



Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (Staying Safe)

8 April 2008 at 9.30am.

At Training Room 5+6, AFC Telford United Learning Centre

Present:

Mr C Watt	NSPCC, Chair of T&W SCB
DI C Aitkin	West Mercia Constabulary (representing DCI J Groves)
Ms C Barber	T&WC: Early Years
Miss E Boddison	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service (Minutes)
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation
Ms S Coates	Army Welfare Service (representing Major J Welsh)
Mrs A Cole	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms H Couth	TandWPCT (for Agenda Item 3)
Mr T Currie	Safer Stronger Communities Partnership
Mrs B Evans	T&WC: Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting
Ms L Foley	Voluntary Sector Representative
Mr D Goss	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Mr G Harkness	T&WC Learning and School Improvement
Ms L Heath	Secondary Schools
Ms L Hosking	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
Ms C Hobbs	Primary Schools
Mrs C Hughes	T&W SCB Training
Mr P Jackson	T&WC: Community Services
Ms T Knight	T&W: Safeguarding & Children in Care
Ms J McGillivray	T&WC: Adult Protection
Ms A Morris	Children's Joint Commissioning
Ms A Parton	Shropshire and T&W: Youth Offending Service
Mr D Robson	T&WC: Adult and Consumer Care
Ms A Rosser	New College
Ms A Scott-Ryan	TandW PCT
Mrs T Tanner	SaTH
Mr M Turner	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms A Yapp	T&WC: Placements

1. Apologies

Ms L Burrows	Shropshire and T&W: Youth Offending Service
Ms J Clark	T&WC: School and Community Services
Ms S Edwards	Learning and Skills Council
Ms K Fisher	T&WC: Legal Services
Dr Ganesh	TandW PCT
DCI J Groves	West Mercia Constabulary
Ms J Jones	Methodist Church
Ms S Jones	TandW PCT Sexual Health Services
DSupt M Lakeman	West Mercia Constabulary
Mr P Lowe	Crown Prosecution Service
Mr B McKinnon	West Midlands Ambulance Service
Ms N Peck	T&WC: Connexions 4 Youth
Ms J Sumner	TandW PCT
Ms S Tyas	T&WC: Learning & School Improvement
Major J Welsh	Army Welfare Service

Apologies not received

Mr M Bennett	T&WC: Mental Health (NHS Trust)
Ms S Collymore	CAFCASS
Mr N Houlston	T&WC: Licensing
Mr N Janjua	CVS: Race & Diversity Partnership (RED)
Ms K Jones	T&WC: Housing
Ms A Orr	SSAFA
Ms P Paradise	Victim Support
Ms C Shouli	T.C.A.T

Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority

2. Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

The minutes from the last meeting held on 8 January 2008 were checked for accuracy and the following amendment was made:

Page 10, second paragraph should read 'abused men' not 'man'.

The minutes were then agreed as accurate.

Page 3: SCB Website

Anne Cole advised that the website can now be accessed and is currently being updated; by the end of next week there will be a new main page with a link to a members' section where documents and minutes will be posted. There are also some updates to the Policies and Procedures section so these will be incorporated. Colin Watt wished to comment on how impressed he is with the website and at how much the Board will have achieved in such a short amount of time.

Page 5: Half year performance

Anne indicated that more work was carried out in relation to this and it was identified that over 50% of the children subject to Child Protection Plans are under 5 years of age. This matter will be on the next SCB agenda.

Page 6: Managing Allegations

Anne thanked everyone for a good response to the email Emma sent requesting details of the named person from each agency.

Page 8: Children & Young People Plan

Barbara Evans reported that a re-draft of the plan is currently under consultation and although there is still some further work to be done the launch should be within the next 10 days. Barbara added that everyone should have received a copy of the Plan, however if they haven't then they should email Anne who will then forward a copy.

