youth Services,
Tony Halton	Director of Nursing, MK Hospital
John Heseltine	Chair of Vulnerable Adults Group, MK Council
Ruth Hester	Student Support Manager, Milton Keynes College
Jo Hooper	Professional Advisor and Strategic Manager, Safeguarding and Quality, MK Council
Tim Kirtley	Head Teacher, Caroline Haslett Primary School
Philip Latham	Designated Doctor Child Protection and Paediatrician, MK PCT
Olivia Leonard	Head of Youth Offending Services, Oakhill Secure STC
Melinda May	Strategic Manager, Family Support, MK Council
Anthony Miller	Service Manager, CAFCASS
Roland Payne	Housing Needs Manager, MK Council
Stephanie Roberts-Bibby	Deputy Governor Young People's Unit, HMP Woodhill
John Parker	Director, Oakhill STC
Vivien Salisbury	Independent Chair, MKSCB
Richard Solly	Community Safety Manager, MK Council
Ray Summers	Detective Chief Inspector Public Protection, Thames Valley Police
Fiona West	Senior Nurse for Vulnerable Children / Designated Nurse for Child Protection, Milton Keynes PCT
Lee Westlake	Youth Offending Team Strategic Manager
Jill Wilkinson	Head of Children's Services, MK PCT
Adrian Williams	Assistant Director, Planning, Commissioning & Performance, MK Council

AUDIT, MONITORING & PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Amanda Blake	Detective Inspector, CAIU, Thames Valley Police
Kate Bowden	Children's Social Care, MK Council
Jane Gilbert	Early Years & Extended Services, MK Council
Jo Hooper	Strategic Manager Safeguarding & Quality, MKC
Ursula Kent	Senior Practitioner, COMPASS
Tim Kirtley	Headteacher, Heronshaw First School
Roland Payne	Housing Needs Manager, MK Council
Fiona West	Senior Nurse for Vulnerable Children/Designated Nurse for Child Protection, Milton Keynes PCT

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Chris Knibb	Head of Communications & Engagement, MK PCT
Andy McDermott	Community Mobiliser, MKCVO
Jenny Murray	Communications Lead, MK Hospital
Michelle Nichols	Communications Manager, TV Police
Dr Adeola Vaughan	Consultant Community Paediatrician, MK PCT
Vivien Salisbury	MKSCB Independent Chair
Angela Turland	Group Manager, Family Advice & Support Team, MK Council
Clair Thomas	MK Children's Trust Communications Officer

DATA ANALYSIS & REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

Carole Brooks	Knowledge & Information Team Manager, MK Council
Danny Conway	Commissioning Manager Children's Social Care and Family Support, MK Council
Debbie Smith	Knowledge & Information Officer, MK Council
Jane Spencer	Knowledge & Information Team, MK Council
Melanie-Jane Stoneman	Senior Data Analyst, Community Safety Partnership
Fiona West	Senior Nurse for Vulnerable Children/Designated Nurse for Child Protection, Milton Keynes PCT
Adrian Williams	Assistant Director, Planning, Commissioning and Performance, MK Council
Peter Wong	Connexions Manager

POLICY & PROCEDURES SUB-COMMITTEE

Amanda Blake	Detective Inspector, CAIU, Thames Valley Police
David Howe	Local Authority Designated Officer, MK Council
Alastair Gibbons	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, MK Council
Anita Johnston	Youth Offending Team,
Kelly Lockwood	Children's Social Care, MK Council
Julia Roberts	CAFCASS
Gillian Shurrock	Assistant Director, School Improvement, MK Council
Jo Ulyett	Named Nurse CP, MK Hospital

SAFEGUARDING IN EMPLOYMENT & ALLEGATIONS MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Karen Fletcher	Detective Sergeant, CAIU, Thames Valley Police
Stewart Gilchrist	Human Resources, MK Council
David Harper	Headteacher, Heronsgate School
Jo Hooper	Strategic Manager Safeguarding & Quality, MK Council
David Howe	Local Authority Designated Officer
Olivia Leonard	Head of Youth Offending, Oakhill STC
Linda Rayfield	Education Welfare Service, MK Council
Gillian Shurrock	Assistant Director, School Improvement, MK Council
Fiona West	Senior Nurse for Vulnerable Children/Designated Nurse for Child Protection, Milton Keynes PCT
Myer Wilkins	Social Worker, Children's Social Care

