

Child Protection Issues

The Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Children Board, the statutory body that replaced the Area Child Protection Committee in April 2006, **has now published a complete new procedure manual of Child Protection Procedures 2006, together with a Child Protection Handbook for practitioners.** The new documents were produced by a cross Berkshire group on behalf of all six unitary authorities and was implemented across the Berkshire geographical area from October 1st.

The main manual **provides comprehensive information and guidance on all aspects of child safeguarding** across a broad range of agencies and **sets out the actions to be taken by all agencies to protect children** from harm whenever this occurs or is suspected. The new procedures are issued following the publication of new national guidance from the central government in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children, April 2006'.

The **Child Protection Handbook is aimed at all practitioners involved in providing services to children** and sets out the procedure to be followed for the identification, referral and investigation of any incident involving suspected or actual harm to a child. It's being distributed widely to all organisations that play a role in working with children.

All schools in Bracknell Forest have been provided with the main procedure manual, a CD Rom and enough copies of the Child Protection Handbook for distribution to all members of senior management, the staff room and school office.

Since its inception in April, **the LSCB has taken over the primary responsibility for ensuring that the local agencies concerned with child welfare are effective in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Bracknell Forest**, and the publication and promotion of these new procedures is very important step in carrying out that work. One of the LSCB's main tasks is to raise public and professional awareness of the need to safeguard children and young people, so we are intending that the new Child Protection Handbooks should be distributed as widely as possible.

Responsibilities of Governing Bodies

- To ensure that the school has procedures in place
- To ensure that a designated teacher and deputy is in place and that they are appropriately trained
- To ensure that all staff, teaching and non-teaching, receive appropriate training.
- To ensure that new staff are receive appropriate induction with regard to CP
- To be aware of the requirements of safe recruitment

Governing bodies or individual governors do not have a role in individual cases. They may become, at a later stage, involved in the disciplinary aspect of cases that relate to a staff member.