



Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (Staying Safe)

6 January 2009 at 9.30am

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

Present:

Mr C Watt	NSPCC, Chair of T&W SCB
Miss E Boddison	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service (Minutes)
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation
Ms L Burrows	Shropshire and T&W: Youth Offending Service
Mrs A Cole	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms S Collymore	CAFCASS
Mr T Currie	Safer Stronger Communities Partnership
Ms R Foster	T&WC: Planning & Performance (Agenda item 6)
Dr Ganesh	TandW PCT
Mrs J Gibling	T&WC: Senior Manager, Early Intervention
DCI N Haggitt	West Mercia Constabulary
Ms L Heath	Secondary Schools
Ms H Hipkiss	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority
Mrs C Hughes	T&W SCB Training
Mr A James	T&WC: Connexions 4 Youth
Mr S Jones	T&WC: Integrated Child Care Services (Representing Ms C Barber)
DSupt M Lakeman	West Mercia Constabulary
Ms AM Morris	Joint Commissioning Unit
Mrs N Peck	Youth Support Solutions (Agenda item 5)
Ms K Perry	T&W SCB Training (observing)
Mr D Robson	T&WC: Adult and Consumer Care
Ms A Rosser	New College
Ms G Scott	Families do Matter (Agenda item 7)
Ms C Shouli	T.C.A.T
Ms J Sumner	TandW PCT
Ms T Tanner	SaTH
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 J Collins	T&WC Learning and Achievement
Mrs B Evans	T&WC: Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting
Ms K Fisher	T&WC: Legal Services
Ms S Fisher	T&WC: Licensing
Mr D Goss	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms C Hobbs	Primary Schools
Mr P Jackson	T&WC: Community Services
Ms S Jones	TandW PCT Sexual Health Services
Ms T Knight	T&W: Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting
Ms J McGillivray	T&WC: Adult Protection
Ms A Scott-Ryan	TandW PCT
Ms A Yapp	T&WC: Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting

Apologies not received

Ms J Clark	T&WC: School and Community Services
Ms L Foley	Voluntary Sector Representative
Ms G Foster	T&WC: Mental Health (NHS Trust)
Ms L Hosking	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
Ms K Jones	T&WC: Housing
Mr P Lowe	Crown Prosecution Service
Mr B McKinnon	West Midlands Ambulance Service
Ms A Orr	SSAFA
Ms P Paradise	Victim Support
Ms K Perry	Joint Commissioning Unit

Learning and Skills Council

Colin Watt welcomed Helen Hipkiss and advised that although Helen is not able to attend on a regular basis she will attend the Board when required and will receive copies of all minutes.

2. Minutes from 7 October 2008

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

Matters arising

Page 2 – Police Performance

Martin Lakeman will present this at year end. Martin stated that this year he will make the presentation Telford based as apposed to West Mercia.

Unaccompanied Minors and Trafficking

Sandra Tilley was unable to attend the last Board meeting due to a change in her job role. Therefore, Sandra may no longer be the correct person to do this presentation however Anne will clarify this and the item will be on a future agenda. **Action - Anne Cole**

Page 3 – Sheffield SCB Multi-Agency Guidance

Anne Cole has not contacted people directly and asked that people look at the guidance on the website and if they would like to assist in localizing the guidance that they contact her. **Action – all Members**

Training Plan

Claire Hughes reported that there has been a lack of interest in Private Fostering training to the extent that one course had be cancelled and therefore asked all members to address this within their agencies. **Action – all Members**

Anne indicated that Tina Wood, Head of Commissioning, Performance and Partnerships, is now in post and is working with Karen Perry and the Exec on developing a Performance Framework.

Child Care Sufficiency Audit

Scott Jones advised that James Hemsall is currently finalising this; Scott will bring the audit to the next Board Meeting. **Action – Scott Jones**

Page 4 – Section 10 Agreements

Ann-Marie Morris reported that a Pooled Budget Workshop was held regarding Section 10, Section 35 and other acts relating to sharing of budgets which confirmed that aligning the budget to outcomes should be the direction of travel.

