



Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (Staying Safe)

14 October 2009 at 9.30am

Training Room 5 & 6, AFC Telford Learning Centre

Present:

Mr C Brannan	Independent Chair
Ms L Adams	NHS Acute Trust (representing Ms T Rawson)
Ms J Almond	T&WC: Director of Children Services
Mr M Bennett	T&WC: Adults and Community Wellbeing
Miss E Boddison	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service (Minutes)
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation
Dr N Brimblecombe	South Staffordshire & Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust
Mrs A Cole	Independent Consultant
Mr J Collins	T&WC Learning and Achievement
Mr T Currie	T&WC: Safer Stronger Communities Partnership
DCI A Edwards	West Mercia Constabulary
Mr D Goss	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms G Eatough	Secondary Schools
Ms C Hobbs	Primary Schools
Mrs C Hughes	T&WC: SCB Training
Ms L Johnston	TWC: Locality Services
Ms S Jones	NHS Telford & Wrekin: Child & Family Support Services
Ms G Knox	Special Schools

1. Apologies

Mrs P Bickley	NHS Telford & Wrekin: Patient & Community Engagement
Ms S Collymore	CAFCASS
Mrs B Evans	T&WC: Head of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting
Dr Ganesh	NHS Telford & Wrekin

Ms H Hipkiss	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority
DSupt M Lakeman	West Mercia Constabulary
Ms A Parton	Youth Offending Services
Mrs J Sumner	NHS Telford & Wrekin
Ms T Rowson	NHS Acute Trust
Mr M Turner	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Mr C Watt	NSPCC

Apologies not received

Cllr Stephen Burrell	T&WC: Lead Member for C&YP
Mr M Lloyd	CVS

Chris Brannan welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

2. Minutes from last meeting

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

Matters Arising

Page 3 - Think Family

It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the next Safeguarding Children Board meeting.

Page 12 – Actions

Annual Report

Julie Almond reported that there has not been a Heads Forum since the last Board meeting however it is on the agenda for the next Forum.

Chris wrote to all Chief Execs regarding membership of the Board and included a copy of the Annual Report. Chris added that confirmation has now been received from all regarding membership.

Business Plan

MARAC is on the next Exec Agenda.

Karen Perry and Michael Bennett are meeting to discuss the SCB having a target relating to the Impact of drugs and alcohol on young people.

Review of Board Membership and Structure

The Exec gave thought to Chris attending their meetings and it was agreed that it would be beneficial for him to do so; he attended the last meeting. Further thought was given to the name of the group and it was agreed that the name should be 'Exec Group'

It was decided that contacts for leads should be distributed instead of producing an organisational chart and this has now been done.

CATE

Laura reported that this is more than just a resource issue and agreed to provide an update at the next Board meeting.

Julia advised that this is on the agenda for the next Heads Forum so that they can discuss mainstreaming exploitation awareness into PHSE lessons.

3. Establishing new board and discussing induction processes / requirements for new members

The Exec discussed this at their last meeting and agreed to commission Anne Cole to establish the new Board and work on the induction process and requirements for new members.

Anne attended today's meeting and gave the attached presentation 'Support to SCB'. Anne added that she would be happy to present a presentation with regards to raising the profile of the SCB to agencies if it was felt appropriate for her to do so within her five days per month.

Chris asked those present if there was anything that current members feel would have been helpful to receive in their induction? Tom replied that it is very apparent that we do not have an induction process currently and therefore it would be very helpful to have one like Anne suggests. Tom also questioned whether there is a budget to have support from a Board Manager in the long term as since Anne's departure there is a huge gap; Julia replied that it is proposed that the role continues. Chris stated that the proposal is to look in the next financial year at having the post in place. Anne advised that in the last Board minutes it states that in order to raise the SCB profile additional funding is required. It was agreed that the next Exec meeting should look at getting funding proposals distributed in December.

Gill Eatough commented that the SCB needs to be really clear about what its remit is and what the role of the representatives is; Gill Knox agreed and both stated that although it was agreed they would attend the meeting neither of them knew anything about the Board before hand. Cathy Hobbs reported that she has

discussed with Jim Collins that a plan is needed regarding what information should be disseminated by members and how.

Chris advised that he has spoken to many people, a lot of whom do not know the role of the Board so it would therefore be really helpful to have a presentation available.

Karen Perry advised that Rachel Foster is looking at the induction process for the Childrens Trust Board so suggests Anne links in with her.

It was agreed that Anne would be commissioned for five days per month.

4. Performance Monitoring

Karen Perry attended to give the attached presentation prepared by Helen Smith, who can be contacted if there are any queries.

Karen advised that the Performance Framework is included in this presentation and will be on agendas throughout the year.

