

Sefton LSCB Newsletter

Special Edition Learning Event (SCRs)

July 2019



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SEFTON LSCB LEARNING EVENT—SERIOUS CARE REVIEWS (SCRs)

Paula St Aubyn, Sefton LSCB Independent Chair

Going Forward without Fear

Welcome to **Sefton LSCB Special Edition Newsletter**. On Thursday, 27 June 2019 Sefton LSCB invited the children's workforce to attend a significant learning event to share the lessons and findings from 4 Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) undertaken recently in Sefton. Sefton LSCB worked with AFTA Thought (training drama consultancy) to develop the learning from SCR's using the **voice of the child**. The aim of the event was to deliver the learning and findings from SCR's through the **voice of the child** in a powerful and thought provoking way using real life material sensitively. This event provided practitioners with the opportunity to learn and grow together. The commitment of the staff to learn, move forward and do everything they can to protect children was evident.

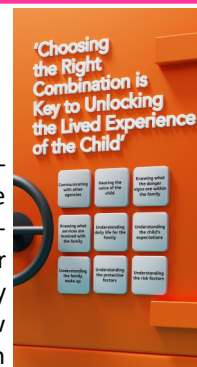
The event was attended by circa. 500 practitioners and managers from a wide range of agencies including: Children's Social Care, Police, Health Visitors (NWBH), School Nurses (NWBH), Hospital staff, GPs, School/Education staff, Ambition Sefton, Mersey Care NHS, Independent Nurseries, Connexions, CAFACSS, Voluntary, Community & Faith Sectors, National Probation Service, Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company and Childminders. The sessions were received extremely positively and the feedback has been truly amazing. Thank you to all those who attended on the day.



Sefton LSCB produced new and creative materials for the event which were distributed to attendees including posters. We hope to see these materials utilised and displayed in all settings across the borough to support practitioners to ensure the child's voice is heard and is at the heart of everything we do. We tweeted @SeftonLSCB throughout the day to enable our followers to see our work and posted lots of images from the event using #goingforwardwithoutfear

If you missed our event, don't panic as you'll be delighted to hear that due to the resounding success we have agreed to run the sessions again later this year. The date is yet to be confirmed but likely to be November 2019. Please keep an eye out on twitter @SeftonLSCB and future Sefton LSCB newsletters for further details. We hope that all those who missed the event will be able to attend the next one.

Special thanks to Deb Hughes, LSCB Business Manager, Donna Atkinson, LSCB Business Support and our partnership helpers whom without them, the event would not have been possible. Well done!



COMMENTS & OBSERVATIONS FROM FACILITATORS AT THE EVENT.....

Time for personal professional reflection using hearts and minds

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

This event will bring the voices and experience of children into the room

Think the unthinkable because the unthinkable does happen

Professionals have the power to make a difference and a duty to act

Be a better version of the professional you are today

Professionals in attendance were open emotionally and intellectually

Often people say "if its that bad, why didn't they do something. (If it's that bad, they can't)"

Powerless professionals cannot protect

Become protective professionals together

Parents explained things away

You are my narrator even though you are silent (baby)

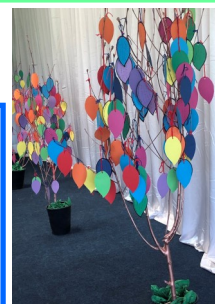
Commit to what you are going to do differently, call for action, be realistic

Moments of personal reflections.... what would you do differently in your practice

Potent weapon of the oppressive is the mind of the oppressed

Altered attitudes of awareness

Attendees were provided with colourful leaves and invited to write statements of reflection on what they had seen and heard through the experiences of children. To illustrate this, we have collated into particular themes as follows:



Thinking the Unthinkable

- We can be groomed as practitioners into a belief a parent is being compliant.
- To be persistent and where necessary challenge both families and other professionals
- I will be more confident to ask questions and be more persistent if I felt something wasn't right
- If other agencies do not listen and you still have a worry, don't let it slip, carry on for the children
- More professional challenge even if I do it alone, its best to try than not try at all
- Trust your instincts to act, share concerns, work together, don't ignore and don't give up

Coercive Control

- I am much more mindful of coercive control
- Now I understand the different faces of coercive control

Challenge other agencies

- Follow through with gut feelings and professional challenge to ensure I am listened to
- I will keep challenging professionals and keep stating the child's voice
- I will seek more management advice and support in order to challenge professionals when required

Share information and build relationships with other professionals

- Ensure I have better knowledge of family history and ACE's and who is involved
- Getting all the right people involved, communicating and working together
- We can't know the whole story without asking and listening to our partners, we don't have all the pieces of the jigsaw
- Keep sharing information and speak your mind because often you are right

