

# Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) –

# Update to Online Procedures Manual

Briefing Note: February 2017

Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board procedures have been updated. This briefing note provides a summary of new and updated procedures. The direct link to the procedures manual is: [**http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/)

## New Procedures and Guidance:

## ['Honour' Based Violence](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_honor_based_viol.html) - This new guidance provides information for practitioners on how to respond to so called ‘Honour’ based violence. ‘Honour Based Violence’ is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups, to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or ‘Honour’. Abuse occurs when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and / or community by breaking their ‘Honour’ code, or when they feel under pressure to demonstrate their fidelity to perceived cultural and religious values.

## The guide describes behaviours which can be seen to have broken ‘Honour’ codes and lists indicators of ‘Honour’ based violence. It also explains the ‘One Chance Rule’ and the importance of an assured and confident professional response if a child or young person discloses that they have suffered (or are at risk of) ‘Honour’ based violence. The guide ends with best practice for professionals on how to respond if they become aware of ‘Honour’ based violence.

## [Safeguarding Children from Dangerous Dogs Practice Guidance](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_dangerous_dogs.html) - The new guidance has been written to help protect children living in Doncaster from the serious injuries that can be inflicted by dogs which are prohibited, dangerous or poorly managed. The guidelines set out to explain and describe the following:

## The children most likely to be vulnerable to injuries inflicted by dogs;

## The dogs most likely to pose a danger to children;

## The information that should be gathered when any child is injured by a dog and the criteria that should prompt a referral to the Doncaster Children’s Services Trust Referral and Response Team;

## The basis for an effective assessment of risk and the options for action that could be considered at Strategy Discussions or Child Protection Conferences.

## The guidance also contains a risk assessment tool for use by practitioners and a reference document summarising key signs of poor welfare in dogs.

## [Doncaster Multi-Agency Guidance for Preventing and Responding to Behaviours Which May Indicate Potential Suicide or Self Harm Clusters](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_multi_age_prev_self_harm.html) - This resource has been developed to assist agencies in Doncaster to manage or contain an actual or potential suicide cluster. A suicide cluster is defined as a collection of suicides or behaviours which indicates a significant intent to die by suicide or self-harm. Research estimates that’s between 1 and 5% of all suicides by young people occur in the context of a cluster.

## The guidance describes how a community plan will be developed and implemented by members of the community and the services that support them in order to manage and contain any risk of ‘copycat suicidal acts’. The community plan might focus on a locality, a particular facility e.g. a school, hospital or youth club, or a rural or virtual community.

## [Whistleblowing or Raising Concerns at Work](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_whistleblowing.html)- This new chapter provides guidance for staff and volunteers who are concerned about poor practice or possible malpractice in the workplace. It explains the legal requirements for whistleblowing and lists sources of advice and support for staff or volunteers who have any concerns.

## Updated Chapters:

[**Doncaster Children's Services Trust or Police Action Following a Referral**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_ch_pol_action.html) **-** Section 16 Agency Checks has been updated to include additional detail on the checks which the Social Worker must undertake in the course of the Children and Families Assessment. Checks must be made with all agencies that may have relevant information about the child and their family, including the Police, Health, Education services and other relevant community services.

The diversity of health services and provision in Doncaster means that it should not be assumed that a universal health professional such as a Health Visitor or School Nurse is in possession of all available health information. All efforts should therefore be made to ensure all relevant health information is collated, including GP records, hospital records (via the Named Nurse Safeguarding team on 01302 642437) and adult services for information that is held. Unless this is done, the Section 47 Enquiry may miss crucial information relating to the child or family’s contact with different parts of the health community.

[**Bullying**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_bullying.html) - This chapter has been updated to include links to Department for Education Resources for Parents and Schools on cyberbulling. Section 6 Specialist Organisations is new and contains links to a range of national anti bullying organisations, including links to specialist support in relation to young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities who are bullied, LGBT young people and online bullying.

[**Domestic Violence and Abuse**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_dom_viol_abuse.html) - Section 10, Safety Planning is new, and offers advice on safety planning with victims in a range of circumstances, including when victims leave the home or when they decided to stay with the perpetrator.

[**Safeguarding Unborn Babies**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sg_unborn_babies.html)- Section 2, Pre Birth Referral and Assessment has been updated to include information on Pregnancy Liaison Meetings. Cases of concern can be heard at the Pregnancy Liaison Meeting, from the point of professionals becoming aware of the birth to 16 weeks gestation and prior to a referral being made. The purpose of the Pregnancy Liaison Meeting is to provide a pathway which will offer information and advice to professionals, to ensure that pregnant women are enabled to access support services at the right stage in pregnancy.

[**Safeguarding Children and Young People against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_protect_child_vulner_violent_ext.html) - Section 5 Issues has been updated to include a link to the Gov.uk website which can be used to report online material promoting terrorism or extremism.

[**Procedure for Responding to Allegations against Staff, Carers and Volunteers**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_alleg_staff_vols.html) - This guidance has been reviewed locally and updated throughout as required to reflect current local practice in responding to allegations against staff, carers and volunteers. Additional information has been added into Section 1, confirming the circumstances when these procedures should be applied. Section 15 Record Keeping has been updated to reinforce the importance of confidentiality when recording information about allegations on the child’s and adult’s files and to confirm retention periods. A link to the LADO Referral Form has also been added.

[**Learning and Improvement Framework (including Serious Case Reviews)**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_learn_improve.html)- Links to the following publications have been added to this chapter:

* Pathway to Harm, Pathways to Protection: A Triennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews 2011 to 2014

Final Report- The study considers a total of 293 SCRs relating to incidents which occurred in the period 1 April 2011- 31 March 2014 and aims to provide evidence of key issues and challenges for agencies working singly and together in these cases; and

* Serious Case Review Quality Markers – The Quality Markers have been developed to help support commissioners and reviewers to commission and conduct high quality reviews. They provide a consistent and robust approach to SCRs by covering the whole process from setting up to running the review, to looking at outputs and outcomes from the review

[**Resolving Professional Difference Protocol**](http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_resolving_prof_diff.html) - This protocol has been updated to remind practitioners that, if a concern or disagreement is escalated to Stage 3 (Escalate to Senior Manager), then a copy of Appendix 2 - Form for submitting cases for escalation and resolution should be forwarded securely to the DSCB Admin Team. This will help Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board to monitor professional disagreements and the use of this protocol.

# Actions

* + - Please ensure your Designated Safeguarding Leads/Officers are aware of this briefing and the new and updated procedures.
    - Register for policy and procedure alerts - we can alert you whenever the procedures manual is updated, to register for updates, please complete the form at: **http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/register\_updates.html**