



Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (Staying Safe)

22 April 2009 at 2pm

Training Room 6, AFC Telford Learning Centre

Present:

Mr C Watt	NSPCC, Chair of T&W SCB
Ms J Almond	Director of Children Services
Miss E Boddison	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service (Minutes)
Cllr Stephen Burrell	T&WC: Lead Member for C&YP
Ms L Burrows	Shropshire and T&W: Youth Offending Service
Mrs A Cole	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Mr T Currie	Safer Stronger Communities Partnership
Mrs J Gibling	T&WC: Senior Manager, Early Intervention
T/DCI N Haggitt	West Mercia Constabulary
Ms L Heath	Secondary Schools
Ms C Hobbs	Primary Schools
Mrs C Hughes	T&W SCB Training
Ms B Jackson	T.C.A.T
Mr A James	T&WC: Connexions 4 Youth
Ms L Johnston	T&WC: Locality Services
Ms S Jones	TandW PCT Sexual Health Services
DSupt M Lakeman	West Mercia Constabulary
Ms AM Morris	Joint Commissioning Unit
Ms K Perry	T&WC: Planning and Performance
Ms E Pyrah	Joint Commissioning Unit – for agenda item 6
Mr D Robson	T&WC: Adult and Consumer Care
Ms A Rosser	New College
Ms C Shouli	T.C.A.T
Ms J Sumner	TandW PCT
Mr M Turner	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms S Tyas	T&WC: Healthy Schools
Major J Welsh	Army Welfare Service

1. Apologies

Ms C Barber	T&WC: Integrated Child Care
Mrs P Bickley	TandW PCT
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation
Ms J Clark	T&WC: School and Community Services
Mr J Collins	T&WC Learning and Achievement
Ms S Collymore	CAFCASS
Mrs B Evans	T&WC: Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting
Ms K Fisher	T&WC: Legal Services
Ms S Fisher	T&WC: Licensing
Ms L Foley	Voluntary Sector Representative
Dr Ganesh	TandW PCT
Mr D Goss	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms H Hipkiss	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority
Ms L Hosking	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
Ms T Knight	T&W: Safeguarding
Mr P Lowe	Crown Prosecution Service
Ms C Morris	T&WC Integrated Child Care – representing Ms C Barber
Ms A Scott-Ryan	TandW PCT
Ms T Tanner	SaTH

Apologies not received

Ms S Edwards	Learning and Skills Council
Ms G Foster	T&WC: Mental Health (NHS Trust)
Mr P Jackson	T&WC: Community Services
Ms K Jones	T&WC: Housing
Ms J McGillivray	T&WC: Adult Protection
Ms A Orr	SSAFA
Ms A Yapp	T&WC: Placements

Colin welcomed Laura Johnston, Beverly Jackson, Julia Almond and Cllr Stephen Burrell to today's meeting and thanked everyone for enabling the date to be changed.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Page 4 – Private Disclosures should read 'S*x Offender Disclosure Pilot'

Page 10 – Regional guidance on Trafficking – correction to line 6, should read '.....trafficking is not believed to be a huge issue.....'

The minutes were then agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising

Page 3 – Police Performance

It has been agreed that this will be combined within the Performance Framework; Martin Lakeman advised that he thinks it important to also share the quarterly MAPPA reports with the Board.

Training Plan

Claire Hughes reported that uptake of the Private Fostering training has improved.

Independent Chairs Forum

Colin updated the meeting regarding this and advised that it may become a national forum; all those attending have commented on how useful the forum is.

Page 4 – Independent Chair

Anne Cole advised that an advert went out asking for expressions of interest and 11 responses were received, however it looks like a number of these will not be suitable. It is hoped that the process will be completed on 8 May, although if it is then Sue Wilkinson from Government Office is not available to take part in the recruiting process.

Think Family

Laura Johnston reported that a small intensive programme will be starting shortly regarding early intervention. A lot of discussions are taking place and Laura is happy to continue updating the Board. Anne added that the good news is that the Government has provided funding.

Page 5 & 6

Anne indicated that the number of Care Proceedings has increased dramatically over recent months and the total number in care currently is 256. Noticeable age groups are under 4's and 14-15 year olds.