TRAINING & LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Kate Bowden	Team Manager, Children's Social Care, MK Council
Brighde Boyle	Training Officer, Staff Development, MK Council
Karen Fletcher	Detective Sergeant, CAIU, Thames Valley Police
Ruth Hester	Pupil Support, MK College
Marion Hogan	Children's Workforce Development, MK Council
Gillian Marchant	Strategy & Development Officer, Connexions
Tracy O'Brien	Named Nurse, MK PCT
Linda Rayfield	Education Welfare Officer, MK Council
Tammi Redman	Workforce Training Officer, Early Years & Childcare, MK Council
Hilary Solway	Youth Projects & Staff Development Officer, MK Council
Jo Ulyett	Named Nurse CP, MK Hospital
Lee Westlake	Strategic Manager, Youth Offending Team, MK Council
Maggie Whymark	MKSCB Inter-Agency Training Co-ordinator

**MKSCB/ NSPCC
Interagency Training Project
ANNUAL REPORT**

April 2008 – March 2009



INTRODUCTION

Success factors for LSCB training activities are as follows:

'All training to support inter and multi-agency work should:

- *be delivered by trainers who are knowledgeable about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and have facilitation skills. When delivering training on complex cases trainers should have the relevant specialist knowledge and skills*
- *be informed by current research evidence, lessons from serious case and child death reviews, and local and national developments*
- *reflect an understanding of the rights of the child, and be informed by an active respect for diversity and the experience of service users, and a commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity; and*
- *be regularly reviewed to ensure that it meets agreed learning outcomes.'*
(Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2006)

The Milton Keynes Inter Agency Training (MK IAT) Project provides a programme that meets the standards quoted above as well as being based on the principles of the Promoting Inter-Agency Training (2003) national collaborative working group namely:

1. CHILD CENTRED - incorporating children's rights and needs and ensuring that their welfare is paramount.
2. PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS - promoting partnership and recognising families' strengths in respect of responding to the needs of their children.
3. INCLUSION - respect for diversity and inclusive of the wide range of individuals and organisations that have responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the well being of all children.
4. INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION - placing value on people working collaboratively, bringing people together in ways which mirror the diversity of practice networks engaged with children and their families.

The training programme endeavours to meet the needs of a broad audience, based on the premise that all attendees will have a basic understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse. The courses range from a Level B Course for those who work regularly with children and young people that provides an introduction to multi agency working and the roles and responsibilities of those involved in this, to Level C specialist courses designed for experienced professionals who have an operational or particular responsibility for safeguarding children.

Key Objectives 08/09

The key objectives over the past year were to consolidate and maintain the current provision and training calendar and ensure our Training Pool numbers remain good, rather than develop any new courses.

Project Staff

After several years in post, the Administrator left in April 08 and the Co-ordinator a month later. Nicola Graham was seconded into the Administrator's post in June and

two weeks later Maggie Whymark was contracted to the Co-ordinator's post on an interim basis. Whilst many processes were in place, the learning curve for two staff new into post at the same time was definitely steep for both!

INTERAGENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME

COURSE TITLE	2008 - 2009		2007 - 2008		2006 - 2007	
	Number Courses Run	Number Courses Offered	Number Courses Run	Number Courses Offered	Number Course Run	Number Course Offered
Interagency Working to Safeguard Children (1 day)	8	10	7	8	8	11
Refresher (1/2 day)	6	8	6	6	4	7
Parental Substance Misuse (1 day)	2	3	4	4	1	1
Child Protection Conference Process (1 day)	0	1	1	1	1	1
Family Group Conferencing Process (1 day)	2	3	1	2	1	2
Safer Recruitment (1 day)	2	3	1	1	0	0
Train the Trainer (2 days)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Domestic Violence (2 days)	1	2	1	1	2	2
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities (1 day)	2	2	4	4	2	2
Briefings (3 x 1.5 hours)	2	2	4	4	2	2
TOTAL	26	35	30	32	22	29

Of the nine courses that did not run this year, one (IAW) was cancelled due to trainers being unavailable, and one (Parental Substance Misuse) was cancelled due to trainer illness and bereavement. The remaining seven courses were cancelled due to a lack of sufficient numbers of participants to make running the course viable. Although four fewer courses ran this year than last, the total number of people attending each year was similar.

