

Annual Review Report 2007-2008

Local Safeguarding Children Board

North Lincolnshire's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
55-57 Oswald Road, Scunthorpe

tel: 01724 867821

Chair's Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Review report of the LSCB in North Lincolnshire for 2007-2008. The purpose of the report is to outline the progress the LSCB has made against the Strategic Plan for Safeguarding 2006-2009 and the Children and Young People's Plan, Stay Safe Outcomes 2006-2009. The Report will also outline the LSCB priorities for 2008-2009 and our plans for how we propose to meet these.

As Chair of the LSCB I would like to thank everyone involved in the LSCB, the Action Groups and the delivery of training, for their hard work and dedication. The LSCB is built upon commitment and a shared belief that 'safeguarding children is everybody's business' and it is through our strong partnerships that we can continue to deliver support to children and families that's help them to keep safe and grow up in environments in which they can thrive and feel comfortable in.

The expectations on the LSCB are quite rightly high and this year the LSCB has undergone extensive external scrutiny through the Government Inspection, the Joint Area Review. The findings of the Joint Area Review highlight significant strengths of the LSCB and some of these were:

- The work of the LSCB is excellent in engaging partner agencies, taking a strong lead on safeguarding across the local area
- A range of good work is undertaken on a multi agency basis to inform children and young people and their carers about their safety and there is helpful information available.
- Good partnership work has resulted in a significant reduction in the numbers killed or seriously injured on the roads

However we must never be complacent, the safeguarding of children is a relentless duty and 2008-2009 will bring the LSCB new priorities and challenges to meet and in order to address them effectively we must continue to work together to keep children safe in North Lincolnshire.

Simon Driver
Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council
Chair, North Lincolnshire's Local Safeguarding Children Board

National Context

The LSCB was established in line with the Children Act 2004 and this was following the significant changes brought about by the death of Victoria Climbié, a little girl who died as a result of being harmed by her carers and the failure of those agencies who were involved with her to respond appropriately to her needs. The Statutory and legal context the LSCB operates in continues to develop, the LSCB and agencies working with children and young people and their families must be proactive and responsive in meeting their requirements in meeting these and keeping children safe.

The LSCB has a statutory responsibility to:

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area
- to ensure the effectiveness of the work done by each such person or body for that purpose.

Local Context

In order to assist the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board in discharging its responsibilities, and to provide effective performance management and monitoring of safeguarding activities, an Executive Group and these action groups have been in place in 2007-2008:

1. The Common Assessment, Child in Need Action Group
2. Communication/community participation Action Group
3. Human Resources/Policy and Procedures Action Group
4. Children In Care Action Group
5. Serious Cases Review Action Group
6. Training Action-group

What do we need to do next?

The LSCB is faced with a number of priority areas for 2008/2009. The National drivers for priorities have emerged as a result of:

- The Stay Safe Action Plan
- The biennial analysis of Serious Case Reviews and Improving Safeguarding Practice a Study of Serious Case Reviews
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards: A review of Progress
- PSA Delivery Agreement 13
- Statutory Guidance for LSCB's

The local priorities for the LSCB have emerged through:

- The Joint Area Review
- The Annual Performance Assessment
- The results of local consultation
- The Annual review of the Strategic Plan for Safeguarding
- The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Review 2008

The CYPP Stay Safe priorities and actions for 2008/09 will continue to be managed by the LSCB.

The LSCB held a priority shaping event to agree the priorities for 2008-2009 and develop the new Strategic Plan for Safeguarding. These are outlined in the Stay Safe Plan for Safeguarding 2008-2009.

The LSCB agreed that the structure of the Plan for Safeguarding for the focus of how we deliver on our priorities needed to be reflective of the three priority areas that sit across the three levels of safeguarding outlined in the Stay Safe Action Plan (DCSF 2008) and these are:

- Safe Adults
- Safe Children & Families
- Safe Environments

The LSCB agreed that the vision and values it set out in the Strategic Plan for Safeguarding are still strong for the future and the task of the LSCB is to embed further the key philosophy that **Safeguarding Children is Everybody's Business.**

Annual Review Report 2007-2008
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Progress Report