Page 9: Child Care Sufficiency audit

Anne wished to thank Cathy Barber for bringing a presentation and the final audit to today's meeting but apologised that due to a heavy agenda there would not be time to hear the full presentation. Cathy therefore gave a brief update and handed out copies of the audit to each table. She advised that there is a copy on the T&W website and encouraged members to respond to the consultation. Cathy added that the audit shows there are issues with the way we work with families with certain groups of children that needs to be addressed.

Page 10: MARAC

Tom Currie provided an update; three meetings have taken place so far and a positive start made. There are systems and processes in place and a Domestic Abuse Strategy is being worked on. CAADA have offered to attend the next MARAC meeting and act as a critical friend. Tom acknowledged that the police have done a fantastic job in getting the work off the ground.

Tina Knight added that the processes in place work really well although there are some pieces of information that need to be pursued more. Tina went onto say that the meetings work well and are extremely useful and beneficial in terms of safeguarding although it is a considerable time commitment.

Tom also advised that they have appointed a 2nd Domestic Abuse Advocate and Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire have received confirmation of accreditation for their integrated approach.

Lin Foley asked Tom when Telford will involve the voluntary sector as they have a large input from them in Shropshire? Tom replied that Telford will be looking at this in the near future.

Page 11: AOB

Anne thanked Claire Hughes and all those who helped for the conference held on 10 March; a lot of good feedback was received.

Colin wished to echo Anne's thanks to Claire.

Anne explained that Sheffield SCB have put together multi-agency guidance on working with 'difficult' families and she would welcome volunteers to attend a two meeting task group to look at adapting Sheffield's for our use.

Barbara went onto explain that one task group at the recent Children's Trust conference looked at how we might tackle those children who fall just below the child protection threshold (referred to as 3b children). She feels that the Board should make this an objective although she acknowledges that the work may then be carried out by the clusters. 3b children are children who are vulnerable but not subject to a Child Protection Plan. Barbara added that the main issue is having resources to deal with this group of children.

Colin reported that he also attended this conference the previous day and an emerging theme was 'think family' and not just children.

3. Healthcare Standards

Helen Couth, Head of Clinical Governance, explained that the PCT have 24 core standards and each year they have to submit a declaration to the Healthcare Commission saying whether they have been compliant. As of this year the PCT not only have to talk to an overview and scrutiny committee about whether they have been compliant but also have to go SCBs to ask them. The Core Standard relating to Safeguarding is C2 Child Protection:

Health care organisations protect children by following national child protection guidance within their own activities and in their dealings with other organisations.

Helen advised that although she is today asking the Board to submit a declaration to the PCT they are not obliged to. A suggested declaration was circulated with today's agenda, however changes can be made if the Board agrees to submit a declaration. The deadline for submitting the declaration to the Healthcare Commission is 31 April so Helen would like any comments by 18 April.

Barbara asked Helen if the declaration refers just to the PCT or hospital as well and if just the PCT then will the hospital be asking the Board also? Helen replied that it does just refer to the PCT and although she can not answer whether the hospital will also ask she commented that they are running out of time, especially as this is the last SCB meeting before the deadline.

The Board agreed to submit a declaration and suggested additional comments

It was agreed that the declaration be amended so that it incorporates the additional suggestions and then circulated with the minutes of today's meeting.

Helen thanked the Board and advised that the declaration will be a public document.

4. Child Death Reviews

Audrey Scott-Ryan gave an update and referred to the three documents that were circulated with today's agenda:

Terms of Reference
Panel Membership
Operational Procedures.

Audrey wished to draw everyone's attention to the notification procedure (outlined in the Operational Procedures document) as it is felt there will be issues in regards to this. Audrey explained that CEMACH developed a proforma but the steering group, which has met 3 times to date, will be looking at this further as it is still unclear what information the government will expect from the notifications. Another issue that the document outlines is with regards to the government wanting each Child Death Review panel to operate a 24 hour service, however the pediatricians for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin feels they can't offer more than 9am-5pm at this stage. The steering group are looking at the possibility of alternative health professionals such as health visitors being trained to carry out the home visit along with the police.