Disguised Compliance

- I have increased confidence to identify disguised compliance and challenge
- Disguised compliance isn't always obvious and can be present more than I imagined
- How easy it is to play 'the system'

Take Responsibility—Staff Pledges

- I will consider what it is like to be on the receiving end of my practice, be brave
- I will have the courage to continue to ask and act in the best interest of the child
- I will not be afraid to speak up and ask
- I will ask to see the children's bedrooms
- I will not accept being put off by an agency, I will keep pushing to be heard
- ACT! Risk getting it wrong
- I will use the 'hear my voice' sheet as a practice guide
- I will be more confident in professional meetings to voice my opinion

Professional Curiosity

- I will always be curious, I will be more confident to explore further
- I will put professional curiosity at the forefront of my work
- I will explore things I notice or feel, trust my gut instinct and use professional curiosity

I am the child's narrator

- The voice of the child is far more than a voice, we have to be continually observant and curious
- We must think how the child feels and be strong for them
- Those without a voice need me to be their voice
- I will always pick up and hold babies as part of my role

Observe, Listen and Act

- I will ask questions, be curious, explore below the surface
- I will work hard to be more confident and keep my eyes and ears open
- I will think about what people are NOT saying
- Everyone needs to be the one to never stop questioning
- I will listen more closely for both positives and negatives, and I will make my concerns known

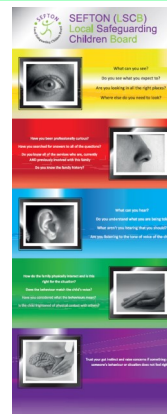
Act on Gut Feelings

- Never give up.....trust your gut, follow up actions and challenge without fear
- Act on something if it doesn't feel right
- Pursue niggles, it is better to do something and be wrong than do nothing at all

Statements

- I will be reflecting on what I have heard, trust myself to be more confident and less fearful
- Today has reiterated how safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and how lack of action can have such consequences
- I know my team will support me if I feel something is wrong. By working together we are strong
- Better to be annoying and ask more questions than be silent and ignored.

SEFTON LSCB BUSINESS UNIT—FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM ATTENDEES (FOLLOWING THE EVENT)



"Session was hands down the best safeguarding training I've ever attended in over 20 years of my career"
(Primary Care Lead General Practice)

"I just wanted to say that the SCR Learning Event today was fabulous. I can't stop thinking about it. I appreciate how much hard work went into the organisation, so thank you"
(Independent Reviewing Service, Sefton MBC)

"I thought the training was fantastic, very powerful and everyone I have seen was talking about it. It definitely made an impact"
(Service Manager)

"Sefton LSCB are pioneers of original innovative learning. Well done!"
(Education)

"Great session and so emotive"
(Police)

"Quality event
Quality materials
Quality venue
What a privilege"
(Child Care Provider)

"Excellent event, not comfortable but impressive training"
(Elected Member)

"Excellent event with real impact"
(Children's Social Care)

"What a powerful & thought provoking event, with real life material handled and delivered in such a sensitive and thoughtful way, allowing practitioners to learn & grow together through reflection. A great event well done Sefton LSCB"
(National Probation Service)

"You have restored my faith in learning"
(Primary Care Practitioner)

"So inspiring to see so many people at these sessions. The dedication of staff is incredible. Thank you for trusting us to deliver these children's stories. We are privileged to have been involved"
(AFTA Thought)

"Fantastically thought provoking production and so much more powerful than the usual power point training. Well done"
(unknown)

"It was a wonderful thought provoking session delivered in a sensitive and innovative way. Well done to everyone involved"
(Health Practitioner)

"Absolutely blown away by this learning event. The materials designed and produced by Sefton LSCB were not only excellent quality but most importantly real tools to use in gathering the voice of children in our work."
(Designated Safeguarding Professional)

"As a professional, I felt so valued to receive such a professional high quality training opportunity"
(Practitioner)

"I don't work directly with children, my job is to support staff who do. This training event has opened my eyes even more in understanding everything that my colleagues need to think about in their work."
(Business Support)

"Can't wait to get back to my office to display the posters from the event with pride. Excellent event with fabulous materials"
(Health Practitioner)



"The venue was welcoming and provided a relaxed atmosphere. The event did not apportion blame. The actors brought the children's stories to life in such a powerful way. This was an excellent way to reinforce learning. I was touched by all the stories and each one made me reflect on my own experiences and practice. The event gave everyone the space to do this in a supportive setting which did not feel pressured and did not stigmatise any particular agency."
(Independent Reviewing Service, Sefton MBC)