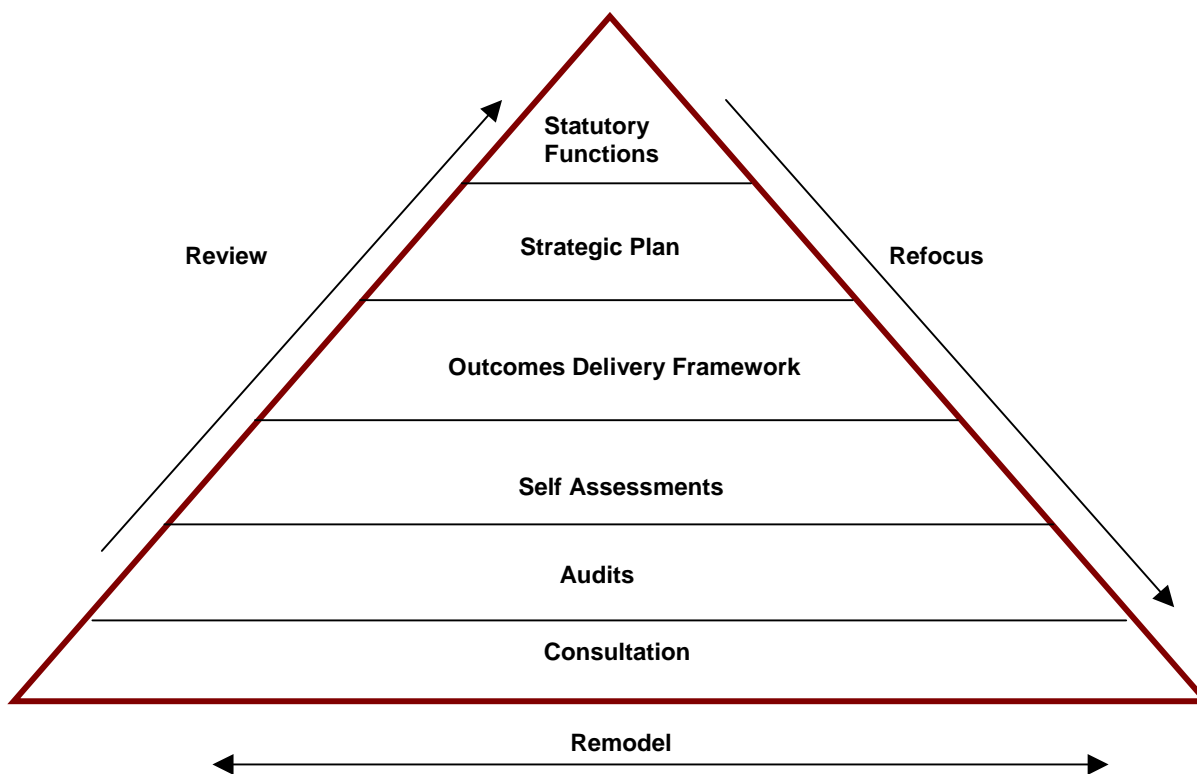
Measuring the effectiveness of the LSCB

The LSCB has been established within the context of outcome based impact assessment, in that it must highlight the difference it is making to the lives of children and young people in North Lincolnshire, regarding keeping them safe. This has signposted a significant change in thinking about performance of the agencies represented on the LSCB, as it has had to move away from the traditional monitoring of 'what we did' to 'what difference has it made'. The onset of the LSCB in line with the ethos around Every Child Matters has also meant that the focus must be on collective impact and not just single service performance.

In 2007- 2008, the LSCB has invested a great deal of effort into the development of an outcome based framework that has been designed to embrace the whole safeguarding agenda and move away from monitoring traditional ACPC responsibilities, whilst not losing sight of the essential safeguarding functions.

Performance as a continuous process

The LSCB has identified that in order to deliver its statutory functions effectively there must be 'a culture of continuous improvement' (Strategic Plan for Safeguarding). The Board under its vision statement has also identified that it wants to become a 'beacon Board', that is defined as 'a Board of excellence, who has good working partnerships between agencies, good procedures, methods of working and good monitoring systems'. (Strategic Plan for Safeguarding) In striving to fulfil this ambition the Board recognises that the positive impact it must make upon the safety of children and young people in North Lincolnshire is not based upon a single activity around performance and that it is a continuous process that has several facets.



How the LSCB measures it's effectiveness:

The Strategic Plan for Safeguarding 2006-2009

The LSCB has set out clearly its key statutory functions, tasks and outcomes in the Strategic Plan for Safeguarding 2006-2009. This document provides the expectations and timescales of what must be achieved by the working structure that underpins the LSCB. The document also defines the shared ethos and values that underpin the LSCB and it's joint commitment to safeguarding children. The Strategic Plan provides a measurable framework on the Boards progress based upon its statutory functions.

The Annual Review of the Strategic Plan for Safeguarding

The Strategic Plan is reviewed annually by the LSCB and this review summarises the progress made against the Strategic Plan and what the emerging priorities for the Board are.

The Outcome Delivery Framework

In order to measure whether the LSCB is making a difference to keeping children and young people safe in North Lincolnshire, it has developed an integrated outcome delivery framework between the LSCB and the Children's Board. It is designed to reflect the priorities and functions of the Stay Safe Indicators in the Children and Young People's Plan, the LSCB and the key Grade Descriptors, regarding safeguarding children. The Stay Safe Turning the Curve group and the Seven Action Groups are fully integrated and each have defined Performance Indicators they are responsible for reporting on, that are the most closely aligned to the key functions of the group. The Children's Board and the LSCB measure these indicators.

The LSCB will receive Quarterly Performance Management Reports, based on a traffic light system that summarises whether performance is Green, Amber or Red. Areas of concern or focus for the Board will be reported using an exception report process accompanied by details on what needs to be done differently to make a positive difference (Turn the Curve). On an annual basis the LSCB and the Children's Board will hold a detailed performance review during which it will examine the achievements and difference it has made over the last year and agree the priorities for the next year.

Self Assessments

A conscious decision has been made by the LSCB since it's inception to undertake a range of self-assessments. These provide a benchmark as to where the LSCB is performing against targets and priorities throughout the year.

Audits

A key principle of the LSCB is in relation to undertaking audits in specific areas to feed into holistic information on the LSCB's performance. The audits undertaken are locally as well as nationally driven. The LSCB has established a culture of openness and transparency where agencies are able to have a productive dialogue regarding areas of safeguarding practice. This on going commitment enables the LSCB to maintain introspection upon areas of development across safeguarding in its widest sense.

Consultation

As well as being a statutory function a key principle of the LSCB is to undertake consultation in all areas of safeguarding. The Communication/Community Participation Action Group undertakes consultation with children, young people and their families on safeguarding issues.

All the above mechanisms feed into the LSCB's cycle of continuous improvement and help us to evidence the progress we are making.

The Headline Achievements of the LSCB for 2007-2008

Communication

The LSCB has raised awareness of safeguarding within North Lincolnshire this is evidenced in the on line consultation and the peer review undertaken by the Board in February 2008. The peer review described the high profile the LSCB has, the good engagement of statutory partners within it, as well as the awareness there is among professionals. The on line consultation also supports that there is awareness about the LSCB with 50% of respondents describing that they were fully aware of it. The LSCB has achieved or is on target to achieve all of the key tasks identified in the Strategic Plan for Safeguarding 2006-2009. The consultation on the LSCB has identified that the information the LSCB produces is considered very useful by professionals and the public. The Stay Safe handbook was considered as very useful by 34.5% of respondents on the on line survey and 15,000 copies were circulated across North Lincolnshire. The Peer Review highlights that the LSCB newsletter is considered helpful and useful and that generally the information produced is viewed as of good quality and valued.

Building a Culture

The LSCB has robust partnership arrangements and extensive work has been undertaken in conjunction with the Stay Safe Turning the Curve Group to develop an integrated performance management framework for the LSCB. The framework has supported the LSCB to move from an operational Board to a Strategic Board. Audit and scrutiny have underpinned 2007/2008 for the LSCB, audits by Regional Government office have evidenced our progress in relation to safer recruitment, The JAR has highlighted the progress of the LSCB and that 'partnership working on safeguarding is strong'. The peer review outlines that the message of safeguarding being everybody's business is delivered consistently.

