

Dear colleague,

We are writing to introduce our first Dorset Safeguarding Children Board *Safeguarding Week* which will run from Monday 5th December 2011.

The purpose of this *Safeguarding Week* is to raise awareness about the abuse and neglect of children in Dorset and to encourage the public to safely share any concerns they may have about the children or young people they interact with in their communities.

This campaign is key to the work of the Dorset Safeguarding Children Board which has a responsibility to ensure that all agencies, including councils, the police and the NHS, work together to do the best they can to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children around the county. But it cannot be truly effective without the support, and eyes and ears, of members of the public.

From time to time we have cases in Dorset where a child was not protected adequately and suffered significantly as a result. It was because of a recent case where a neglectful situation remained unreported for a number of years, that we have taken this step to ask the public more directly to report any concerns they have about the welfare of a child.

Therefore, please could I ask that you distribute the enclosed posters and leaflets to the public within your setting. If you would like further copies, these can be printed from our website at www.dorsetlscb.co.uk or hard copies can be purchased at a small cost. If you would like to purchase further copies, please contact Nina Coakley, DSCB Business Manager on 01305 221192.

If you do visit our website please feel free to take the opportunity to look at our newsletter and other documents relating to keeping children safe from harm.

Thank you for your support in safeguarding children and young people.
Merry Christmas!

Yours Sincerely,



Richard Stowe
Independent Chair
Dorset Safeguarding Children Board



Derek Hardy
Chair of the DSCB Communications Group
North Dorset District Council

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