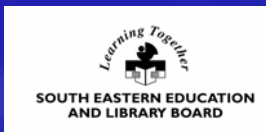


# WELCOME

## Regional Child Protection in Education Service

### Training for Governors

### 2006-2007



# REGIONAL CHILD PROTECTION IN EDUCATION SERVICE

The information provided in this handout set is for **guidance only** and should not be regarded as a complete and authoritative interpretation of the law

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

## Identify:

- The **legal context and DE requirements** in relation to child protection
- Categories of **child abuse**
- The **signs and symptoms** of child abuse
- The **roles and responsibilities** of key people
- The role of Governors in fulfilling their duty to **promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people** in their schools

# LEGAL, PROCEDURAL AND GUIDANCE CONTEXT

Bangor Grammar → Wallace Inquiry July 1998 → Revised Guidance DENI 99/10

Victoria Climbié → Laming Inquiry 2003 → Co-operating to Safeguard

Soham → Bichard Inquiry 2004 31 Recommendations → Protection of Children and Vulnerable adults 2004

Cabin Hill Inquiry → Inquiry Report 2005 → Reports and Governor Training

# DE CIRCULARS AND GUIDELINES

- Pastoral Care in Schools Child Protection
- DE Circulars 2006/6,6a,6b,7,8,9,9a,9b
- DE Circular 2003/13

# CIRCULAR 2003/13

- The Board of Governors now has a **duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children** in the care of their school
- School Governors now have a **duty to ensure there is a child protection policy** at their school and that it is implemented and reviewed
- School Governors now have a **duty to ensure that the school has an anti-bullying policy as part of its discipline policy**

# CHILD PROTECTION – THE LEGAL CONTEXT

- **United Nations Conventions on the right of the child 1991**
- **The Children (NI) Order 1995**
- **The Sexual Offences Act 2003**
- **Education & Libraries Order 2003 – Welfare and Protection of Pupils**
- **Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003**

# UNCRC

## ➤ Article 3

Right to have his/her welfare considered paramount in all decisions taken about him/her