Secure and Sustainable Infrastructure

In 2007 the LSCB reviewed the guidelines and procedures and updated these. This also included the implementation of the national CAF and over 500 CD's containing the procedures and guidelines have been distributed across agencies. The Managing Allegations Against People who work with Children procedures were implemented and nominated officers were supported through training and a LADO forum in the implementation of these. Work was undertaken on the MARAC process and this has also been implemented and supported through the delivery of training and the underpinning of an agreed Information Sharing Protocol. Work has been undertaken in preparation for the implementation of a Child Death Overview Panel in April 2008.

Auditing

Safer recruitment has been a significant focus of the LSCB for 2007/2008. The LSCB agreed the minimum standards in relation to vetting of staff who work in positions of trust. Agencies have reported their progress to the Board against these standards. The Human Resources Action produced a Safer Recruitment Best Practice Model, which was launch at an event at Forest Pines on 3rd March 2008. The importance of the NCSL training and the DCSF training on safer recruitment have been promoted through the LSCB and work undertaken to support the uptake of this training by schools.

Train and Develop People

The LSCB implemented the training calendar for 2007/2008 and the training delivered was based upon national and local priorities that had emerged. The LSCB increased the range of training it offered and also the amount to agencies. The LSCB has developed an on line awareness training programme specifically for the voluntary and community sector to use as an introduction to safeguarding since it's implementation in November 2007 147 people have accessed this. The LSCB has delivered 43 training courses over the last year and has trained 603 people. The LSCB implemented an updated nomination process for training and operates an evaluation process to review the courses offered. The LSCB also

targeted schools staff and those staff within the Dip service regarding safeguarding training in 2007/2008. The LSCB has supported the campaign to raise awareness regarding private fostering and this area has been built into the Awareness, Foundation and Common Assessment Training offered by the LSCB. The training action group have also undertaken work on a Safeguarding Induction pack for agencies which will be presented to the LSCB for agreement.

Consulting and Engaging

The LSCB has consulted with children, young people and families regarding a range of safeguarding issues. The outcomes of the consultation exercises have been used to build into LSCB priorities and inform communication strategies. The participation of Children and young people within the Children in Care Action Group proved to be unsuccessful and rather than asking young people to sit through meetings LSCB Action Group Members have liaised with them through the Great Youth Debate, the Xpress forum and the Garage Patch Kidz.

Financial Statement

Closing Balance for 2007-2008

In 2007/2008 the LSCB received contribution amounts from the following agencies of:

| Agency | Contribution 07/08 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| CAFCASS | £578 |
| North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust | £18095 |
| Humberside Police | £4726 |
| Humberside Probation | £1200 |
| Children, Strategy and Partnerships | £67092 |
| Schools | £25656 |
| Learning, Schools and Communities | £10802 |
| Connexions Humber | 0 |
| Total received | £128149 |

The budget for the LSCB for 2007/2008 was £135036. The only outstanding contribution to the LSCB for 2007/2008 is from Connexions Humber who have yet to confirm and pay their contribution

The predicted LSCB under spend for the LSCB for 2007/2008 is £1734 and this is calculated without the contribution from Connexions Humber.

Despite three recruitment drives the LSCB has not had a training coordinator in post for 2007/2008. This accounts for the under spend.

Expenditure

| Item | Expenditure | Comment |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Staffing | 8103 | |
| Training | 5389.80 | |
| Child Witness Scheme | 22000 | |
| Publicity Material | 4457.06 | |
| Refreshments for meetings | 108.46 | |
| Premises | 12000 | In kind |
| Equipment | 1539.20 | |
| IT recharges | 3460 | |
| Travel and Mileage | 2890 | |
| Room Hire | 673.01 | |
| Repairs | 45 | |
| Stationary /printing | 4818 | |
| | | |
| Total | 126415.21 | |

Progress of the LSCB Action Groups

Children in Care Action Group

The Group is chaired by the Service Manager (Children In and Leaving Care). Membership includes representatives from the YOT, Health, Connexions, DELTA, Learning Schools and Communities and Children and Families Service – including Children’s Homes, Audit and Review and Adoption and Fostering. The group is also attended a young person who has left care.

The recent JAR Inspection reported that services for Children in Care in North Lincolnshire are “good with some outstanding features” and that they have a “strong and pervasive emphasis on safeguarding”.

The majority of Key Threshold Performance Indicators relevant to safeguarding CiC are all in the top band. These include

- Final warnings/reprimands and convictions of Children in Care
- Stability of placements of Children in Care
- Adoptions of Children in Care
- Children in Care absent from school
- Percentage of children who communicated their views at a statutory review
- Timeliness of reviews of Children in Care

The only indicator not currently in the top band measures the long-term stability of placements, this is improving and is in line with our Statistical Neighbours

Training Action Group

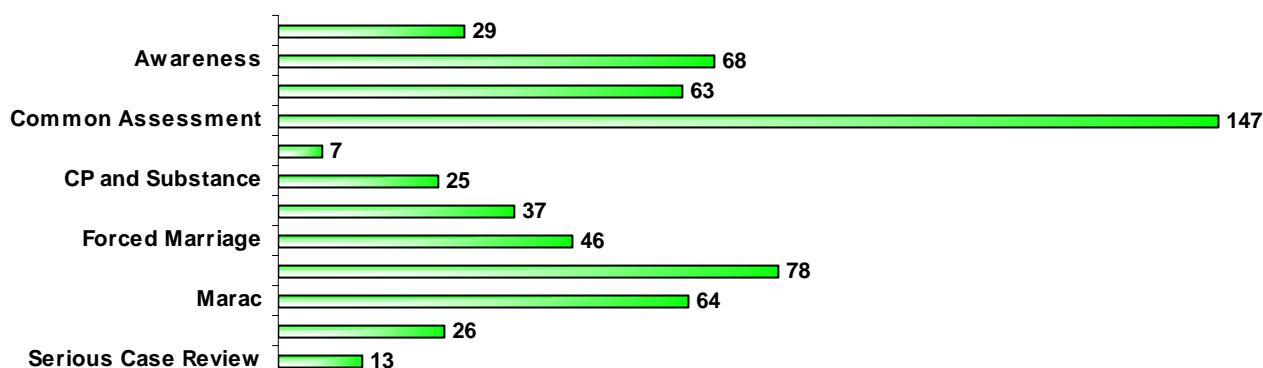
The Training Action Group had 3 key priorities for the 2007-2008 year