Page 5

Colin confirmed that the first forum for Independent Chairs took place in November which the Childrens Commissioner spoke at; Colin indicated that he

was very keen to support the network. Colin will continue to update the Board on this.

Terms of Reference

The revised version agreed at the last meeting is now on the SCB website.

Independent Chair

The final draft of the job description and person specification will be presented to the Exec at the next meeting, which is to be held on 8 January 2009, for signing off; both are very similar to Worcestershire's.

It is hoped that the post will go to advert within the next couple of weeks; the advert will also be circulated to Board Members and Anne urged everyone to publicise it within their agencies. **Action – Anne Cole and all Members**

Anne added that Sue Wilkinson from Government Office will be part of the recruitment process.

Page 6 – JAR Action Plan

The final version can be viewed by clicking this link [JAR action plan \(T&W website\)](#)

Page 8 – Business Plan

Anne advised that this is not on today's agenda however the Exec are monitoring this on behalf of the Board, although some of the work is taking longer than expected. Rachel Foster will be attending today's meeting to discuss the C&YP Priorities.

Think Family

Anne reported that there is a firm proposal to run a pilot in the South Cluster which involves having a link worker in post.

Page 10 – Sex Offender Disclosure Pilot

Martin Lakeman indicated that it is still early days but it appears that the pilot is a success so far.

Your Community Matters

Anne attended the first of these events however did not feel that it was a successful way of publishing the Board's services.

3. Board Matters

NB items under this section were subsumed into the discussion around Haringey. See below

4. Update from Haringey

Anne gave a brief update and advised that further information could be found at www.publications.dcsf.gov.uk and typing 'Haringey' into the search facility.

Anne read out an extract of the press statement from Ed Balls which she feels shows the support from Government to Local Authorities.

Anne added that Telford & Wrekin have reviewed the findings from the Haringey JAR and in the process of producing an action plan as there are some key lessons. However, there are also some positive differences between Telford & Wrekin and Haringey for example the excellent relationship Telford has with West Mercia Police.

Anne went on to say that the recent JAR in Telford & Wrekin highlighted the issue of capacity and difficulty with recruitment and retention, again this mirrors Haringey. Salary is a major factor for Telford & Wrekin as neighboring authorities have already completed their job evaluations resulting in Social Workers being on higher grades than those in Telford & Wrekin. Therefore, the starting salary for Social Workers in Telford & Wrekin will be increased and current workers at the top of their pay scale will go up one increment; additional incentives have also been put in place regarding ICT. Recently the Local Authority closed a children's home in Telford and the resulting savings have now been re-invested into Social Care to assist with the issues mentioned above.

Anecdotically there is a feeling that work loads have increased since Baby P hit the press and Anne explained that this certainly appears to be the case within Safeguarding according to a brief review that she carried out;

New child protection plans

December 2008

15 initial conferences were held in respect of 28 children – 25 became subject to child protection plans

September – November 2008

18 initial conferences were held in respect of 29 children – 26 were made subject to CP plans

THEREFORE

In the **ONE** month after the situation in Haringey hitting the media, the work and the number of children involved was equivalent to the preceding **THREE** months

(Haringey went 'live' in mid- November but there is a <15 day time scale between making CP enquiries and holding a conference)

Children no longer needing CP plans

September 2008

16 review conferences were held in respect of 30 children.

13 children from 6 families were deemed to no longer need a CP plan

October 2008

16 review conferences were held in respect of 30 children.

11 children from 6 families were deemed to no longer need a CP plan

November 2008

19 review conferences were held in respect of 34 children.

7 children from 5 families were deemed to no longer need a CP plan but NONE of the children reviewed after 14th November had their CP plan ended

December 2008

14 review conferences were held in respect of 38 children (one was a sibling group of 8)

3 children from 3 families were deemed to no longer need a CP plan – 1 had moved out of the area, 2 were babies removed at birth and now on interim care orders

Overall CP activity

September – November 2008

26 children commenced CP plans and 31 ceased – a decrease overall of -5

December 2008

25 children commenced CP plans and 3 ceased – an INCREASE overall of +23

Martin Lakeman reported that the police put a project in place, the day previous to today's meeting, regarding capacity and they are currently looking at issues and trends; this is an internal review and will not be a short life one. Initial findings from another, light touch, review have been good; this included a number of files being reviewed.

