

Safeguarding News

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Bound & Numbered Book

Background

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, evidence of abuse in schools, children's homes and other organisations began to surface. Initially people were reluctant to face up to the potential scale of the problem. It soon became clear that institutional abuse could have been going on for decades in some establishments.

At that time many organisations kept scant records, so it was very difficult to know what had been happening in these institutions. Weak systems allowed abusive individuals in positions of power to prevent complaints, manipulate records and cover their tracks to frustrate the efforts of subsequent investigators. In the absence of written records, even when cases did come to court, it was often difficult to obtain convictions.

Why Bound and Numbered?

Good recording systems expose poor practice, allowing complaints and allegations to be more quickly and thoroughly investigated but that is not the primary purpose. Most people are trying to do the right thing and want to give their attention to the people they are looking after. Good records can also help them to spot trends, monitor progress and highlight concerns.

Incident records needed to be numbered sequentially so that it was obvious when somebody tried to remove an entry, but with loose leaf folders it was possible for records to be replaced. That brought about a requirement for a bound and numbered book to reduce opportunities for tampering.

We need to strike a balance between good record keeping and good practice always with the best interests of the child as the priority.

Team Teach – The following staff have completed the 2 day Team Teach course; Katherine Ogden, Trevor Wallace, Paul Romaniak, Julie Felski, Catherine Walbridge, Rich Cormack, Nicky Townsend and Nicky Baker.