Inter-Agency Working Together Course

The full day Interagency Working Together course was revised in Nov 08 to include information about the CAF service and further revision is taking place in light of recent further guidance on Information Sharing and Lord Laming's report March 09. Eight IAW courses ran this year.

Refresher Courses

For those whose work role legally requires 2-3 yearly Inter Agency training we offer a half day Refresher course. This course was revised and updated in Nov 08 and further revision is taking place in light of recent further guidance on Information Sharing and Lord Laming's report March 09. Six Refresher courses ran this year.

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

This course ran twice this year and concentrates on raising awareness and exploration of practice through case studies. A new trainer for this course recently attended the Train the Trainer.

Child Protection Conference Process

This course was offered but did not run this year due to lack of response. It will be scheduled to run again next year with new trainers.

Domestic Violence Training

Following cancellation of this course in October due to low numbers, a concerted effort to encourage attendance on the re-scheduled dates in January resulted in the course being oversubscribed with 60 applicants applying. 26 people attended the two day course and a trainers review meeting made a number of recommendations to update the programme.

A further course is currently scheduled to be delivered in July 09.

Parental Substance Misuse

This course ran twice in 2008. A third course due to run in October was cancelled due to trainer illness and bereavement. It will be necessary to find a replacement for the trainer on long term sick leave before the course can run again.

Safer Recruitment

We have run two Safer Recruitment courses to facilitate single agency training and multi-agency Train the Trainer courses to deliver the NCSL training targeted at key people involved in the recruitment process within their organisations.

Briefing events

Briefing events have always been very popular and well attended. In previous years briefings have covered topics such as the abolition of the Child Protection Register; Missing Children and Private Fostering.

This year briefings were held on the subjects of Sexually Active Young People and Trafficked Children in June and the Child Death Review process in November. Three briefings per day with each briefing lasting approx 1.5 hours attended by a total 132 multi-agency professionals.

Training Needs Analysis

A Training Needs Analysis was carried out in April 08. LSCB reps were asked to ensure that their agencies complete and return the forms within timescale in order to enable a comprehensive review of the training programme to respond to identified needs and meet the Board's responsibilities.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The third MKSCB Annual Conference 'Staying Safe in Milton Keynes: Time For Action' was held at Jury's Inn in November 08 during anti-bullying week. Keynote speaker, Rachel Sensicle, Senior Child Protection Advisor at Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) was particularly well received and workshops were offered on the subjects of bullying, young people living with mental health problems, the integrated cycle of abuse, trafficking young people, homophobic bullying, the role of the corporate parent and peer support projects in schools.

The participation of children, young people and their families in our training programme has continued to develop. Last year a group of local children and young people facilitated a workshop for delegates. These children and young people then proceeded to be actively involved in the recruitment and selection of the Milton Keynes LSCB Independent Chair.

This year we were actively assisted by MK College students whose participation in the event was invaluable in welcoming delegates, helping them sign in and find workshops. The students were also invited to attend the workshops.

A total of 147 people attended the conference; an increase of 30% on the previous year and 49% on 2006 (113 attended in 07 and 99 attended in 06).

TRAINING POOL

The Inter-Agency Training Project has always relied upon a pool of interagency practitioners to deliver training in addition to their core job. The difficulties of balancing increasing workloads and demands from Managers with finding and committing time to deliver training has been a recurring theme over the years and remains a major challenge.

In addition to delivering training, trainers need to meet their co-trainer prior to the event to plan their delivery and re-familiarise themselves with materials. The temptation to withdraw from delivering training, often with very short notice, is understandably tempting but creates considerable difficulty for the Co-ordinator who has little chance of finding another trainer at short notice. Lack of leverage in these circumstances exacerbates the frustration.