Page 7, paragraph 6

Colin stated that he has not yet had a reply from Government Office regarding obtaining a copy of the job description for the new Director of Children Services in Haringey.

Page 8 – CYPP consultation on review of plan

This is going to be submitted corporately on Friday. Julia advised that the Children's Trust Board have agreed on new priorities for example child and family poverty; the CTB will be linking strongly with the SCB and both will support and challenge each other.

Page 9 – Families do Matter

Sally Tyas informed that Gill Scott's post has been funded initially for a further 10 months and this will be reviewed in September. Gill will mainly be working in Telford & Wrekin but also nationally. The key thing that Sally is looking at currently is how to embed this work once Gill's role ends and would like to set up a small group to discuss this further.

Page 10 – Hate Crime Strategy

This has been formally adopted and is in place. Tom went onto to advise members of further developments that are being put in place with regards to this Strategy.

TELLUS Survey

Anne explained that there were a few schools in T&W who did not have 100% positive response rate and Barbara was asked to follow this up; Barbara wrote to the schools in question, some of whom replied advising what they have put in place as a result of the survey. Also as a result of the TELLUS survey a group has been set up to consider forming a Safer Schools Partnership in T&W; the group has met once so far and will be doing so again on 29 April 2009 after inviting additional people who are considered to be vital in order to progress further.

CATE

Alastair James reported that a Senior Officers Co-ordination Group was convened as the number of girls involved in se*ual exploitation is increasing at an alarming rate; the group met to discuss what provisions can be put in place to support these young girls.

3. Board Matters

Colin indicated that if all goes well on 8 May then this will be his last meeting as Chair although he has advised Anne and Julia Almond that he is more than happy to assist during the transition stage. Colin stated that it has been a

privilege to Chair the SCB meetings and although it has been very challenging and at times frustrating he has thoroughly enjoyed working with colleagues and has learnt a lot. Colin thanked members and officers for their support and commitment. He added that the good work of the SCB is acknowledged by colleagues in T&W and across the region and that safeguarding is a clear priority for local agencies.

Annual Report & Business Plan

The Business Plan was circulated prior to today's meeting and Colin reiterated that it is an early draft document. The Annual Report is currently being written.

Colin advised that the Business Plan has been discussed at Exec meetings and drew everyone's attention to page 1 of the document where it states the additional responsibilities that the SCB will be taking on this year i.e in addition to monitoring the work of the Serious Case Review Panel and Child Death Overview Panel, Think Family, CATE and the Safer Schools Partnership will also be over seen and the Board will take over the staying safe action plan (previously under the CTB outcome group). Colin added that the local response to the Laming Report and the Government response will also feed into the Business Plan.

Martin indicated that he feels E-Safety should be a priority in this years plan.

Anne explained the document is currently made up of outstanding elements of the Staying Safe Action Plan and asked for people to send any comments on whether they are happy with the priorities or if they feel something has been missed.

Anne also advised that it has been agreed that the SCB and CTB will have a joint communications strategy.

Colin asked everybody to consider the document and send any comments to him or Anne. **Action - all**

Review of Board membership and structure

Colin explained that the Exec first discussed a review being undertaken at their away day in December and have discussed it further at subsequent meetings; following these discussions Anne drew up the proposal that was circulated with today's agenda and Colin stated that this is the start of the consultation.

Before drawing everyone's attention to Point 6 of the draft proposals document Colin referred to Laming Recommendations 50-53, as these refer to LSCB's, and also to the JAR as he feels what was said about T&W SCB in the report is significant. Colin stated that Appendix 1 and 2 were drawn up using Working

Together as although Working Together is going to be revised, it states who should be members and officers of the Board and who else should be linked in in some way.

Colin opened the subject for discussion and Sally Tyas queried whether there would still be a need for an Exec Group once the structure changes and there is a more streamlined Board? Martin Lakeman stated that Herefordshire have streamlined their Board and have therefore decided not to have an Exec Group, instead they set up working groups as and when needed; initially their Board is meeting monthly in the short term.