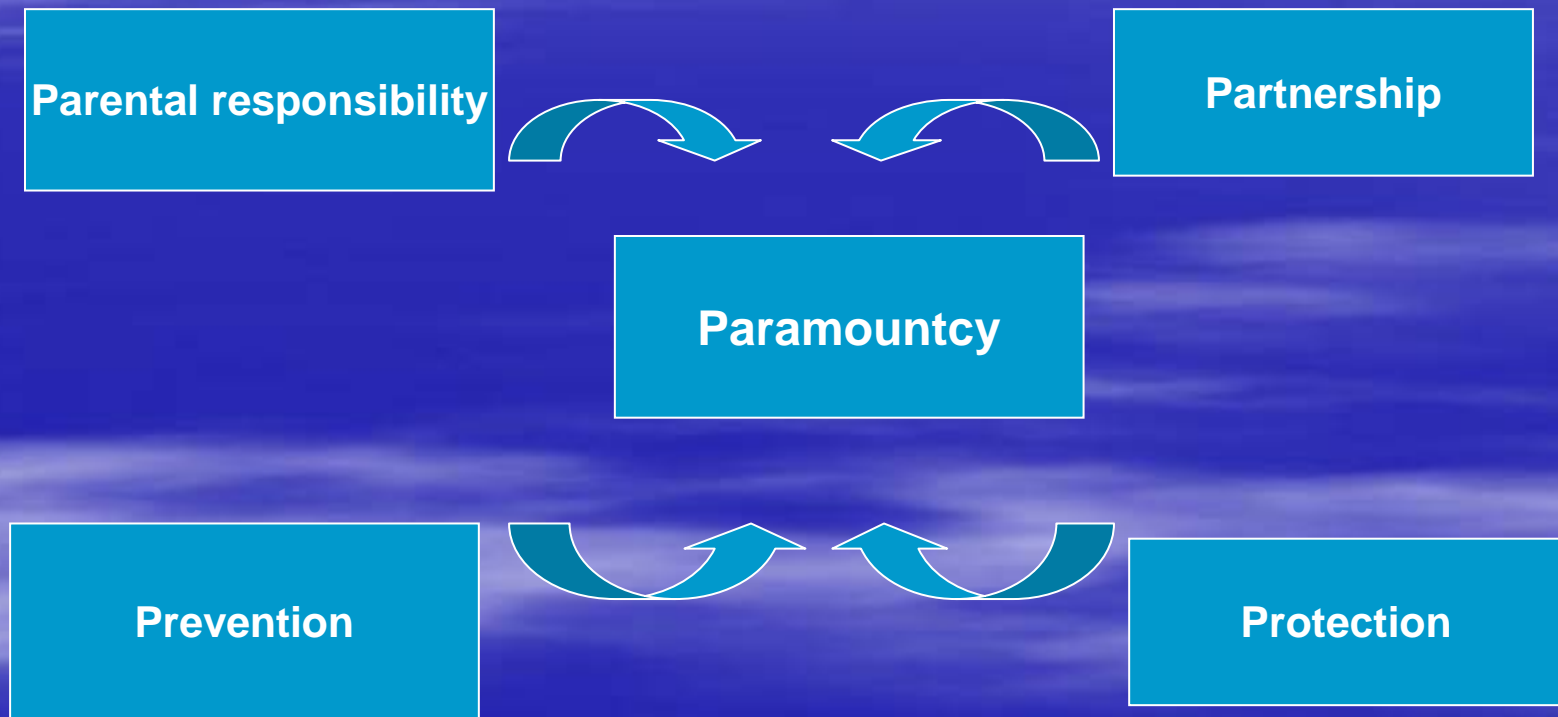
## ➤ Article 12

Right to be heard

## ➤ Article 19

Right to be protected from abuse and neglect

# THE CHILDREN (NI) ORDER 1995



# SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003

- Introduces a new criminal offence of **abuse of trust**
- Introduces a **new offence of meeting a child following sexual grooming**

# WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE

**“The first step in recognising abuse is the ability to entertain the possibility of abuse taking place”**

**S.Sgroi 1982**

# WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

## Four Categories:

- **Neglect**
- **Emotional**
- **Physical**
- **Sexual**

# RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE

## POSSIBLE INDICATORS

Implausible or no explanations for injuries - significant bruising and marking

Reluctance to go home



Fear of physical contact, shrinking back

Self destructive tendencies  
Risky behaviours

# RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE

## POSSIBLE INDICATORS

Personal hygiene problems

Constant  
tiredness

*NEGLECT*



Care concerns  
about hunger,  
clothing,  
supervision

Failure/delay in seeking  
medical attention

# RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE

## POSSIBLE INDICATORS

Over-reaction to mistakes,  
unable to accept praise

Developmental  
delay

**EMOTIONAL  
ABUSE**

```
graph TD; A[Over-reaction to mistakes, unable to accept praise] --- B[EMOTIONAL ABUSE]; B --- C[Developmental delay]; B --- D[Fear of new situations, isolated]; B --- E[Self destructive tendencies, Risky behaviours]
```

Fear of new  
situations,  
isolated

Self destructive tendencies  
Risky behaviours

# RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE

## POSSIBLE INDICATORS

Isolation, overly protective of siblings

Promiscuity  
Risky  
behaviours

*SEXUAL  
ABUSE*



```
graph TD; A[Isolation, overly protective of siblings] <--> B[SEXUAL ABUSE]; B <--> C[Promiscuity Risky behaviours]; B <--> D[Inappropriate sexualised behaviour & language Physical injuries]; B <--> E[Reluctance to go home]
```

Inappropriate  
sexualised  
behaviour &  
language  
Physical injuries

Reluctance to go home

# IT/TECHNOLOGY RISKS

- Internet – acceptable user policy, firewalls etc in place
- Use of G3 mobile phones – consider risks attached, changing rooms, overnight stays
- Use of phones as a means of bullying
- Taking visual images of young people – need to seek consent

# **CHILD PROTECTION**

## **Case Studies**

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Statutory responsibility: **Social Services/PSNI/NSPCC**  
**These are the agencies that have the statutory responsibility for investigation**
- Education and Library Boards
- School
- Governors

# ROLE OF DESIGNATED TEACHER IN SCHOOL

- Responsible for whole school training
- Responsible for **discussing Child Protection concerns** of any member of school/support staff and **keeping all records**
- Collaborate with the principal in making referrals to Social Services or PSNI
- Responsible for **notifying the ELB designated officer**
- Responsible for **keeping the school principal informed**

# ROLE OF DESIGNATED TEACHER IN SCHOOL (cont'd)

- Responsible for ensuring that locally established procedures are followed
- Taking lead in the **development of the schools child protection policy**
- Responsible for **promoting a child protection ethos within the school**
- Responsible for **written report to Governors re child protection issues**

# ROLE OF DESIGNATED OFFICER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

- Provide **advice, guidance and support** for all **designated teachers** on the handling of child protection issues
- Maintain a **register of Schools' Designated Teachers (DT)**
- Provide **training to all relevant staff**
- Represent ELB on a range of child protection fora
- Assist in dealing with Child Protection **complaints against Board Officers**

# ROLE OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO ENSURE THE SCHOOL HAS A:

- **Child protection (CP) policy** which is reviewed annually
- **Bullying policy** which is reviewed annually
- **Code of conduct** for all adults working in schools
- **Designated teacher and deputy designated teacher**
- **Appropriate training** has taken place

# ROLE OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO ENSURE (cont'd):

- School staff and volunteers are **vetted**
- Parents and pupils receive a copy of **CP policy and complaints procedures every 2 years**
- **An annual report on CP is presented to Board of Governors**
- School maintains **records of:**
  - **suspicious of abuse**
  - **disclosures of abuse**
  - **complaints against staff**

# ROLE OF CHAIRPERSON OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- Ensure that **at least one member of the Board has CP training to sit on an interview panel**
- Where a **complaint is against the Principal** it is the Chair of Governors who has to assume responsibility for managing the complaint/allegation

# **ROLE OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

## **Handout 4**

**Take 5 minutes to read through the checklist**

**Discussion**

# CHILD PROTECTION

## Everybody's Responsibility

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND ATTENDANCE