Over the past year, eight trainers have withdrawn from the pool. Of the remaining eleven the brunt of delivering core IAW and Refresher training has been borne by six trainers, primarily from health, and the Co-ordinator. Pressure of work has been the major reason given by trainers for withdrawal from the pool.

It therefore became a priority to increase numbers of trainers in the pool and a two day Train the Trainer course was delivered in January 09 to ten professionals from MKC, Pre-School Alliance, Education, Police, Health and Sure Start. Whilst two of these undertook training to deliver specific Level 3 courses, the remainder will be mentored and supported to deliver the core IAT programme over the coming months. The challenge will be to support experienced trainers to mentor and develop the new trainers to become confident in delivering the course materials.

As part of the training agreement, trainers are required to keep their knowledge updated via recall meetings held approx four times a year. In December, a buffet lunch was provided to thank trainers for all their hard work and a Behaviour Management Consultant delivered a short workshop on working with difficult behaviour in groups.

Pool members *active* in delivery of courses during 08/09 include:

Interagency Working Together and Refresher Courses

Tracey O'Brien, Named Nurse for Child Protection, Health PCT

Jo Ulyett, Named Nurse for Child Protection, Health Acute Services

Tammie Redman, Children's Workforce and Development Manager

Gilly Attree, CAF Service Manager

John Walsh, Manager NCH Greenleys Family Centre

Sarah McGrory, Group Manager, Referral and Assessment team

Tammi Redman, Workforce Training Officer

Mary Plummer, Named Midwife, MK General Hospital

Carolann James, Reviewing Service Manager, MKC

Family Group Conference Process

Anne Barlow, Family Group Conference Service Manager

Carlos Williams, Family Group Conference Co-ordinator

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

Liz Hayward, Senior Nurse, Children with Complex Needs and Disabilities

Sandra Wilson, Social Worker, MKC

Parental Substance Misuse

Angie Bishop, MKC

Rosie Gore, Health Visitor, Substance Misuse

Safer Recruitment

Roger Palethorpe, Employment Development, MKC

Lesley Bridge, Social Care Training, MKC

Train the Trainer

Fiona West, Senior Nurse for Child Protection, PCT
 Roger Palethorpe, MKC

MK Response to Domestic Violence

The group delivering this training include Vikki Blakeston, Referral and Assessment Team Manager CSC; representatives from MKAct (formerly Women's Aid) including Irene Chittenden and Marilyn Francis and representatives from the police and solicitors Bastian Lloyd Morris and Adams Moore.

The Co-ordinator would like to thank members of the training pool for their commitment and professional delivery of interagency training throughout the past year.

ATTENDANCE BY AGENCY

April 2008-March 2009	Total Social Care	Total Health	Total Education and schools	Total Vol. sector	Total Police	Total probation	Total prison	Other
*Places taken up	94	139	93	18	9	4	7	89
DNA	35	27	15	3	3	0	1	14

Total 453 participants (98 DNA)

*These numbers include those attending for Briefing events: 'Sexually Active Young People and Trafficked Children in June and the Child Death Review

143 delegates attended the Annual Conference held in November 2008 at Jury's Hotel - not included above.

April 2007-March 2008	Total Social Care	Total Health	Total Education and schools	Total Vol. sector	Total Police	Total probation	Total prison	Other
*Places taken up	161	146	52	8	14	0	0	62
DNA	44	24	10	0	0	0	0	12

Total 443 participants (90 DNA)

*These numbers include those attending for Briefing events: Abolition of the Child Protection Register

113 delegates attended the Annual Conference held in November 2007 at Jury's Hotel - not included above.