Dr Ganesh expressed concern at how managers ensure that policies and procedures are implemented at practice level and what evidence is available to show they are. In response Colin confirmed that the Exec discussed this at their recent half away day and that it is the responsibility of Board Members to ensure that staff within their agencies are aware of policies and procedures and that they are being followed; Colin added that this is an area that the Board need to develop and encourage. Sonia Collymore agreed stating that systems need to be put in place to ensure policies and procedures are followed.

Colin wished to echo Anne's suggestion that Board Members read the documents found on the DCSF website.

Colin added that Haringey had insufficient evidence of challenge and therefore Telford & Wrekin SCB need to review individual cases for which they have commissioned the Serious Case Review Panel to do on their behalf. Lesley Burrows stated that she believes managers should be challenged by the Board and be made to report back on a regular basis. Lesley added that the Youth Offending Service have developed a quality assurance system, ensuring that managers know what is happening at practice level. Anne explained that the Exec agreed at their away day that Members need to be reminded of the responsibilities that they signed up to and that agencies should be held to account.

Anne stated that another issue is that Members agree at Board Meetings that several pieces of work should be carried out but she never has volunteers contact her to assist; this also needs to be looked at further.

Chris Shouli informed that when she sat on the Adult Protection Committee approximately three years ago they did an individual audit which was a good starting point to ensuring agencies work in the same way.

Colin advised that the Director of Children Services (DCS) in Haringey was forced to resign and an Independent Chair and a new DCS were appointed. Colin has asked Government Office for a copy of the Independent Chair job description which should inform further work carried out by the Exec throughout the recruitment process; Colin has not yet heard back from Government Office.

Colin concluded by saying that the Exec value Members comments and will continue to update the Board on work carried out.

5. Children under 5 subject to a CP Plan for concerns of neglect

Nicky Peck attended today's meeting to present the attached report.

Nicky explained that the Exec commissioned her to look at why a high number of children under the age of 5 years old are being made subject to Child Protection Plans for concerns of neglect. Nicky carried out an analysis of quantitative data using the Social Service's database and through key discussions with staff; Nicky indicated that this has been a very interesting and inspiring piece of work.

Nicky spoke through her report and advised that a very significant finding is the age of the mother when she had her first child and the decision has been made to look at this further, along with cases whether the mother has been previously been know to Social Care. Nicky found that when cases have been transferred from another Local Authority the transfer of data was very good, however the results show that support mechanisms need to be reviewed; the data relating to Statement of Special Educational Needs also supports this along with Serious Case Reviews. Anne commented that it should also be established what is in place to prevent an increase in young mothers. Nicky added that cases of success should also be looked at, for example where concerns existed regarding a young mother but a Child Protection Plan was not considered necessary. Chris Shouli advised that the PCT are doing a lot of work at TCAT with young parents and Sally Tyas informed that she is looking at ways of publishing key messages to the public. Dr Ganesh commented that it is evident that young people are involved with Social Care time and time again and information sharing mechanisms at practice level should be looked at.

Another area that Nicky feels needs to be explored further is when the TAC and CAF process are not used before the Child Protection process and what is done when parents do not engage with the two.

Colin thanked Nicky for her excellent piece of work.

6. CYPP – consultation on review of plan

Rachael Foster attended today's meeting to give the attached presentation. Any member wishing to comment on the priorities for the plan or any other matter relating to this review are invited to contact Rachael directly – Rachael.foster@telford.gov.uk

7. Families do Matter

Gill Scott attended to give an update on the Families do Matter project.

Gill reported that approximately 160,000 children in England and Wales experience the imprisonment of a parent each year, this is expected to rise to 200,000, and the project was set up to improve the outcomes for these children.