- Evidencing staff competency
- Data collection on single agency training
- Developing a standard for the induction of staff along with the delivery of the Training Calendar

The LSCB has delivered the following training courses.

| Course | Length of Course | Number of Courses |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Common Assessment | 1 day | 8 |
| Delivering an Integrated Response to Child with Additional needs | 1 day | 7 |
| Child Protection Awareness | 1 day | 4 |
| Child Protection Foundation | 2 days | 4 |
| Safeguarding Children in cases where neglect is a factor | 1 day | 2 |
| Child Protection and Substance Misuse | 1 day | 2 |
| Child Protection and Domestic Violence | 1 day | 3 |
| Child Protection and Children with Disabilities | 1 day | 1 |
| Serious Case Review – Learning Lessons | ½ day | 1 |
| Managing allegations against Staff | ½ day | 2 |
| MARAC | 1 day | 3 |
| Forced Marriage | ½ day | 2 |

Delegates attending LSCB Training Courses

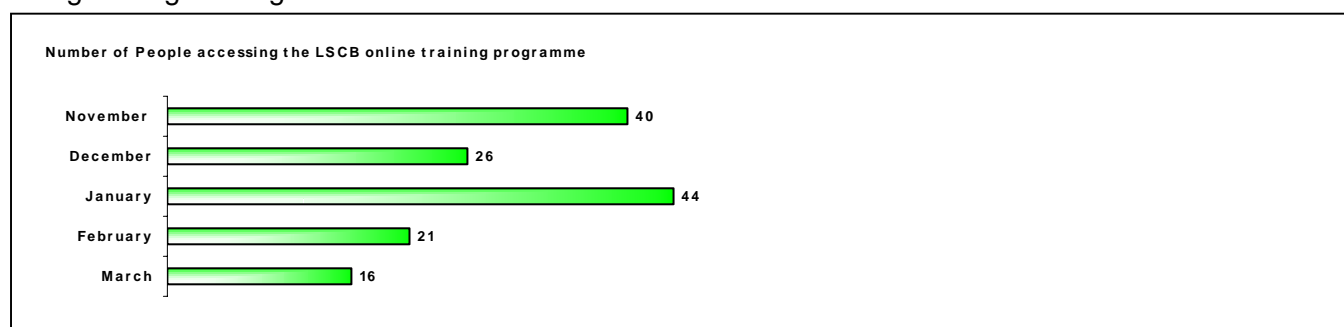


Delivery of LSCB training

Staff from the following agencies has delivered the courses delivered by the LSCB.

| Agency | | Number of trainer days |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Children and Young People's Services- Children and Family Services | Team Leader | 2 |
| | Head of Safeguarding | 2 |
| Children and Young People's Services- Children and Family Services (CIST Team) | Common Assessment & Child in Need Coordinators | 3.5 |
| | Principal Practitioners | 10.5 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | | 9 |
| Children and Young People's Services- Children and Family Services (DELTA Team) | | 3 |
| Children and Young People's Services- Childcare Development Service | | 4 |
| Safer Neighbourhoods | | 7 |
| Police | | 0.5 |
| Connexions | | 0.5 |

The LSCB has developed an online basic awareness that can be used for staff awaiting places on formal Awareness training. However, it may also be of use to assist in the cascading and dissemination of safeguarding awareness to practitioners/volunteers who may not require in depth safeguarding training.



The LSCB has operated without a Training Coordinator for 2007-2008. This has impacted upon the extent to which the Training Action Group priorities have been met.

The multi agency application/nomination form (LADR) was introduced at the beginning of the financial year. This form is in 2 parts; LADR1 for purpose of application, LADR2 to be sent to course participants a month after the course requesting feedback on the impact of the training on the participants working practice. The absence of a training coordinator has impacted upon the follow up of LADR2's which is an area of development regarding the existing evaluation process of training.

The LSCB developed a multi agency training database which has the potential to align with single agency data bases. The database has been worked upon to input all historical information and transfer all records from paper records to the electronic database.

The responsibility for the delivery of Child Protection Awareness passed to individual agencies from 1st April 2007. The LSCB has supported the continued delivery of multi-agency awareness training, to small voluntary and community groups.

Many agencies have developed their own arrangements for the delivery of Child Protection Awareness and the LSCB or individual agencies have continued to deliver or support the delivery of Awareness training in single agencies.

- Children's Social Care have made arrangements for the delivery of Awareness training to their staff.
- The Primary Care Trust and Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals' Trust work together to deliver Awareness training to all health providers including associated independent contractors
- The Childcare Development Service provide inhouse Awareness training.
- The Fire Service has been supported through training by Childcare Development Service
- Education, including Further Education colleges have been supported through Children's Social care.
- Connexions have been supported through continuing access to multi-agency Awareness but will need to deliver in house from 1st April 2008.
- Children's Centres deliver Awareness training to all their staff, and have made surplus capacity available to other agencies
- Leisure services deliver Awareness training to their own staff.

The Serious Case Review Action Group

The Serious Case Review Action Group has been established as part of the infrastructure of the LSCB to:

- Develop a Child Death Review Process
- Develop the Rapid Response protocol in relation to unexpected Child deaths
- Undertake Serious Case reviews
- Undertake Individual Management Reviews
- Develop a 'near miss' process to support a culture of continuous improvement
- Disseminate information, lessons learned from Serious Case reviews.
- Report to the Board on reviews undertaken
- Develop of action plans to implement and monitor the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews
- Liaise with other action groups of key issues regarding practice and procedures

The priorities identified for the LSCB in 2007/2008 were:

- To develop the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and rapid response procedures as set out in Chapter 7 of The Working Together Guidance 2006
- To develop and implement a 'near miss' approach to learning lessons from practice and embed within a no blame culture

The Serious Case Review Action Group have worked with partners on the development of the (CDOP) in preparation for the implementation from the 1st April 2008. The group held a scoping day supported by the Regional Government Advisor where the group were consulted upon whether there should be a North or Northern Lincolnshire CDOP, the membership and arrangements for the CDOP, the rapid response process and the procedures that would need to be in place. There has been consistent reporting to the LSCB regarding the planning and the areas of implication.

In 2007/2008 there were no child deaths that came under the criteria to be subject to a Serious Case Review. The Action plan from a previous Serious Case Review was completed and accepted by the LSCB.