Anne clarified that it is proposed that the Board will continue to have quarterly meetings each of which will be followed by a Safeguarding Forum although these are only proposals and members can change them e.g. having more frequent meetings.

It was also acknowledged that the Laming report recommends that two members of the public to be involved in SCBs.

Colin thanked people for their comments, which will be considered further, and asked for any further comments to be sent to either Anne or him.

4. Performance Monitoring

Anne talked through the attached presentation.

Slide 2 – The number of children subject to Child Protection Plans is starting to drop and we are seeing plans being ended again.

A concern was raised with regards to Core Groups and it was agreed that further thought needs to be given regarding Core Groups taking place even if the Social Worker can not attend.

Slide 3 – Sally advised that the teenage pregnancy rate is reducing but cases are becoming more complex.

Anne indicated that a lot of work is taking place with regards to under 5's.

Anne advised that Kirsty Fisher has reported an increase in the number of cases where the Official Solicitor needed to be involved. (i.e. parents with learning disabilities)

Slide 7 – Karen stated that these figures are interesting as South Cluster has significant areas of deprivation however so does Central Cluster, albeit not as many, yet the figures for each cluster are quite different. Justine indicated that

this could be due to the fact that Central Cluster has a Senior Family Support Worker doing early intervention work whereas South does not.

Slide 8 – Anne reported that MARAC are seeing more and more high risk cases being referred where the children are not known to Social Care which is worrying in one way but in another it shows that these cases are being identified.

Slide 9 – It is suspected that this figure will increase nationally as a result of Baby P however it is hoped in T&W that early intervention work will prevent this slightly.

5. Performance Framework

Karen Perry talked through the attached presentation and indicated that the Performance Framework circulated with today's agenda is a 'starter for ten' and subject to approval will be rolled out in July. Karen added that she feels the timing of this is good as it means the Laming recommendations can be taken into account.

Martin Lakeman suggested that the Board's priorities should be agreed in the first instance and then have a Performance Framework which relates to them. Julia Almond supported Martin's suggestion and also indicated that clarity is needed regarding when to report on each indicator. In response to Martin's suggestion Karen stated that although she agrees what has already been included in the Performance Framework has come from experience and previous audits. Karen added that she would like people to consider if any of the indicators will not tell us anything and should therefore be removed.

Ann-Marie wished to say that she thinks the Performance Framework is very good but feels that training, in terms of being auditable, will need to be explicit. She also stated that she thinks reports should be on a single agency basis.

Karen thanked everyone for their comments; any more comments can be sent to Karen, Anne or Colin.

6. Family Nurse Partnership

Please see the Family Nurse Partnership Programme report that was circulated with today's agenda.

Emma Pyrah attended for this agenda item and talked through the report. Emma reiterated that the programme does not replace any existing services, it will just enhance them.

Ann-Marie informed that a lot of partnership working has been taking place with regards to this programme. Alastair added to that by advising that links are being made with Connexions 4 Youth, especially relating to NEET girls.

Sally acknowledged that the programme is purely voluntary and that the young mothers have to 'opt in' but questioned whether agencies would be able to recommend a mother if the unborn was subject to a Child Protection Plan? Emma replied by saying that the only criteria is that the mother is under 20 years old and having her first child and this would not be allowed as the Family Nurse Partnership do not want to be seen to be stigmatizing.

Emma advised that although it was hoped that the nurses would be based in a Children's Centre time limitations have meant that the nurses will now be based at Hadley Health Centre.

Emma concluded by offering to provide monitoring reports to the Board if members wish her to.

7. E-Safety Strategy

The E-Safety Strategy was circulated with today's agenda and Mark Turner talked through the attached presentation.

Claire Hughes indicated that one challenge the Board face is how to ensure agencies educate members of their staff who are also parents. Martin agreed and suggested that the Board needs to challenge agencies more on this.