The project has assisted Prisons with the following work:

- ◆ Play areas have been improved as many were in dire condition.
- ◆ Family days have been set up and parents are now allowed to play with their children; in the past visiting sessions lasted an hour. The project is also working on assisted visits.
- ◆ Prisoners now do Life Plans and families are now involved with this process.
- ◆ Courses are held across six days for the prisoner and their partner to attend to look at parenting, relationships and financial issues.
- ◆ Featherstone Prison are working on having links with schools so that the prisoner can talk to their child about the work they are doing at school and work on the curriculum with them.
- ◆ Prisons now collect data on the number of adults, children over 10, and children under 10 who are visiting; data was not collected in the past. Work is also going on around whether there is any difference in visiting patterns for ethnic groups and on why some people do not receive any visits.

Gill added that many Hidden Sentence training sessions have been carried out with prison staff and she now works with national trainers; we are the only authority to work with statutory bodies. Gill will also be doing awareness training with prisons about the CAF process. Probation will also be engaging in the Hidden Sentence and CAF training.

Funding for a further 12 months is currently trying to be obtained and the project should know within the next few weeks whether they have been successful with this.

Please see the attached draft leaflet which Gill handed out. The next newsletter will be out in January and Emma Boddison will circulate this to Board Members.

Sally Tyas claimed that the project was difficult to begin with and wished to thank Gill for her hard work and commitment.

8. Hate Crime Strategy

This was circulated with today's agenda and Tom indicated that the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership is seeking to ensure good practices are embedded and victims supported. Tom added that the strategy links in with the Anti-bullying Strategy and has been presented to the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership Board who approved it subject to any comments. Tom today presented the strategy to the Safeguarding Children Board and asked for them to endorse it in principle, as there is still some work to be done; Colin recommended the Board do so stating that it is an excellent document. The Strategy was endorsed by those present; Tom asked people to send any comments to himself and / or Dave Wall.

9. TELLUS survey

This item was deferred and Anne agreed to report back to the Board, at a future meeting, on the work that is being done as a result of the survey.

10. Management of allegations

Mark Turner gave the attached presentation.

Anne reiterated that those allegations that had been notified were picked up through the families and not through the work setting and therefore made a plea for everybody to report any allegations to Mark Turner or David Goss.

Please also see the attached flyer regarding a briefing session being held on 13 February 2009.

11. Regional guidance on Trafficking

Anne reported that the West Midlands Regional Safeguarding Network share policies and procedures to save each authority having to write their own. The Regional Guidance on Trafficking which was circulated with today's agenda was produced by a working group across the West Midlands and included Adam Scott (Shropshire SCB and Sandra Tilley UKBA) Anne explained that although trafficking is not believed to be a huge issue for Telford & Wrekin there has been an influx of eastern European children some of whom may have been trafficked and CATE workers also have some cases where girls are moved around the country for sexual exploitation. Therefore, Anne proposed that reference to the guidance is made in Section 6 of the Policies and Procedures and the document be put in the library on the website for agencies to access; all present agreed.

Colin commented that the document is an excellent example of partnership working.

12. Information Items

- ◆ Training Work Plan – this was circulated with today’s agenda
- ◆ National Stocktake of LSCB – this was circulated with today’s agenda
- ◆ SCR study - this was circulated with today’s agenda and Colin advised that Telford have no Serious Case Reviews to review. Colin will keep the Board updated on this piece of work.
- ◆ To view the Ofsted Joint Area Review of Haringey and associated correspondence see <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/haringeyreview>
 - Ofsted Joint Area Review of Haringey
 - Letter from Lord Laming to Ed Balls
 - Letter from Ed Balls to Ofsted, Christine Gilbert
- ◆ To view the DCSF response to the July 2008 Joint Chief Inspectors report into safeguarding see <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/safeguardingchildrenresponse>
- ◆ NSPCC Exchange newsletter – copies of the Autumn 2008 edition were available at today’s meeting; it can also be viewed at http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/publications/Serials/Exchange/exchange_wda47950.html

13. Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting:

Local Safeguarding Board (Staying Safe), 9.30am on 7 April 2009, Training room 6, AFC Telford United Learning Centre

Future dates for 2009:

07.07.09

07.10.09

All meetings in Training Room 6, AFC Telford United 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.