April 2006- March 2007	Total Social Care	Total Health	Total Education and schools	Total Vol. sector	Total Police	Total probation	Total prison	Other
*Places taken up	59	59	25	15	4	9	0	30
DNA	24	14	2	0	1	1	0	8

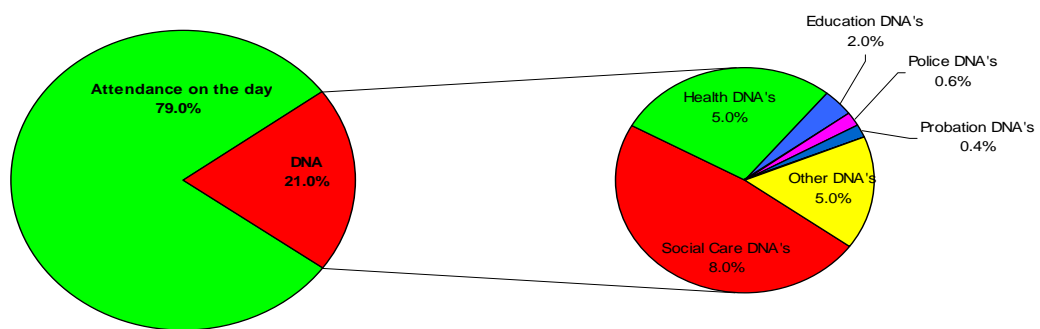
Total 201 participants (50 DNA)

*These numbers include those attending for Briefing events: Revised Working Together (2006)

99 delegates attended the Annual Conference in Nov 06 - not included above.

Health practitioners attended all courses in the largest numbers. Education, Probation and Police were the groups identified as previously not attending inter-agency working together courses. It is pleasing therefore to report that Education staff are now attending in increasing numbers due in part to being able to contact the project directly to book a training place. It is also pleasing to note a small but significant attendance from prison services and an increase in numbers attending from the voluntary agencies. The numbers attending all courses from Children’s Social Care has dropped significantly and none of their staff attended Refresher training this year. Other council staff are recorded under ‘other’ and include staff from Early Years and Childcare, Connexions and Youth Services. Attendance from the Police and Probation services is still low.

Attendance and Drop-Out Rates by Agency 2008 - 2009



Non-attendance at courses for which places have been allocated has been a noted concern in previous reports. There has been a consistent drop out rate of approx 20% every year of the past three years. Children’s Social Care continue to account for almost half non-attendance of allocated places. In an attempt to address drop-out rates, calls are now made to applicants the day before the course to remind them of their allocated place. Early indications are that this approach is beginning to have a small impact upon numbers attending.

Courses running in January and September are less well attended and are most likely to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers attending.

EVALUATION OF TRAINING

All training is evaluated by participants who complete both qualitative and quantitative evaluation forms copies of which are attached as appendices. There remains a strong argument for looking at ways of evaluating the impact of training at service level by requesting post course evaluation of the impact on process and behaviours of the worker after the training event.

91% of delegates rate our courses as either 'completely' or 'mostly' relevant, 98% stating that their learning objectives had either been 'completely' (66%) or 'mostly' (32%) achieved.

Application of new knowledge and training to practice is difficult to measure, however 92% of delegates feel that they will be 'completely' (57%) or 'mostly' (35%) able to apply the training in practice .

Current handout and other support materials are rated as 'completely adequate' by over 73% of those attending courses. Supplementary course information is supplied in a CD-rom format and this allows individual attendees to access other useful information subsequent to the training course attended and includes direct links to websites.

93% of delegates rated the appropriateness of the training methods used to achieve training objectives as 'completely' (66%) or 'mostly' (32%) appropriate. When asked how well the trainers enabled them to acquire new knowledge or skills 96% of delegates rated 'completely' (63%) or 'mostly' (33%) enabled.

80% of delegates felt the course 'completely' (48%) or 'mostly' (32) enabled them to network more effectively. Networking forms are distributed at the end of each training session for delegates to share their contact details with other colleagues on the course.

Only 3% felt that issues regarding working with difference was not addressed during the training. When asked how well these issues were integrated throughout the material and presentation 38% rated 'completely' enabled and 53% rated 'mostly' enabled. This question is often not understood by delegates and rephrasing the question may help them understand its relevance to diversity.

7% of delegates felt that pre-course information was not adequate. There are some differences in agency approach to booking places and difficulties can arise as a result. Joining instructions are not sent to delegates until two weeks before a course is scheduled to run as places need to be held open for those agencies whose financial contribution to interagency training currently secures them an allocated number of places. This can also cause some confusion as delegates are often unsure whether a place has been allocated to them or not.