The Serious Case Review Action Group has undertaken specific work with HM Coroner and this was in relation to developing an information sharing protocol to support the implementation of the CDOP and developing a safe sleeping campaign. The Group examined 12 cases where babies had died since 2002 across North and North East Lincolnshire as a result of unsafe sleeping arrangements and from this has developed an information leaflet for parents and is running an awareness campaign in March 2008, as statistically there are more baby born in this month in North Lincolnshire

The Group have undertaken monitoring and audit exercises. The Serious Case Review Action Plans were audited for compliance and to ensure the recommendations were being implemented. The LSCB received a progress report on this and it was highlighted that the recommendations were being implemented and progress had been made against them. In addition the Climbie Action Plans were audited and updated and it was reported that agencies were compliant and implementing the recommendations. The Group also completed an audit of cases where the police had responded to calls where Domestic Violence was a concern. The Group examined to interagency communication between the Police and the Referral Management Suite and concluded that information was being shared appropriately in the random cases sampled and cases were being responded to as per procedures.

Work has been started on the 'near miss' process and the LSCB were asked to support the exploration of this as an approach to learning lessons. A protocol for reporting practice improvements across agencies and the process by which cases would be examined under a near miss process was developed. However further work has to be completed on this in order to ensure that it is embedded within a no blame culture and that it also operates in compliance with standard HR procedures. Therefore it is necessary for group to consult with the Staff Side Organisations and also establish a consultative forum for front line practitioners. It is anticipated that the outcome of these will be reported to the LSCB in July 2008.

The Communication/Community Participation Action Group

The group is chaired by Head of Safeguarding and Practice and comprises of representatives from Police, Fire Service, PCT, Integrated Youth Support Service, Children Strategy & Partnerships, Public Relations, Community Safety and Connexions.

The group worked to the objectives set out in the LSCB Strategic Plan. These include:

- Undertake consultation with children and young people on safeguarding issues
- Consult with families on safeguarding issues

- Develop the participation of children and families in the LSCB

Primarily the group produced leaflets for the general public on a wide range of issues which are accessible on the NL LSCB website. Leaflets on reporting abuse and neglect, how investigations are conducted and how to keep children safe from abuse and neglect have been made available to the general public. Specific guidance has been produced and widely disseminated on the three Stay Safe Priorities contained in the CYPP e.g. Domestic Violence, Anti-Bullying and Preventing Accidents in the Home and Community.

The group has had a presence at local events such as the Scunthorpe Gala, distributing over 500 Staying Safe packs to families and organising a balloon launch to raise awareness of child deaths through road accidents.

Work with faith and minority communities has been undertaken through a Diversity event at Sheffield Park. Over 500 leaflets on safeguarding children, translated into different languages, were distributed whilst promoting the work of the LSCB throughout the day. Information and awareness raising on Forced Marriages, as it relates to abuse and neglect has been developed through this group.

Consultation has been undertaken with children and young people from the John Leggott College, X-Press forum and Garage Patch Kidz.

Over 60 questionnaires were completed by parents at the Scunthorpe Gala; 30+ by new starters at the John Leggott College and by over 70 parents attending Children's Centres in North Lincolnshire. The information from these consultations has been evaluated by the group, reported to the LSCB, and has resulted in re-designing our public information to better meet the needs of the community.

The group has worked with the local Evening Telegraph to raise the profile of safeguarding in North Lincolnshire. The newspaper ran a series of articles throughout Child Safety Week in June 2007, publishing articles on Domestic Violence, Anti-bullying and Preventing accidents to children – all promoting the work of the LSCB.

A further campaign with the local press was undertaken on 12 February 2008 to mark Internet Safety Day. The work of the Board on safeguarding children from harm on the internet was featured and a live broadcast was made on Radio Humberside, outlining the work undertaken with children and families to keep children safe online.

All schools in North Lincolnshire have been provided with Government backed guidance to keep children safe on the internet, and parents have received a letter notifying them about the "Think You know" safeguarding advice for parents.

An information sharing protocol aimed at all people working with children was developed by the group and agreed by the Board in 2007, and a safeguarding newsletter providing professionals with up to date and relevant information regarding safeguarding issues has been made available on a quarterly basis.

The Human Resources and Policy and Procedures Action Group

In 2007 these two action groups merged as it was recognised that there was significant overlap between the work undertaken on the groups.

The priorities for the **Policy and Procedures Action Group** were:

- To develop the procedures for the Child Death Overview Panel
- To revise the Information Sharing protocol in relation to Common Assessment and Child in Need
- The ongoing development of the procedures for the National Information Sharing Index

The Policy and Procedures Action Group worked upon the update of the multi agency guidelines and

procedures for Children in Need and Children in Need of Protection. The group also revised the Common Assessment process so that it was in line with the National Common Assessment Framework whilst ensuring that the local values and principles that underpin the local model remain central within our approach.

The Policy and Procedures Action Group also worked upon the Managing Allegations Against People who work with children procedures. These were implemented in line with National Guidance and best practice. The Group also developed a training package to deliver training to designated senior members of staff so that they were clear about their responsibilities under the procedures. Awareness raising activity has been undertaken to ensure that staff across all agencies are aware of the procedures. The group also produce a leaflet for staff and a practice forum has been implemented.

The Group also developed an information sharing protocol which has been agreed by the LSCB and implemented across agencies represented on the LSCB. In addition the Group also developed a document called ' Understanding Referrals to Children and Families Services' to assist practitioners regarding referrals and thresholds for referrals.

Work has been undertaken regarding the development of the procedures around Contact Point and these are in line with National targets.

The priorities of the **Human Resources Action Group** for 2007-2008 were:

- The Agreement of good practice plan regarding the recruitment and appointment of staff who work with children in agencies represented n the LSCB
- Development of all agencies policy and plan regarding staff who work with children appointed pre 2002 who do not have an enhanced CRB check
- Collation of baseline data from all agencies the current position in their agencies

The Human Resources Action Group developed the minimum standards for the CRB checking of staff across agencies who are represented on the LSCB and these have been agreed and implemented across agencies. The group have also undertaken audits to measure agencies progress against the standards. The standards are also reflected in the multi agency guidelines and procedures.