Audrey added that John Mills from Hope House will also join the Panel.

Barbara asked Audrey if she could provide an update at each Board Meeting; it was agreed that this would be a standing item on the agenda and Audrey would give a verbal update, although some months there may not be an update due to there being no unexpected deaths.

Audrey asked the Board to approve the three documents listed above which they did. (NB These are now included in the policies and procedures)

There will be a study day being held on 4 June 2008 in Walsall; contact Audrey for details.

NB: The final draft of the West Mercia Rapid Response Protocol was also circulated with the agenda for information.

5. Board Matters

Colin spoke further about the Children's Trust conference which was led by Tony Morrison. Tony offered definitions at the conference on how corporate parenting can be compromised.

Colin also spoke about the National LSCB Conference that he attended with Anne. Colin commented that the conference was smaller than last year's but still high profile.

Colin referred to the Staying Safe Action Plan which is available free from the Every Child Matters website. The book outlines the new indicators that the Government has introduced:

- ◆ Percentage of children who report having experienced bullying
- ◆ Percentage of children referred to Soc Care who receive an initial assessment within 7 working days
- ◆ Number of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children
- ◆ Number of preventable child deaths

Anne recommends Board members order copies of the Staying Safe Action Plan from the ECM website for their agencies.

Anne also spoke about the National Conference and indicated that they have released the presentations which can be found at

<https://secure.symphonyem.co.uk/lscb>

She commented that emerging themes during the consultation and at the conference were the balance between 'kept safe' and 'allowed to explore' and the provision of a safe environment. In view of the latter Anne is recommending that

a representative from the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio be invited to join the SCB.

Colin continued that the Key themes covered at the conference were:

- ◆ Measuring outcomes
- ◆ Measuring effectiveness
- ◆ Serious Case Review reports
- ◆ Child Death Overview Panels
- ◆ Safeguarding migrant children
- ◆ How can LSCB's engage with community groups?
- ◆ Engaging with adult services – issues and challenges

Funding

Colin advised that additional funding has been achieved; the Government have given each Authority £26000 for Child Death Reviews. Anne clarified that although Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire have agreed to have a joint Child Death Review Overview Panel each has been given a grant.

6. JAR

Barbara gave an update; the inspectors have now identified the 10 cases they wish to look at from the initial 100 cases chosen (Child in Care, Child Protection and Disabled children). Each agency that has a file relating to any of the 10 cases, not just Social Care, have audited their file. All the files will now be pulled together for each case, put into a box and indexed, the files will then be audited by Barbara, Anne and a critical friend. Some key electronic documents will also be printed off and put with the files to make it easier for the inspectors. The inspectors may only follow 4 or 5 cases through from start to finish.

Questionnaires have been circulated to 20 voluntary sector representatives, 3 agencies involved with each case and to the Lead Professional for each child. In some cases the views from agencies are clearly very different, which was expected but means that some protocols are needed to underpin why this is.

The inspectors arrive on 21st May for one week although they have already requested and been sent a batch of information around policies and procedures and information from the Board such as minutes, procedures, SCRP minutes. Paul Tudor's audit has also been sent as they asked for our audit via APA; Emma Boddison will re-circulate this audit as it has been updated. Barbara indicated that if she had one criticism it would be that the Board does not say enough about the good work it does and feels that the Board needs to be more proactive on this. The second batch of information will be sent on 22nd April. Barbara wished to thank everyone that was involved in finalising the 1st batch.

The inspectors will want to meet and interview a group of several Board members during their two weeks here in May.

The inspectors have also asked for a list of staff within the council who should have CRB checks and will look at the HR files of 10 members of staff.

Barbara advised that Julia Almond, the new Director of Children's Services, felt that the time was right to change the name of the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Board to Children's Trust Board this decision will be ratified at the next meeting on 17th April. The membership was also looked at and it was decided that the chairs of the five outcome groups and each Integrated Service Manager will attend; each outcome sub group will provide feedback at one of the Children's Trust Board meetings a year, there will be five meetings a year.

