

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Tuesday 3rd March 2015

Present:-

Reg Pengelly (Independent Chair)
Richard Baldwin (B&NES Council, Divisional Director, Children and Young People's services)
Mike Bowden (B&NES Council, Deputy Director, CYP Strategy & Commissioning)
Sally Churchyard (B&NES Council, Service Manager (YOS and 11-18))
Dawn Clarke (B&NES NHS CCG, Director of Nursing)
Fiona Finlay (Sirona Care and Heath – Designated Doctor)
Caroline Furnell (Sirona Care and Health – Community Paediatric Trainee)
David Gee (CAFCASS)
Bruce Laurence (B&NES Council, Director of Public Health)
Judy Lye Forster (City of Bath College)
Roz Lambert (Representing Children and Young People's network)
Chrissie Hardman (Sirona Care and Health, Childrens Health Lead)
Lesley Hutchinson (B&NES Council, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance)
Sarah McCluskey (B&NES Council, LSCB Business Support Manager)
Sam Shrubsole (Oxford Health CAMHS - Clinical Team Manager – substitute for Michelle Maguire)
DI Deryck Rees (Avon & Somerset Police – substitute for DCI Rachel Williams)
Philip Rhodes (AWP, Service Manager – substitute for William Bruce Jones)
Duncan Stanway (Barnardo's, South West Chief Exec)
Sophia Swatton (B&NES NHS CCG, Designated Nurse)
Sarah Thompson (South Western Ambulance Service)
Alison West (NHS England, Safeguarding Children Lead)

Apologies: Ashley Ayre (B&NES Council), William Bruce Jones (AWP), Mick Dixon (Avon Fire & Rescue), Michelle Maguire (Oxford Health), Dine Romero (Cabinet Member, B&NES), Rachel Williams (Avon & Somerset Police), Mike MacCallam (B&NES Council).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members made introductions.

53 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

54 PRESENTATION ABOUT CAFCASS BY DAVID GEE

David Gee introduced himself as a Service Manager for CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) in a large area of the South and South West which included Bristol and North Somerset. CAFCASS was set up in 2001 and replaced the Guardian Ad Litem and Court Welfare Service. Its remit is to safeguard and promote child welfare and to provide advice to the family courts, children and families. The

guardians' role is to ensure children's safety during court proceedings and appoint a solicitor to act for the children.

The private law aspect of CAFCASS' work represents about two-thirds of their caseload, concerning parents who cannot resolve their marital disputes. 10% of families who separate go through the litigation process. CAFCASS is notified of all private proceedings going through the courts. They undertake safeguarding checks using the police national computer database and local police intelligence. They check with Local Authorities about social worker involvement also assess the risk to the child. 50% of cases that come before the courts have a safeguarding element. Restrictions on the use of Legal Aid have meant that fewer cases are reaching Family Courts and this in turn means that the risks to children are less likely to come to notice. CAFCASS now offered a free advisory service and in doing so, continues to look closely at the risks to children arising from separation and divorce.

A Private Law Pathway Project which supports separated parents in dispute is being piloted in Bristol. Parent can contact CAFCASS before going to court to look at different options such as mediation. Details of this project were circulated at the meeting.

Lesley Hutchinson asked how many private law cases were ongoing in the B&NES area and was informed that a complete set of figures was not yet available, but generally it reflects the national average. Bruce Laurence asked whether the reduction in access to legal aid was impacting on the welfare of children. David Gee replied that he did not know, but that it was causing concern in the organisation. Roz Lambert asked whether the CAFCASS officers know how to signpost within the area covered and was informed that most officers have developed a large network of contacts and links with voluntary organisations.

The Chair thanked David Gee for his presentation.

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared a non-prejudicial interest in his capacity as a lay member of the Dorset LSCB and the Pan-Dorset CDOP. He is also an independent safeguarding consultant. Apart from the Safeguarding E-Academy, none of his clients function in the B&NES area.

There were no other declarations of interest.

56 MINUTES, ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last Board meeting of 2nd December were agreed, subject to amendments and additions read out and agreed at the meeting.

The Chair went through the Minutes and the Action Log for any matters arising.

Action log

Note: This action log will be reviewed and updated at each LSCB business meeting

Actions	Responsible officers	Completion Date
231. Details of any challenges for agencies welcomed as the documentary evidence is needed for Ofsted. Please feedback to Sarah McCluskey.	All agencies	By 19 th March 2015
232. Transitions & Safeguarding – Mike MacCallam to contact other groups about this issues and report back to September LSCB	Mike MacCallam	Deferred till March 2015 LSCB
235. New schools/academies audit to go out mid-October to be returned by mid-November. A good number have been returned which will be examined in January. Report to board in March 2015.	Sarah McCluskey	March 2015
236. Social care administration side of assessment process to be investigated.	Richard Baldwin	March 2015 <i>Looking at developing workable timeframes with families</i>
237. The PPP group to review current information about the agreement concerning multi-agency intelligence sharing and bring an update report to LSCB.	PPP group	March 2015 <i>Completed</i>
238. Feedback re LADO report to be sent to Lesley Hutchinson	All agencies	March 2015 <i>LADO Report updated – info sent to LH</i>
239. All agencies to confirm the adoption of the Children Missing from Home and Care Protocol	All agencies	As soon as possible <i>All agencies are now signed up</i>
240. Lesley Hutchinson to follow up and report back re status of electronic system for information-sharing.	Lesley Hutchinson	March 2015. <i>Not yet resolved</i>
241. Chair to write to agencies re importance of attendance at LSCB training events.	Reg Pengelly & Sophia Swatton	April 2015
242. School safeguarding audit – report to come to next meeting and Sarah to write to those schools who have not completed their audit.	Reg Pengelly	June 2015

57 THEMED REVIEW – CHILDREN IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES (Item 6)

The meeting split into four themed discussion groups:

- a) Children with disability
- b) Children with Special Educational Needs
- c) Private Fostering
- d) Looked After Children outside the B&NES area

Richard Baldwin to collate minutes and summarise

The Chair thanked everyone for their useful ideas and feedback. The results would be shared with all agencies.