The Human Resources Action Group have developed a Best Practice Model regarding safer recruitment and this has been agreed by the LSCB. The Best Practice Model was launch at a multi agency training event hosting by Melvyn Barker OBE, who produced the DCSF guidance on Safer Recruitment. The event was attended by 70 people from across all agencies represented on the LSCB and schools.

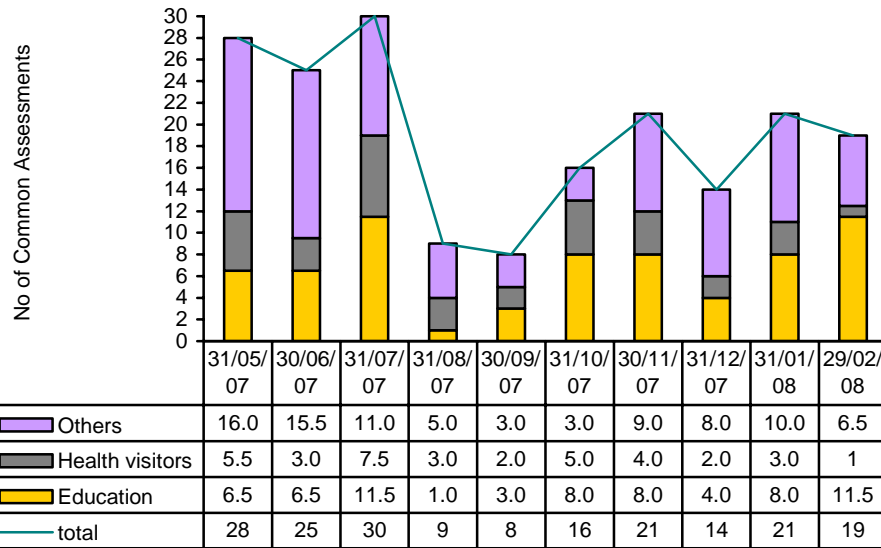
The Common Assessment Child in Need Action Group

The priorities of the Common Assessment/Child in Need Action Group for 2007-2008 were:

- The Implementation of the National Common Assessment Framework
- Monitoring Performance regarding the implementation of the National Common Assessment Framework/Child with Additional Needs Framework

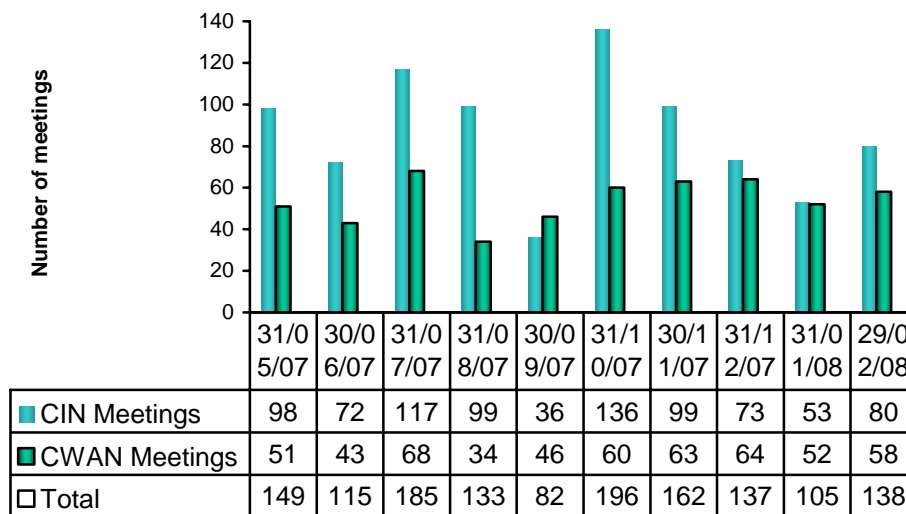
The LSCB has implemented the National Common Assessment Framework and the Action Group have worked upon the performance management framework for monitoring the implementation of the National CAF. Training has been disseminated widely to staff across all agencies to prepare them for the implementation of the National CAF.

The following performance information highlights the activity regarding Common Assessment and Child in Need.



