

Education and Children's Services

**HOSPITAL SOCIAL WORK – CHILD PROTECTION AND INTAKE
TEAM (Children & Families)**

Ref: V1

Effective from: 6th April '09

Review Date: 6th April '10

Team: Child Protection and Intake Team

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Approved by: CFMT

1. Policy Aim

To ensure a co-ordinated and timely response to referrals received from hospital staff in relation to Children in Need or Child Protection/Children at Risk of Significant Harm.

2. Legislation, Central Government and other External Documents References

- Children Act 1989, 2004
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DoH 2000)
- Working together to Safeguard Children – A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children (DoH 1999)
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children
- The Management of Mother and Baby Units – HM Prison Service Jan 2005 (Ed.3)
- The Victoria Climbié Inquiry – Report of an inquiry by Lord Laming (2003)
- Public Law Outline
- Baby P Inquiry – Report of an inquiry by Lord Laming (2009)
- The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report – Lord Laming (2009)

Slough Borough Council

- Berkshire Area Child Protection Committees ACPC Procedure (2006)
- Pre-Birth Protocols
- Eligibility Criteria – Assessment Framework

3. Policy

Relevant Legislation

The Children Act 1989 places a general duty on the Local Authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and, in so far as is consistent with this duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range of services appropriate to those children's needs (Section 17(1)).

Section 17 (10) states, a child is in need if:

- i. he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health and development without the provision for him of services by a Local Authority; or
- ii. his health and development is likely to be significantly impaired or further impaired without the provision of such services; or
- iii. he is disabled

In addition, the Local Authority has a statutory duty to safeguard children. Section 47 (1) states where a Local authority –

- i) is informed a child lives or is found in their area is
 - a. the subject of an Emergency Protection Order
 - b. is in Police Protection; or
- ii) has reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives or is found in their area is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm – the Local Authority shall make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as considered necessary to enable them to decide they should take any action to safeguard and/or promote the child's welfare.

Central Government Policy

In line with Every Child Matters: Change for Children, emphasis should be placed on ensuring that we properly protect children at risk within a framework of universal services, which support every child to develop their full potential. Every Child Matters sets out 5 key outcomes for children. They are –

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Economic Well-Being

Hospital Social Work Team

The Team consists of:

- Two Hospital Social Workers

The Team is currently part of the Child Protection and Intake Team and is primarily based at the Town Hall in Slough. One of the Hospital Social Workers regularly attend the Neo-Natal Meeting at Wexham Park Hospital on Thursdays and meetings at Accident and Emergency in order to discuss potential case referrals and offer case consultations as appropriate. The Hospital Team is also intending to establish links/attend weekly meetings with the following Departments from 2009:

- Diabetes Clinic
- Oncology Ward
- Chronic Illness Ward

It is envisaged that the Hospital Social Work Team will be permanently based at Wexham Park Hospital by Summer 2009 to ensure easier access to Hospital Staff and Service Users in order to facilitate a swifter and more co-ordinated response to referrals/case planning.

The key objective of the Hospital Social Work Service is:

To safeguard children in need by helping them to obtain excellent health and social care services.

This is to be achieved by:

- Providing an accessible service to other departments and agencies (with child protection responsibilities) to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency/joined up approach, including the provision of open door consultation sessions to other professionals within the hospital
- Responding to all referrals and enquiries received from staff within the Hospital (Slough Area) and to process these within specified timescales
- Establishing links and attending regular meetings with the maternity ward, paediatrics, neo-natal, accident and emergency (paediatrics) and the oncology clinic
- Building on links with Cascade, CAMHS, Life Hostel to ensure early intervention and effective joint working.

Children Eligible for Hospital Social Work Service

The service is for Children and Families who live in the Slough area and have been assessed under the Children Act 1989 as being 'Children in Need'.

This includes children –

- Who are unlikely to be able to reach or keep up a reasonable standard of health or physical or mental development without receiving services from the council
- Whose health or development would be harmed if they didn't receive services
- Considered to be at risk of harm or in need of protection
- Unborn babies considered to be at risk

Refer to Eligibility Criteria Policy also.

Work undertaken by Service:

- Initial Assessments in relation to Relinquished Babies (with a view to fast tracking to the Pathways Team on completion).
- High Level CIN/CP Pre-Birth Core Assessments
- Child Protection Investigations (on unborn babies considered to be at risk of significant harm/reports of NAI on children under two years of age).
- To offer advice on other services available and on occasions, redirect enquiries to a more appropriate source of help
- Liaison with relevant Local Authorities in relation to out of area referrals/cases.
- To act as a link between the Hospital and other Social Care Teams based at the Town Hall.
- Training to Midwives, Accident and Emergency, Cascade etc regarding the role and work undertaken by the Child Protection and Intake Team.

Other Liaison Meetings between Health and Social Care:

- Fortnightly Accident and Emergency Liaison Meetings
- Quarterly Accident and Emergency Liaison Meetings (Health led)
- Quarterly Health and Care Liaison Meeting

Strategy Meetings held at Wexham Park Hospital:

Workers should ensure that the Children's Services Manager, Wexham and Heatherwood Hospital and the Head of Safeguarding and Designated Nurse for East Berkshire are invited to Strategy Meetings held at the Hospital as a matter of routine.

High Profile Alerts – Unborn Children:

To be sent to Frances Burt, Named Midwife – Child Protection and copied to the Emergency Duty Team and Cilla Dorman, Children's Services Manager, Wexham and Heatherwood Hospital.

Case Transfer

Cases will transfer to the designated MALTS Team or Pathways Team at the Initial Child Protection Conference scheduled 10-12 weeks prior to the birth, or alternatively on completion of the Pre-Birth Core Assessment. If emergency proceedings are instigated by the Child Protection and Intake Team, then the transfer point will be at the first Court Hearing.

Pre Birth procedures

Please refer to appendix 1 for further details.

Referrals to the Service

Referrals to the service will either be taken by the Hospital Social Worker or the Customer Service Officer based at the Slough Borough Council Town Hall. If the referral is from another agency then they will be expected to complete a multi-agency referral form (see appendix 1 for details) which provides basic details and information in relation to any concerns or reasons for requesting a service. The referrer will be notified in writing as to the outcome of their referral. Referrals can be made by phone, email, fax and in person.

Contact Details:

Customer service Officers:

Lyn Marshall (01753) 875591
Lyn.Marshall@slough.gov.uk

Jane Blakemore (01753) 690898
Jane.Blakemore@slough.gov.uk

Fax. No. (01753) 690700

5. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Child Protection and Intake Team Manager on a yearly Basis on the date specified on page 1 of this policy.