53% rated venue as 'completely adequate', 36% as 'mostly' adequate. Some of the venues used free of charge are actively disliked by trainers and delegates alike who feel rooms can be cramped and parking expensive.

Only 35% rated catering as completely adequate and 11% rated it as not adequate. No budget is allocated to the provision of lunch on any interagency training course but coffee, tea and water are always provided.

Courses continue to be advertised as widely as possible and include MK Council's Health and Social Care Training Opportunities Brochure, our own Annual Brochure, and regular reminders via email to members of the Training Pool and Agency Representatives.

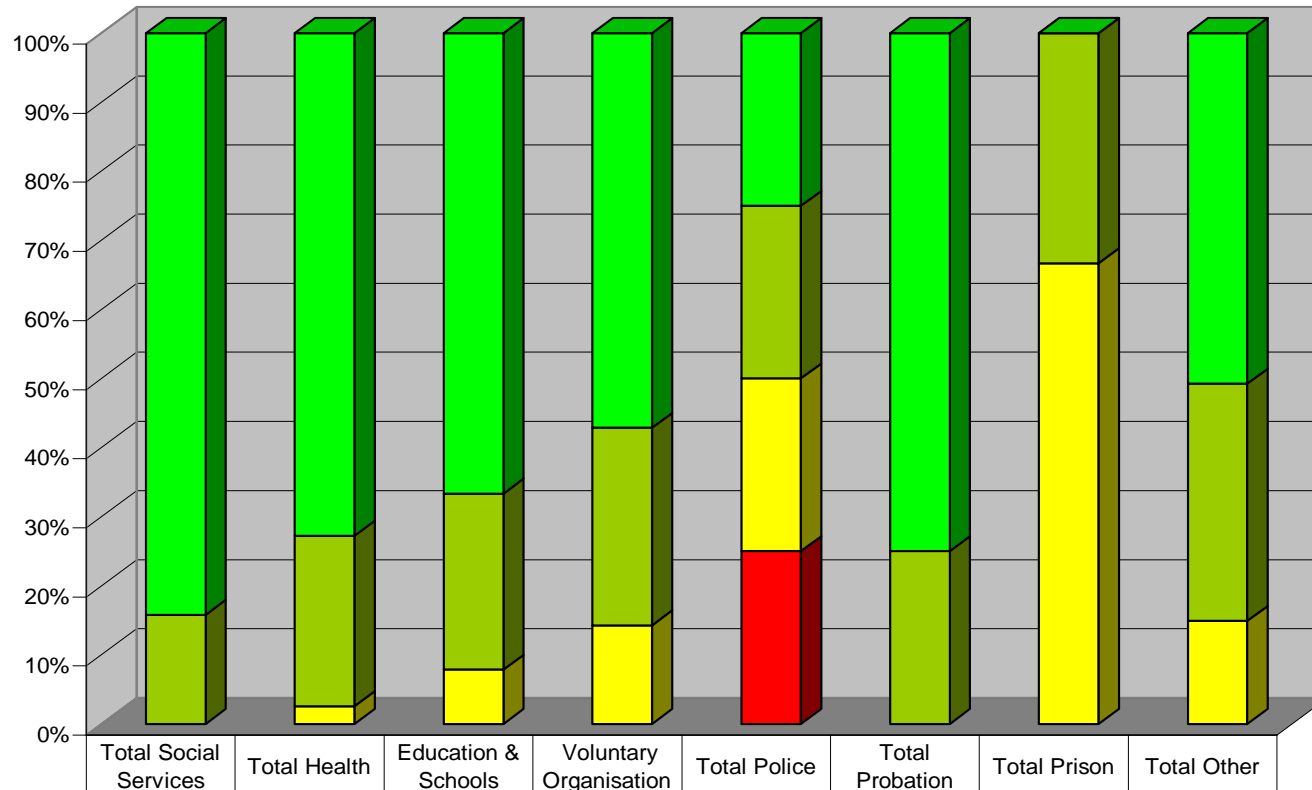
In addition, we now invite course attendees to opt in to direct personal mailings regarding upcoming training opportunities and other Project developments.