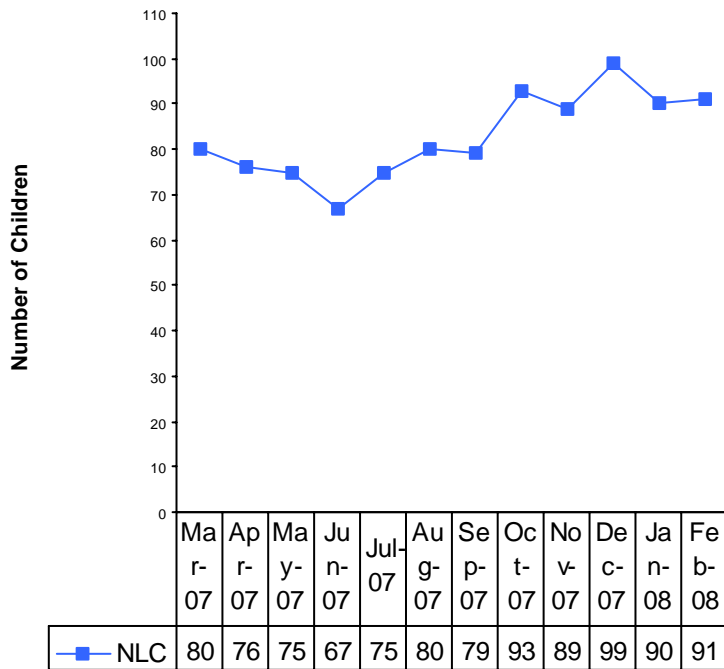
Common Assessments Received by Agency

Number of children involved in CWAN/CIN meetings

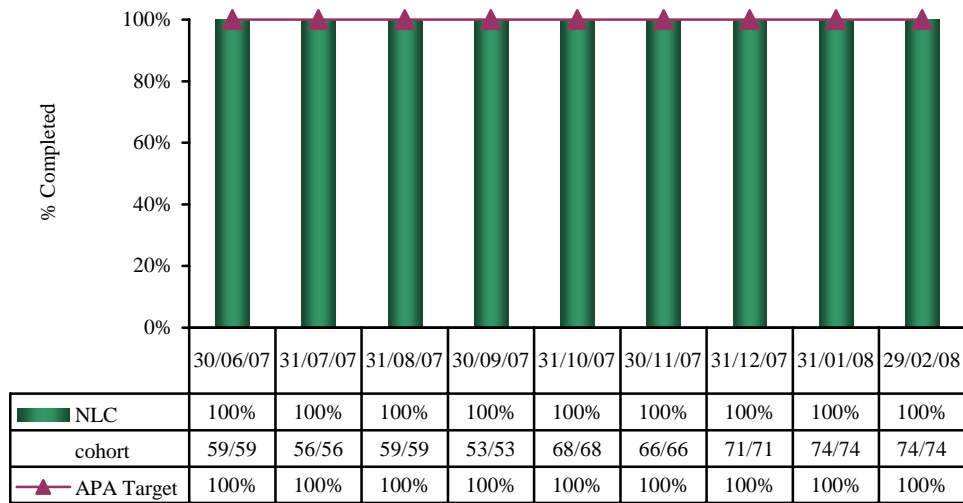


The Common Assessment/Child in Need Action Group have began to collect performance information regarding the following as part of the preventative approach to safeguarding children and young people:

Children who are subject to a child protection plan



% CPR cases should be reviewed during the year that were reviewed in the year



Progress regarding the Stay Safe Indicators

Under the partnership arrangements the LSCB leads on the Stay Safe Indicators in the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009. The Stay Safe Turning the Curve has the responsibility for monitoring the performance of agencies regarding the three outcomes of :

Please see appendix 1 for full report

APPENDIX 1: Progress Report on Stay Safe (from CYPP Review 2008)

Stay Safe

Priority 1: Reduce the incidence and fear of bullying

Progress on actions during 2007/08

We launched the Anti-bullying Strategy on 25th March 2008. The strategy provides the blue print to deliver our promises to

- Further develop monitoring in schools and youth settings
- Develop the role of the Anti-bullying Coordinator and implement the Anti-bullying Action
- Implement the routine collection of homophobic bullying in schools and group it with the collection of racist bullying data
- Develop an integrated programme of awareness raising events, and develop a full partnership commitment to the use of restorative justice approaches to bullying in relevant settings.
- Establish a network of Anti-bullying coordinators in all children's settings, working minimum standards.

The Adolescent Lifestyle Survey in 2007/8 to measured the local incidence and perception of bullying. We have continued to roll-out buddies and mentor schemes in schools. We have implemented the anti-bullying text-line for children in care ("bully phone").

Disabled children are particularly at risk of bullying. To counter this we have provided more inclusive play, sport and active recreation opportunities for disabled children and developed the Street Sport programme to further focus on the most disadvantaged groups, particularly those most at risk of offending and anti-social behaviour.

We are actively involving parents and carers in reducing the fear of bullying and the leaflet "Pathways to Positive Relationships" has been widely distributed. It offers advice to parents on steps to take if a child is being bullied. The Parents Anti-bullying Group also supports and advises parents and carers via mobile phone, email and meetings. They give talks to any interested groups and have recently been invited to attend a national event, organised by the National Children's Bureau, on recommendation of the Anti-bullying Alliance.

The North Lincolnshire Youth Anti-bullying Council (YABC) is run by young people for young people. The Chair influences national policies and guidance and is in regular contact with Secretary of State for Education. The group meets monthly but also gives advice/support via website and mobile.

What difference have we made?

A Bullying Forum day, which included the launch of the strategy, included partners as a way of creating a shared awareness of the issues and a shared commitment to working collectively to address them.

We have improved the monitoring of bullying by developing systemised monitoring arrangements in target schools, with a view to determining the impact of bullying, with the plan to roll out to all schools by 2008/9. Emerging finding from the 2007 ALS Survey suggest that 44% of respondents were bullied in school, compared with 69% nationally (Bullying UK survey 2006). Emerging findings also suggest that the proportion of pupils who said they were worried about bullying fell between 2004 and 2007.

We now have a network of anti-bullying co-ordinators in all childcare settings and they are making a significant contribution to awareness of the issues and better coordinated and consistent action to manage any incidents.

The Anti-Bullying Policy is well embedded in schools, strengthened by the safeguarding policy, under the auspices of the LSCB, which incorporates references to anti bullying, safer recruitment etc. This raises the profile and importance of managing bullying within the school environment.

54% of primary schools have buddies and we are on target to achieve 75% by the end of 2008/09.

85% of secondary schools have peer mentors and we are on course to achieve the 100% target by the end of 2008 in relation to peer mentors in secondary schools.

We have refined the monthly reporting of bullying involving children in care.

The JAR found that "effective work has been undertaken to develop and implement an overarching anti-bullying strategy. All schools have an anti-bullying policy. Peer mentors, buddies, positive parenting programmes and a

pilot project for children in transition from primary to secondary school have all yielded positive responses from the children and young people involved. All children interviewed during the inspection affirmed that schools deal with bullying well. Good anti-bullying work is also being undertaken as part of a broader programme of behaviour support.”

Reduce the harm caused by domestic violence

Progress on actions during 2007/08

We said we would improve our monitoring of data relating to children and domestic violence. We have

- Established a reporting structure regarding children via C&F Duty/Intake.
- Included the routine monitoring of performance and activity on domestic violence within the Children's Trust Partnership performance framework.

We said we would continue to raise the awareness of domestic violence and its impact on children and young people. We have

- Commenced a review of the DV pathway to make sure it is effective and well-understood.
- We have held several high profile conferences and events about DV and Forced Marriage and produced and distributed publicity materials.
- The Council has implemented a Domestic Violence Policy specifically for employees.
- Piloted the 'Miss Dorothy.com' in five schools, included Domestic Violence awareness in the peer-mentoring programme, included Domestic Violence in the development of SEAL and delivered awareness training to teaching education support staff
- We have secured funding for an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate who is working as part of Children and Family Services Duty to ensure early identification to link victims and to work with high risk victims of domestic violence identified through the MARAC.

We have also identified funding to continue the IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) to work with high-risk victims identified through the MARAC.

We said we would develop and launch a web based Domestic Violence Directory to provide access to national and local information and support. This was publicly launched on 27 March 2008.

What difference have we made?