7. Vetting Panel

Sue Wilson attended to give a brief progress report on work done since her last attendance and referred to the two documents sent out with today's agenda.

Sue explained that approximately 1% of people seeking employment in schools have a positive CRB check, and therefore the council has issued guidance to assist schools in making the decision whether to employ that person or not. This process is now being extended across the whole of the local authority. Forms have been devised for the employer to complete which identifies whether the person poses a low or high risk. If the risk is high the case will go through the Vetting Panel, which is made up of members of the Vetting Board. The Vetting Panel will hold a meeting to discuss whether the person should be appointed, this may be a virtual meeting, and will then give advice to the employer.

Anne stated that on the whole the process is to help people get employment where it is safe to do so, not to stop them. Members were reminded that the original proposal was that the local authority would trial this approach and then, if successful, recommend that partner agencies adopted a similar process.

8. Annual Report and Performance monitoring

Anne explained that the performance information and Colin's foreword are still to be added to the Annual Report. Anne added that she would have liked to have the Board Business Plan with the Annual Report however some of the action plans are still being finalised. The board proposed that these should be finalised at the May executive meeting and circulated for any comment before being formally presented to the July's Board meeting.

9. Performance Monitoring

Anne spoke through the attached presentation which will form the relevant section of the annual report

10. Scrutiny

Colin explained that one of the Board's priorities is to 'listen to children' and that the NSPCC have agreed to help the Board with this, please refer to the proposal circulated with today's agenda. Colin added that the NSPCC have indicated that they may be willing to contribute resources (professional time and possibly money) and this might enable us to develop processes for the future.

The Board agreed for the proposal to be taken forward.

At October's meeting board members were invited to volunteer to form a scrutiny subgroup to review current arrangements for listening to children in Telford & Wrekin. Today's meeting reviewed the membership of this group; Barbara stated that she believed the membership needed to be drawn from a wider range of agencies. After discussion it was agreed that Colin would lead the work with the membership being as follows:

Jane Sumner
Colin Aitkin
David Goss
George Branch

It was also agreed that Barbara would ask Ken Clark, Head of Audit & Scrutiny, if a member of his staff could attend one of the first meetings to assist the group in getting off the ground. Cllr Louise Lomax has already agreed to offer her expertise to the group

11. Information Items

Mark Turner wished to draw everyone's attention to the Policy & Procedures for the Active Involvement Service that was circulated with today's agenda and advised that Angela Yapp is producing a similar document for Foster Carers and Richard Lansdale for those working with Disabled Children

12. E-Safety

Mark Turner gave the attached presentation and showed a DVD titled 'Think U Know'. Mark added that the E-Safety group are working to BECTA Safeguarding children in a digital world guidance which has been endorsed by the Byron Review, which can be viewed at www.dfes.gov.uk/byronreview.

Chris Enright also attended today's meeting to talk further about the work carried out by the E-Safety group and the reasons behind it.

Claire Hughes, Chair of the E-Safety group, wished to thank Chris for all of his work.

Martin Lakeman will be providing a progress report on the other work being undertaken (in relation to training for parents) at July's Board Meeting.

13. AOB

Alison Sorrel will be attending July's meeting to talk about Private Fostering but members were reminded of the rolling training programme and the board workshops that Alison will be running.

The Alcohol misuse and harm reduction Strategy has now been finalised and has been attached to these minutes, it can also be viewed on the T&W website.

Date of Next Meeting:

Local Safeguarding Children Board, 9.30am on 8 July 2008 at AFC Telford.

Future dates for 2008:

08.07.08

07.10.08

All meetings at 9.30am at Training room 5&6 AFC Telford

Inclusions for the Agenda:

Any further inclusions for the agenda, or topics, presentations, suggestions or offers for future meetings please could they be sent to Colin Watt, Anne Cole or Emma Boddison.