The development of the MKSCB website has further assisted our communication strategy.

Finally, as Project Co-ordinator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the MKSCB Training and Learning Sub-Group and Nicola Graham, Project Administrator for their valuable support and guidance.

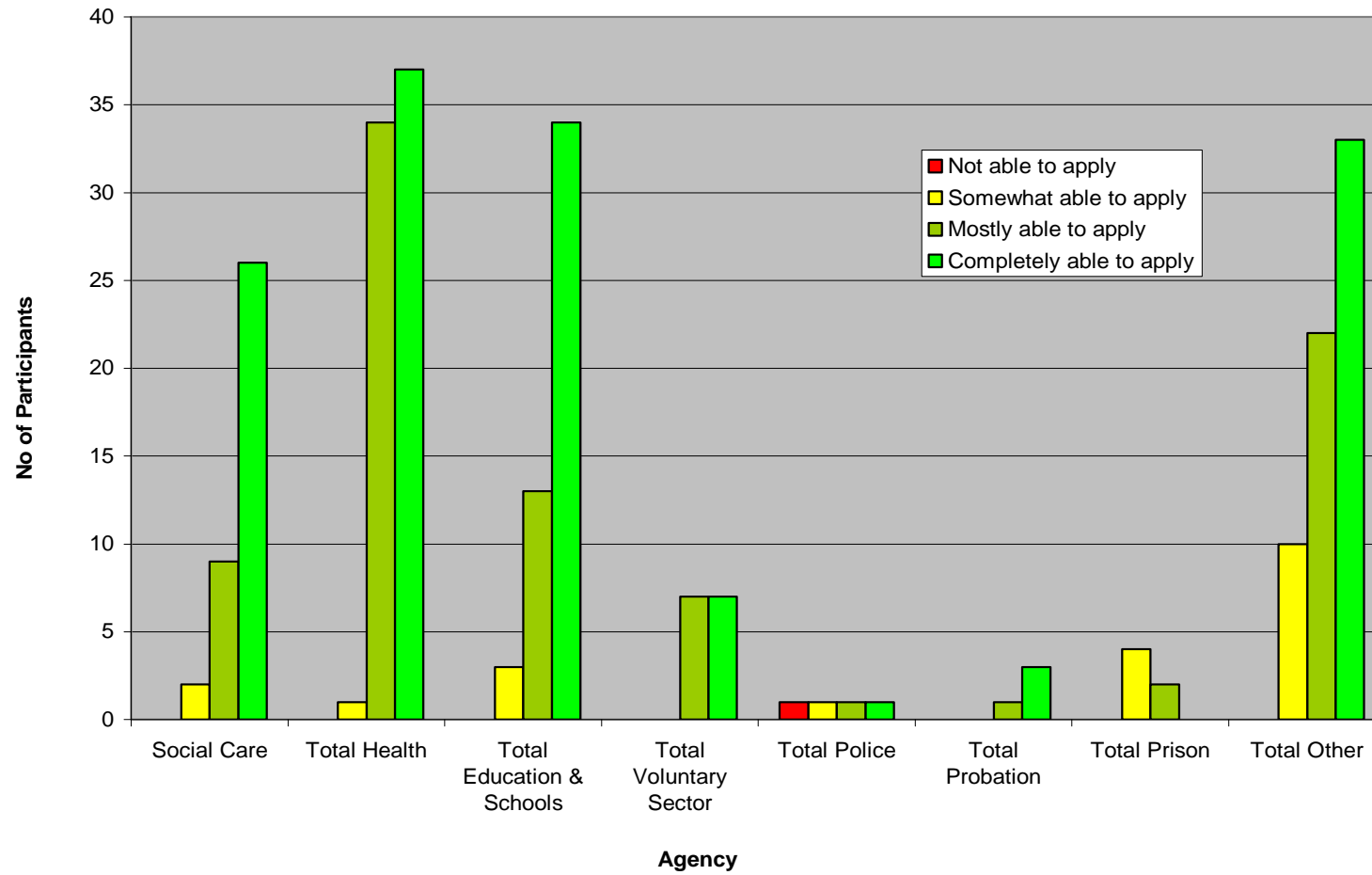
Maggie Whymark
Interim Inter-Agency Training Co-ordinator
March 2009

