

New Child Protection Procedures **Essential information sheet for all working with children (8th June 2009)**

On 7th September 2009 you will need to destroy or recycle the 2006 Berkshire Child Protection Procedures – both the small and large versions of the “Pink Book”. It will no longer contain up-to-date guidance on child protection.

From the same date, the Berkshire Child Protection Procedures will be live and available online at:

<http://proceduresonline.com/berks>

Extensive consultation has led to:

- updates to reflect the developing landscape of safeguarding and child protection as well as changes in guidance and legislation – all updates are clearly marked;
- simplification and clarification of language to ensure you are clear about what to do in particular circumstances;
- improvements to the look and feel of the procedures with a number of new flowcharts and improvements to the layout.

Electronic publication offers a number of advantages:

- Improved navigation – there is a search facility that works in a similar way to Google. There are hyperlinks and links to external web-sites that will enable you to quickly and easily find the information you need, and links to more detailed information should you need this.
- Regular updates – the Policy and Procedures sub-group will be regularly updating the site to ensure that it remains current and in line with best practice. Updates and new sections of the procedures are clearly marked so you will quickly be able to see what has changed. Our partnership with TriX (the UK’s leading provider of policies and procedures in the children’s sector) will enable us to draw on best practice in other areas.
- Other Common Protocols – the web-site has space for publishing other protocols that apply across Berkshire and the Thames Valley. With these available on one web-site, access will be quicker and easier.
- Printing – We recognise that for some the shift to electronic procedures will be a major step and we are encouraging organisations and individuals to make the change easier by creating a shortcut on their computer desktop, and by trying the procedures before they need to be used. The procedures will be available in draft form from June 19th, this will give you the opportunity to have a look and set up a shortcut – but please note that the procedures will not actually be live until 7th September 2009.

Whilst we have been assured that chapters of the procedures will be printable, we do not recommend printing as without strong controls, this carries the danger of depending on procedures which may be out of date.

Our vision is that the procedures will be easy to understand and that in any given circumstance you will know what you need to do. We continue to need your help to ensure that this is the case. If after reading the procedures you are confused or unclear, please use the feedback link on the web-site. Your eyes and ears will help us to improve the procedures and to prioritise future revisions.

What you need to do:

- Destroy / recycle all “Pink Books” (small and large versions) on September 7th.
- Create a shortcut on your desktop to the new procedures and have a look at the electronic procedures between June 19th and September 7th... but keep using your pink book until Sept. 7th.
- Use the “contact us” link on the web-site to let us know if the procedures need to be changed.

