



The annual conference of the  
**LONDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

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**SAFEGUARDING  
LONDON'S CHILDREN**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS  
HAVE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS  
OR MISUSE SUBSTANCES**

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**FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008**  
**Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre**  
**Broad Sanctuary, Westminster**  
**London, SW1P 3EE**

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This is a conference for professionals, elected members and volunteers in all agencies who have specific responsibilities for safeguarding London's children, and supporting them and their families.

The conference aims to support better safeguarding of London's children by showcasing good practice and sharing resources, with a particular focus on the needs of children whose parents have mental health problems or misuse substances.

The conference is a forum to exchange ideas and information for improving multi-agency child protection practice.



## Morning

- 8.45 Coffee and registration
- 9.30 **Chair's welcome and introduction**  
*Lynne Hunt (Deputy Chief Executive, East London NHS Foundation Trust)*
- 9.40 **The dynamics within families when a parent / carer has mental health problems**  
*Heide Lloyd (parent and service user)*
- 10.10 **Living upside-down: addressing the roles of children of parents with mental illness**  
*Dr. Alan Cooklin (Consultant in Family Psychiatry, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust, and Hon. Sen. Lecturer, University College, London)*
- 11.10 Tea / coffee
- 11.30 **Seminars - first seminar choice (details overleaf)**
1. **Specialist substance misuse workers and children's social care – a joint approach to safeguarding children** (*Gill Watson, Parental Substance Misuse and Childcare Social Worker, Islington, Alison Johnson, Senior Practitioner Substance Misuse, Camden and Suzanne Olsen, Substance Misuse Social Worker, Lambeth*)
  2. **Think Family: Strengthening collaborative working between all services involved with a child and family** (*Caroline Prichard and Lia Borgese, Families Division, DCSF and Rumi Hussein, Family Intervention Project, LB Hackney*)
  3. **The Hidden Harm agenda - improving partnership working between children and adult services in safeguarding children affected by parental substance misuse** (*Patricia Denney, Principal Officer, Social Care and Safeguarding and Sally Heath, Children's Commissioning Manager, London Borough of Camden*)
  4. **Perinatal mental health services – best practice in supporting new mothers and their babies** (*Dr Andy Kent, Consultant Psychiatrist and Reader in Psychiatry, St George's, University of London*)
  5. **The Building Bridges project: supporting families affected by parental mental health problems and other complex needs** (*Rosie Mather and Briony Hallam, Family Action*)
  6. **Joint working between children's social care and adult mental health services – the Hackney experience** (*Jan Pearson and Helen Green, East London NHS Foundation Trust, Rhonda Miedziolka and Tina McElligott, Hackney Children and Young People's Service*)
- 12.30 Lunch

## Afternoon

- 13.30 **Seminars - second seminar choice (details overleaf)**
- 14.30 Tea / coffee
- 14.50 **Afternoon Chair's introduction**  
*Cheryl Coppell (Chair, London Safeguarding Children Board and Chief Executive, LB Havering)*
- 15.00 **Living with an elephant: Substance misuse, parenting and child welfare**  
*Dr. Brynna Kroll, Senior Consultant, ARTEC Enterprises*
- 15.30 **In a different world – interactive drama presentation**  
*The Splinter Group*
- 16.15 **Risk factors to target in preventing child abuse**  
*Caroline Bates, Detective Superintendent, Met Police SCD5*
- 16.30 **Chair's closing remarks**

## Seminar sessions

### **1. Specialist substance misuse workers and children's social care – a joint approach to safeguarding children**

*Gill Watson (Parental Substance Misuse and Childcare Social Worker, Islington)*

*Alison Johnson (Senior Practitioner Substance Misuse, Camden) and Suzanne Olsen (Substance Misuse Social Worker, Lambeth)*

Several London boroughs have commissioned a crossover post in response to the Hidden Harm report (ACMD, 2003). A cross-borough forum for these specialist workers has been in existence since 2006. In this seminar, delegates will hear from 3 specialist workers based in Camden, Islington and Lambeth. The focus will be on practice aimed at improving outcomes for children by meeting the treatment needs of parents. Alison, Gill and Suzanne will share their experiences of developing these unique roles, looking at both the challenges and the successes of integrated working. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. Delegates may wish to consider how a similar post could be established in their borough.

### **2. Think Family: Strengthening collaborative working between all services involved with a child and family**

*Caroline Prichard and Lia Borgese (Families Division, DCSF), and Rumi Hussein (Family Intervention Project, LB Hackney)*

This seminar will provide information on the Government's work to support local authorities and partner agencies to 'think family' and to ensure children's and adult services are joining up effectively. The seminar will explore how family pathfinders and child poverty family intervention projects are helping to strengthen collaborative working between services to ensure they have a 'whole family' focus, particularly when they working with vulnerable families. It will showcase both the theory and the emerging practice on the ground with a focus on effective practice in supporting families where parents have mental health and substance misuse issues.

### **3. The Hidden Harm agenda - improving partnership working between children and adult services in safeguarding children affected by parental substance misuse**

*Patricia Denney (Principal Officer, Social Care and Safeguarding) and Sally Heath, (Children's Commissioning Manager, London Borough of Camden)*

This seminar will:

- Provide an overview of the national and London picture relating to children affected by parental substance misuse, including the scale of the problem and policy developments;
- To discuss in detail Camden's approach to responding to children affected by parental substance misuse, including local governance frameworks, local policy development, partnership working and local service delivery;
- Delegates to take away ready to use working protocols and models of service delivery which can be adopted locally.

### **4. Perinatal mental health services – best practice in supporting new mothers and their babies**

*Dr Andy Kent (Consultant Psychiatrist and Reader in Psychiatry, St George's, University of London)*

This seminar will include an overview of perinatal mental health problems and London perinatal mental health services. The distinction between clinical treatment services and parenting assessment services will be addressed, together with pathways to care and the roles of various professionals within the mental health team. The service user experience of recovery on a mental health mother and baby unit will be presented in a short video, and clinical scenarios will form the basis for group discussion of more complex perinatal mental health problems and their implications for multiagency working between child and adult services.

**5. The Building Bridges project: supporting families affected by parental mental health problems and other complex needs**

*Rosie Mather and Briony Hallam (Family Action)*

Family Action's Building Bridges services currently work in 14 locations across English regions, to support parents/carers with complex needs and their children.

The workshop will discuss this model of working and present findings from the recent independent evaluation of Family Action's Building Bridges services.

Small group discussion and exercises will include how to address conflicting needs within the family, and how to enable a successful 'team around the family.'

**Learning outcomes:**

- Increase awareness of the issues for families affected by parental mental ill health
- Improve knowledge of strategies to support parents and children
- Learn about findings from the recent independent evaluation of Family Action's Building Bridges services.

**6. Joint working between children's social care and adult mental health services – the Hackney experience**

*Jan Pearson and Helen Green (East London NHS Foundation Trust) and Rhonda Miedziolka and Tina McElligott (Hackney Children and Young People's Service)*

The aim of the workshop is to explore challenges faced by services in safeguarding children whose parents have severe and enduring mental health problems. The workshop will describe initiatives taken in Hackney to improve understanding and practice across and within services. It will provide an opportunity for questions and discussion.