The JAR inspectors found that “the domestic abuse strategy is well integrated with other initiatives, such as Safer Communities and the LSCB. This has contributed to the good reduction in the number of child protection case conferences featuring domestic abuse as the primary concern by 20% since 2005.” They also said that “The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme has been effective in primary schools and is now being rolled out to all secondary schools”. (JAR Report). This includes DV as an issue.

We have developed the MARAC process and activity levels have improved from 2 MARAC cases being referred in 2006/07 to 31 cases being referred in 2007/08.

86 properties have been target hardened where domestic violence is a factor and two properties have had a complete sanctuary scheme fitted.

Repeat victimisation has fallen from 51.47% on 2006/07 to 14.8% in 2007/08.

We have improved our data collection for referrals relating to domestic violence. This is allowing us to analyse the impact of domestic violence interventions, training and awareness raising initiatives. Initial conclusions suggest that improved work with tenancy support has increased the capacity to support victims of domestic violence and that while the trend in reporting is rising, repeat victimisation is decreasing.

Keep Children and Young People safe from accidents in the home and on the road

Progress on actions during 2007/08

We said we would provide better information and advice on the prevention of accidents in the home. We have

- Published and distributed the LSCB Keeping Children Safe handbook
- Made sure that prevention of accidents features in the Parenting and Family Support Strategy

- Continued to provide a wide range of advice and equipment to children and their parents to improve safety in the home and on the roads
- The Fire and Rescue Service have provided fire safety awareness sessions to 1977 children and young people. 10 children have successfully completed the 'fire friends' programme.
- The Practical Family Support Service (PFSS) Parenting with You Course has delivered Home Accident Prevention information to all attendees. This has included issuing relevant agency numbers and issuing accident prevention literature.

We have implemented a Child Death Overview Panel and improved our recording and management of the aftermath of child deaths in the light of current legislation.

We said we would address the problems of young drivers

- Fire & Rescue Service and Police have delivered young driver and passenger presentations to students at North Lincolnshire colleges.
- We have provided "First Car" magazine to all sixth form and college students in North Lincolnshire. First Car magazine will be published twice a year from March 2008 (March and September.).

We said we would provide in-car safety information to all prospective parents booking in at the ante-natal unit at Scunthorpe Hospital. We have distributed around 200 packs per month. We have delivered in-car safety training to children, young people and parents.

We have provided safe use of the road information and training appropriate for KS1 through the Partnership with Parents scheme, and continued to deliver cycling training and other road safety programmes to all ages through primary and secondary schools.

What difference have we made?

The JAR inspectors found that "a range of good work is undertaken on a multi-agency basis to inform children, young people and their carers about their safety, and there is helpful public information available to them. The Fire and Rescue Service, the Police, and the Highways and Planning Department are very involved in safeguarding initiatives through membership of the LSCB and effective work in schools and communities. Good partnership work has contributed to a significant reduction in the numbers of children and young people killed, or seriously injured, on the roads, from 16 in 2005 to seven in 2006. In the 2007 Audit Commission School Survey, schools judged the support from local services for road safety highly and the local authority is in the top quartile of all councils nationally. The number of children hurt in fires has also reduced significantly, from 14 in 2005 to two in 2007."

Emerging findings from the Adolescent Lifestyle Survey 2007 suggest that the majority of children feel safe moving about their local community and travelling to and from places like school, the local park and the town centre.

During January and February 2008 a Home Safety evaluation questionnaire was completed by service users. Parents commented that 'it's an excellent service and benefits many families and young children.' and suggested that the service provide fire blankets and fire extinguishers and that information on safety and access to equipment be provided on the maternity ward.

An evaluation of the PFSS Parenting With You Course has indicated the support and information given to address Home Accident prevention has made a positive difference in their homes. Evaluation records families feel much safer through the actions of this service. Families stated they felt the intervention has prevented escalation to crisis.

CYPP Priority Group – CIC/Care Leavers

Progress on Actions 2007/08

We said we would continue to maintain the standards in the Adoption and Fostering Service/Children's Homes. We have

- Achieved a "good" rating overall in the inspection for the Adoption and Fostering Service. One of the four Children's Homes one achieved "good" overall and three "outstanding" in the September-March 2008 inspections.

We said we would improve stability for Children in Care by ensuring children and young people are better matched to their placement. We have:

- Launched a cross-council Recruitment Strategy – and increased resources and activity to recruit more carers.
- Increased the number of children with CAMHS therapeutic team involvement.
- Strengthened our work with partners to support young people in their homes and community to prevent entry into care.

We said we would evaluate our performance data on CIC age focus groups to establish improvements that need to be made in decision-making. We have

- Reviewed the focus groups, leading to establishing a new “Stability/Matching” process as part of the referral management process.

We said we would develop a QA system to identify areas for development in improving quality assessment and more effective decision making.

- The system was developed by the end of January 2008 and the first report produced by February 2008.

We said we would maintain the high standard of inspection already achieved within the Adoption and Fostering Service/Children’s Homes.

We have improved stability for Children in Care by ensuring children and young people are better matched to their placement.

We have launched a cross Council Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy and looked to increase resources and activity to recruit more carers.

What difference have we made?

We have increased the number of children diverted from care by 10% 2008-9 from the 2007/8 baseline.

In 2006/7 we had 5 children in care receiving support through a specific CAHMS therapeutic group work programme. This increased to 14 young people engaging with the programme in 2007/08 and ten young people completing the course by the end of March 2008.

CYPP Priority Group: Disabled children and those with learning difficulties

Progress on Actions 2007/08

We are continuing to extend best practice within dual or multi agency placements to all external provision where children and young people with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities are placed away from home.

We have established a task group, under the Anti-bullying group who are currently developing a specific anti-bullying strategy for disabled children.

We are carrying forward to 2008/09 on the development of baseline and service specific information for disabled children and those with learning difficulties on

- Accidents in the home
- Accidents on the roads
- Bullying

What difference have we made?

“Strong commitment and action to meet the needs and improve outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities” (JAR)

Emerging finding from the Adolescent Lifestyle Survey (ALS) suggest that of the 9% of young people who consider themselves to have a disability or long term health problem 66% this did not stop them from doing the things they like to do. Whilst young people with disabilities were no more likely than others to say that they had been bullied, they were more likely to say they had been bullied a lot. We are responding to this through the specific anti-bullying strategy for disabled children and through additional input to schools and other settings to raise awareness of this issue.