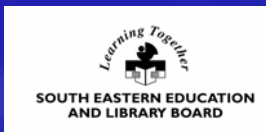


WELCOME

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

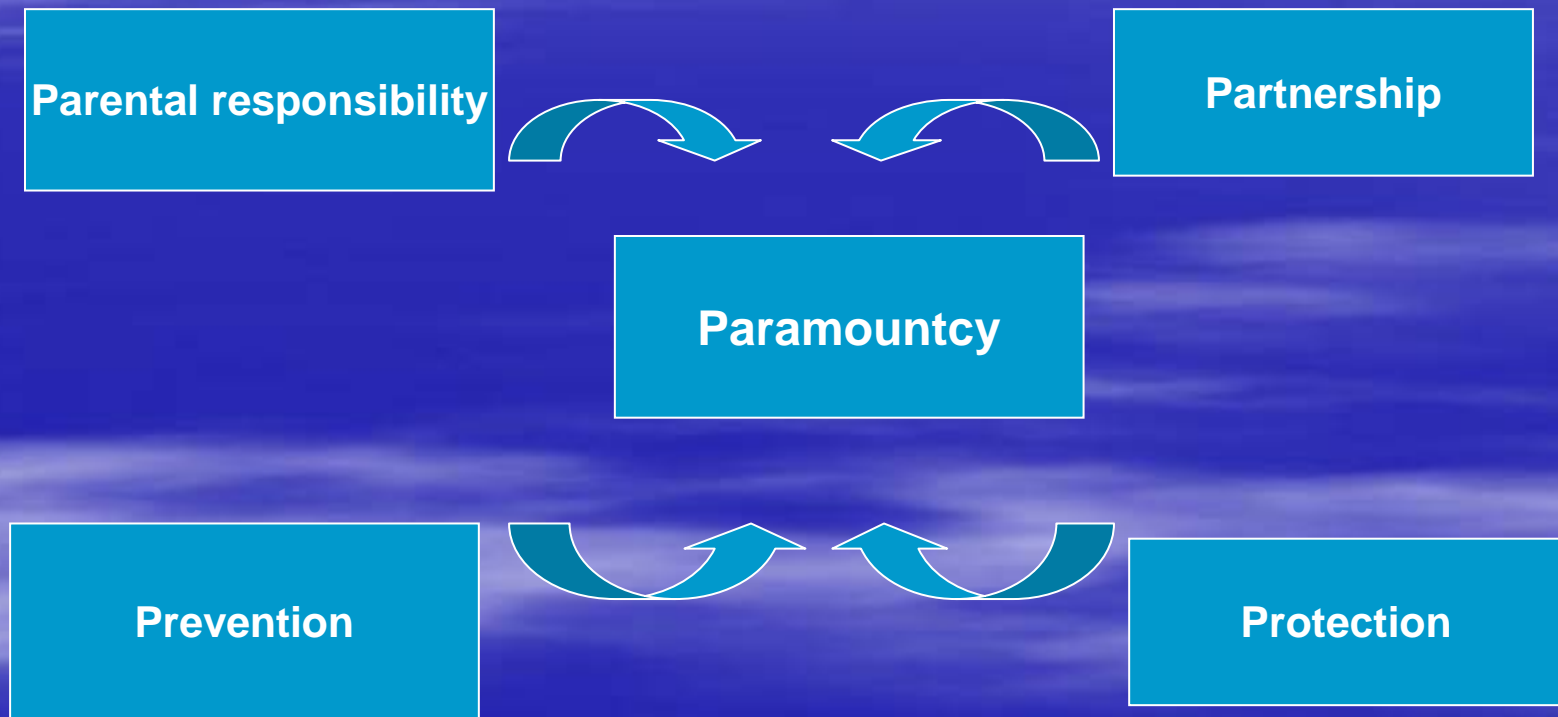
➤ Article 12

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**

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

