

# SSCB News

## Welcome

Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board has undergone a transformation in the last twelve months, not least of which is our new **logo** above.

[www.sandwellscb.org.uk](http://www.sandwellscb.org.uk)



The new logo which has been designed with the help of young people from Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School will be used in the re-design of our website which will be launching in February. Our current website has lots of useful information for parents, professionals and young people so don't forget to have a look.

Inside this issue we hope to give you an idea of who we are, what we do and give you an update on what we are working on at the moment.

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### Contents

<i>What we do</i>	2
<i>Update</i>	2
<i>New Development Officer</i>	3
<i>Serious Case Review</i>	3
<i>New ACCESS Service</i>	3

#### Contact details:

*Victoria Jones  
Development Officer  
Sandwell Safeguarding  
Children Board*

*Shaftsbury House  
402 High Street  
West Bromwich  
B70 9LT*

*Tel: 0121 569 8489*

## So what does the Sandwell Safeguarding Board do?

Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board is made up of representatives from statutory, voluntary and community organisations and services. The board meets regularly to agree and oversee the co-operation and effectiveness of agencies working to **safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Sandwell.**

We provide training and produce policies and procedures. The board and its sub-groups play a key role in raising awareness across the children's partnership and within the community about safeguarding children and young people from harm.

We ensure that agencies **work together** by coordinating and monitoring local work. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families in their everyday work, has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



*"Along with partners in the SSCB I believe that protecting the children and young people of Sandwell and promoting their wellbeing is at the heart of what the SSCB must ensure and promote" (Avriel Reader, Chair SSCB)*

### Update

We are embarking on a new business plan which will give us an even clearer focus.

Through our new business plan we will focus on 8 'themes' which aims to ensure better practice amongst professionals in safeguarding children, including those who work with adults.

We will do this by making sure that work with children and young people is more effective, that it is checked by us and that staff are better trained.

We also plan to improve our links with the community in Sandwell and its children and young people.

*"Coming together is a beginning.*

*Keeping together is progress.*

*Working together is success"*

*(Henry Ford)*

## New Development Officer

We are pleased to welcome our new Development Officer Victoria Jones.

Victoria joins Avriel Reader, the Chair of our Board, our Business Manager Sue Ogom, Raj Bector our Child Death Coordinator and Vicky Abraham our Administrator.

Victoria will be working on our new look website which will be re-launching in February.

The current website has lots of useful information however, from useful contacts, to 'what to do if you are worried about a child.' It's also where you can find our **safeguarding procedures**.

## DS Serious Case Review

One of the jobs that Sandwell Safeguarding Board does is Serious Case Reviews in the tragic event of the death of a child where abuse or neglect is suspected.

Our most recent Serious Case Review following the death of child DS was published on 2 November and can be found on our website [www.sandwellscb.org.uk](http://www.sandwellscb.org.uk)

Like many Serious Case Reviews information sharing was flagged up. The report recommended that information sharing between schools through Common Transfer files should be used consistently and routinely.

It was also recommended that policies regarding a child in need leaving a local authority, needed to be looked at again.

## ACCESS Service

Sandwell launched its new ACCESS service on 30 November. This means that there is now one single point of access to Children's Social Care. The ACCESS Team will be staffed by specialist child care professionals.

The ACCESS service is accompanied by Access Criteria for Children's Support Services (ACCSS) which is a useful tool giving guidance on the threshold of need and intervention.

For further information please see [www.sandwell.gov.uk/integratedworking](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/integratedworking)

To contact the ACCESS team call 0845 351 0131

*"Working together, ordinary people can perform extraordinary feats. They can push things that come into their hands a little higher up, a little further on towards the heights of excellence" (Anonymous)*



*This was a tragedy for the child and of course for her family, who continue to suffer the shock and grief of her loss. There is nothing to suggest it could have been foreseen or prevented in this case - however that does not mean we cannot learn lessons which may help other families in the future. - (Avriel Reader)*

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year and please look out for our next issue in the Spring