58 PROGRESS ON INFORMATION-SHARING PROJECT (report 7)

Lesley Hutchinson introduced this item and informed the meeting of the progress and key milestones achieved so far with the Multi-Agency Information-Sharing Project Board. She explained the structure behind the governance arrangements between the B&NES LSCB, LSAB and Responsible Authorities Group (RAG).

59 TRANSITIONS AND SAFEGUARDING (report 8)

Lesley Hutchinson introduced this report which had been prepared by Mike MacCallam. The meeting agreed to note the report.

60 LSCB WORK PROGRAMME (report 9).

Lesley Hutchinson introduced this report. With reference to the sub-groups, Dawn Clarke asked whether they needed extra support as a result of increasing workloads. Sophia Swatton informed the Board that the training sub-group had met to plan next year's events. She asked that agencies encourage their staff to attend training although she acknowledged that only limited numbers could be released for training. Richard Baldwin said that there was good attendance on the CSE course, although Lesley Hutchinson was concerned that agencies are not prioritising attendance. The Chair added that there needed to be a variety of ways to impart the information and he would welcome feedback about other types of training that people have experienced. Alison West said that E-learning was all very well, but other approaches were needed to cover all aspects.

Action: Chair to liaise with Sophia Swatton and write to all agencies emphasising the importance of attendance at LSCB training events.

The work programme was noted by the Board.

61 REPORT FROM CSE/MISSING SUB-GROUP – 6 MONTH UPDATE (report 10)

Richard Baldwin introduced this report and informed the Board that the group had had a good sign-up from all agencies. The members are all trained and the virtual team are up and running.

The Board noted the report.

62 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GROUP (PPG) REPORT (report 11)

Duncan Stanway introduced this report and highlighted the key issues. There was concern about the inconsistent quality of reporting from some schools and GPs.

The PPG had asked for work to be done in schools, but they were not sure how to engage with GPs. There was a marked improvement in listening to the voice of the child and better observation in conferences. Dawn Clarke said she was disappointed to hear of the problems in Primary care, especially as a lot of work had been done to improve reporting within that group. The Chair suggested that a meeting be called between health professionals and child protection conference organisers to ensure better quality reports. Alison West commented that it was difficult to have one person representing everybody and support would be better focussed on helping GPs improve their reports.

Action: Dawn Clarke and Sophia Swatton to look at further training for GPs.

63 LSCB COMMUNICATIONS SUB-GROUP - UPDATE (report 12)

Richard Baldwin introduced this report and informed the Board of the group's achievements so far. The next key issue was the development of the Board's website and whether it should be public-facing or practitioner based. The meeting agreed that the site could have public and internal sides, as did the Council website. There would also be links to the LSAB.

64 SCHOOLS' SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

Sarah McCluskey reported that 66 returns (out of 91) had been received from schools. Julie Downey and Sarah McCluskey will undertake a Quality Assurance Audit looking to identify common themes and concerns. A full report would come to the June LSCB. The Chair commented that it was unacceptable not to receive a full response from all schools and planned to write to the defaulters reminding them of their obligations to respond to legitimate enquiries from the LSCB about safeguarding.

Action: The Chair would write to the defaulters.

65 SECTION 11 AUDIT – UPDATE

Sarah McCluskey reported on the B&NES partnership with the councils who used to be in Avon and Somerset. They would be conducting 4 themed mini-audits, the first of which had gone out to agencies who work across all the authorities. There would be a meeting in April to look at responses.

66 DEVELOPMENT DAY – APRIL 15TH

The theme for the Development Day is to explore opportunities for joint collaboration between the LSAB and LSCB and to develop a set of joint values for eventual approval by both Boards. Invitations to the Development Day will be to sub-group members from both Boards as the discussion will be more weighted to operational issues than the strategic. For that reason, Board members who are not also sub-group members will not be obliged to attend.

67 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEMS/REPORTS FOR INFORMATION - these were noted and signed off.

Regarding youth representation on the LSCB, Richard Baldwin reported that he had talked with the B&NES Youth MP who said he was happy to join the Board albeit for only a short time as he was going to university in October. Duncan

Stanway suggested that the Board should also include children who had experience of safeguarding to which the Chair agreed – this topic to come to the June meeting.

Judy Lye Forster informed the Board that the City of Bath College was in the process of merging with Norton Radstock College on 6th April 2015. As a consequence, she would not be able to attend the sub-group meetings, but would nominate her safeguarding staff members to attend in her stead.

The Chair marked the occasion of Ann Swabey's last LSCB meeting by presenting her with a gift and a card and thanking her for her work for the Board.

The meeting ended at 4.55pm.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Tuesday 2nd June 2015 in the Conference Room, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, Keynsham.**

Chair (person).....

Date Confirmed and Signed.....

Prepared by Democratic Services