Question 1) How would you rate the relevance of this course overall, within the context of your professional development?
 (Breakdown of Agency response 08/09)



Completely Relevant	32	56	34	8	1	3	0	34
Mostly Relevant	6	19	13	4	1	1	2	23
Somewhat Relevant	0	2	4	2	1	0	4	10
Not Relevant	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Question 12) To what extent will you be able to apply this learning to your practice? (breakdown by agency 08-09)





ANNUAL REPORT
CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL
2009

BACKGROUND

The CDOP is drawn from the key organisations represented on the LSCB. There should be senior management representation from Director of Public Health or representative, Coroner or Coroner's Officer, Consultant Paediatrician, Children's Social Care, Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit, Child Health Nurse, Midwifery, Education, Ambulance Trust, and Chair of Sub-Committee Serious case review.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009 72 deaths have been notified to the panel of children residing or dying in the LSCB areas under eighteen years of age.

The deaths include 4 children who are not normally resident in the area. The numbers compared with five previous years in each LSCB area:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bucks	51	36	41	36	48	35
M Keynes	34	23	25	28	22	37

Case Review Time

The CDOP meets bimonthly and completed reviews on 16 child deaths. Time spent reviewing these cases are summarized below:

Review Time	Total deaths	In area deaths	Parent resident out of area
1-3 months			
4-7 months	14	14	
8-10 months	2	1	1
Total	16	15	1

Appendix 4

Demographics

Ethnicity

The ethnicity of the 16 children who died was as follows:

Ethnic group	8	White	<input type="checkbox"/> British <input type="checkbox"/> Irish 1 Any Other White background <input type="checkbox"/> Traveller of Irish Heritage <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Roma
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> White & Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> White & Black African <input type="checkbox"/> White & Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed
	3	Asian or Asian British	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian 1 Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> African <input type="checkbox"/> Any other black background
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese or other ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Any other, specify
	3	Not known/ not stated	

Age

The age distribution of the 16 children who died was as follows:

Neonatal deaths (< 4 weeks)	6	Infant deaths (4 - 52 weeks)	3
1 - 4 years	2	5 - 9 years	1
10 - 14 years	3	15 - 18 years	1

Gender

The gender of the 16 children who died was as follows:

Male	10
Female	5
Indeterminate	1
Total	16

Appendix 4

Categories of death

Expected death from natural causes	14	Homicide	
Unexpected death from natural causes	2	Suicide	
SIDS		Cause of death not established	
Accident		'Near misses'	

Preventability

The Panel made a decision on the degree to which each death was considered preventable. It is important to recognise that this categorisation is to inform any efforts to reduce childhood deaths. It does not in itself carry any implication of blame on any individual party, but simply acknowledges where factors are identified which, had they been different, may have resulted in the death being prevented.

Preventable	1	Potentially preventable	1
Not preventable	14	Inadequate information to make judgement	

Recommendations

The Panel identified any lessons to be learnt, recommendations to be made or actions to be taken in response to the review of each death. Recommendations were made in the following areas:

Recommendations specific to the management of an individual case	✓	Community education / awareness	
Training commissioners / providers		National education / awareness	
Changing local organisational structures and practices	✓	Advocacy and health promotion	
Changing regional policies or practices		Mobilising local communities	
Influencing legislation or national policy		No recommendations	✓

Future Development

The Overview Panel has the advantage of being able to review each individual child death in the context of other deaths of children in the area, and to be able to identify any potentially contributory recurrent themes, circumstances, or possible limitations in service provision by one or more agencies.

Appendix 4

Drawing on the information from individual cases and from the overall pattern of events, contributory factors and service provision in the local area will allow the overview panel the opportunity to develop local recommendations to help reduce childhood deaths and where appropriate, specific ad hoc recommendations (e.g. dealing with particular road or environmental factors).

This information, together with both the factual and opinion-based outcomes of the Overview panel reviews will be aggregated in the regional and national reports on the Child Death Review process, which will in turn be able to produce more generalisable sets of recommendations aimed at reducing child deaths.