Mark informed that all parents of children in Telford & Wrekin schools have the chance to obtain Cyber Sentinel software free of charge; all schools have been given a unique code to pass on to parents to enable them to download the software. Cathy Hobbs raised concern over the lack of uptake from parents at her school and stated that it has become apparent that some schools do not seem to be taking this forward and advising parents of the software. Karen suggested that one barrier may be that some parents are not confident to even turn a computer on never mind load and use the software. Martin shared that he has found that even if only a small number of parents attend awareness sessions they spread the message to friends and family who then attend a subsequent session. It was agreed that the issues Cathy raised need to be explored further by the E-Safety Subgroup especially regarding schools not issuing information about Cyber Sentinel to parents.

Martin handed out a leaflet titled 'A Guide for Parents, Carers & Teachers About Social Networking Sites' and recommended that agencies contact Simon Davies (simon.n.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) if they would like more copies. Martin also advised that he now has the 250 E-Safety DVDs that the Board

purchased and has passed these onto the E-Safety Subgroup; again if people would like to purchase more copies they should contact Simon Davies. Martin went on to explain about a Conference that he is currently trying to arrange at Hindlip Hall which he is asking Tanya Byron to attend; Martin is hoping to have various news agencies there such as the BBC and Central News.

8. Safeguarding post Haringey

The Overview report on local audits following Haringey Joint Area Review was circulated with today's agenda along with the following background papers:

- ◆ Children's Social Care summary
- ◆ NSPCC audit and Annex
- ◆ YOS review of serious case reviews
- ◆ SaTH Action Plan following Baby P
- ◆ Report for Corporate Directors on Laming

An additional background paper 'West Mercia Project Assignment Brief' is attached to these minutes.

Anne explained that most agencies had carried out a review post Haringey and these were originally going to be presented to the Board, however some of this will have been superseded by the work they will be doing in response to the Laming report and the Government's full response and therefore it was decided that the reviews would be circulated to Board Members and a small working group set up to produce a composite action plan. Anne asked for any volunteers to contact her. **Action – all**

Anne went on to talk through the attached presentation before asking members to complete the attached worksheets; those present were split into 3 groups and each group asked to look at one or two of the recommendations. The following was fed back:

Recommendation 34

- ◆ Link safeguarding with GP's contracts and financial repercussions
- ◆ Have GP representation at the Health Safeguarding Group
- ◆ Seek national picture / issues, looking at areas where this has worked well and at lessons to be learnt
- ◆ Consider how GP's access other non-clinical training

Recommendation 6

- ◆ Agree set of standards / PI's to ensure the information received is accurately and relevantly reported on (to include multi-agencies)

- ◆ Recommend messages are passed via appropriate forums
- ◆ Review compliance with 'Working Together' principles and guidance
- ◆ Communication to wider agencies and general public regarding what to do with information if they are worried / concerned about child protection / safeguarding issues
- ◆ The Board to continue to promote an environment where Senior Managers can be open, honest, challenge each other, share ideas / ownership and responsibility
- ◆ Encourage dedicated points across agencies where information can be shared / collected
- ◆ Designated Persons from Further Education link in with Designated Persons in schools. Mark Turner advised that there isn't currently a forum for Designated Persons as most communication is via email; Sally suggested that this be considered especially as Ofsted changes are taking place. Julia stated that she will raise this at her leadership meeting.

Recommendation 10

- ◆ Informing of policy and practice
- ◆ Ensure statutory obligations / measures are in place and support partners
- ◆ Involvement in shared forums where CP issues are discussed
- ◆ Ensure "information sharing protocols" are used / followed through – passing on and sharing information

9. Information Items

Child Care Sufficiency Audit – this was circulated with today's agenda however Anne explained that this was in fact a report taken to the CYP management team (rather than one prepared for the SCB) as it had not been possible to speak to Scott Jones prior to the circulation as he is annual leave.

10. AOB

- ◆ Martin Lakeman advised that Sean Paley is moving from Public Protection and will be replaced by Damien Barratt. The Board acknowledged Sean's contribution to Safeguarding and wished him well.
- ◆ Anne advised that last year the Board had a Safeguarding advert on the PCT calendar advising people of what to do if they were concerned about a child. Anne has been approached again this year and it was decided that the Board should proceed with the advert; the Board were given a discount of £100 which brings the cost down to £300. This was agreed

Date of Next Meeting:

9.30am on Wednesday 15 July 2009 in Training room 6, AFC Telford Learning Centre

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.