Slide 6 – Karen reported that she is looking at whether there are any children who have had more than one repeat incident. Jim questioned whether there is any significance in February being high in terms of repeat incidents and Karen agreed to ask about this at the next MARAC Meeting. Laura added that this data will also be presented at the next Exec meeting so that the group can consider a performance indicator for the Board.

Slides 17 & 18 – Julia advised that she did look at this data and the 10 vacancies include 3 secondments, which also count as vacancies. Julia also looked at why staff left and was able to report that one wanted to work with adults instead and several of the others were moving out of the area. Karen explained that figures are improving and all vacancies are covered by temporary staff. Karen added that there is a problem nationally with recruiting so this is not a local issue.

Sara Jones reported that she has taken over responsibly for Health Visitors and is planning to look at case loads and vacancies.

With regards to sickness, Gill Eatough asked if there are any figures on turn over of staff? Karen replied that continuity of staff is a key issue to look at. Lesley Adams explained that she has noticed an increase of work load in antenatal due to the high number of Child Protection Conferences and would be interested to look at continuity of antenatal staff in these cases.

Julia advised that staff from C&YP are involved in working with the DCFS looking at how to support the issue of Social Workers spending more time doing computer work by providing more admin support; Chris added that this is an issue nationally.

Karen indicated that the Performance Framework is on the SCB website and it was queried whether figures should be added once they have been presented to the SCB.

Laura explained the background to the Regan and Thorpe Research currently being undertaken and suggested someone attending the next Board meeting to give a presentation. The research is looking at referrals coming through the Helpdesk and at the 'Safeguarding front door' as a whole and looking at how we can do better. The researchers have spent a lot of time with the helpdesk and have taken the first 300 cases from 1 January 2008 to look at in detail. It is expected that the helpdesk will be reshaped and remodelled. Laura indicated that the research is very multi-agency and therefore it is key to the Board and recommends partners attending a presentation that Regan & Thorpe are giving in November.

5. Quality Assurance – number of children who are made subject to a Child Protection Plan for a subsequent time

Please refer to the proposal circulated prior to today's meeting.

Anne explained that the reason behind the proposal is that the number of children being made subject to a Child Protection Plan for a subsequent time is rapidly increasing so there is a need to look at why. The outturn for last year was 14%, from April 09 to August 09 it was already 16% and since September it has risen again to 17%. A secondary reason is that in the Laming Report there is a recommendation for Senior Managers to know what it is like 'on the ground'. Anne added that part of the audit will need to look at whether the right key people were there making the decision on the previous plan being ended and subsequent plan starting, and also whether the previous plan was completed. When Anne previously showed the performance presentation that Karen had done today she always made the point clear that decisions have always been multi-agency which is why it is important to do a multi-agency audit.

David Goss wished to comment on the values that will come out of this audit. David added that when there has been intensive involvement in cases the need for the Child Protection Plan has lessened, however when agencies withdraw services and the plan is ended it becomes apparent that a subsequent plan is needed.

Tom Currie indicated that it would be interesting to understand more about substance abuse and whether this is a factor.

Julia reported that the issue links strongly in with the Team Around the Child process; Cathy agreed with this and also commented on the importance of looking at lead professionals and whether is a contributing factor.

Karen advised that Emma Boddison has carried out some work around attendance at conferences and feels it is important to include this in the audit as there does appear to be an issue. Chris reiterated this and explained that when he met with the Conference and Reviewing Officers this was very apparent and that there is an issue with regards to attendance and questioned whether a decision can really be made if there are only two agencies present for example; Chris wished to add that he does understand issues for agencies attending all case conferences however it is important that if they can not attend a report is sent with the apologies. Anne advised that this will be included in the audit and she will be looking at whether the final decision may have been different if other agencies were present. Cathy suggested that it would also be interesting to establish whether the decision to end the first Plan was unanimous or majority and whether this contributes to whether a further Plan is required.

Sara asked Anne how long she anticipates the audit to take? Anne responded that she doubts that it will take less than 1 ½ days for each child, as they need to look at paper files, e-files, minutes etc which will undoubtedly raise many questions.

Anne advised that she would definitely be looking at reporting back to the January Board meeting but would need a preliminary meeting with the relevant people; Anne added that it will also depend on agencies co-operation.

Julia stated that it would be helpful if Anne circulates information to agencies detailing the work she is carrying out and ask for their cooperation. Anne advised the she will liaise with the Exec Group if she encounters any problems.

All present agreed with Anne's proposal.

6. Publicity

It was agreed that the SCB should work with the CTB with regards to publicity and that the Exec should carry out the work and report back to the SCB.

Emma Boddison advised that Anne Almond has agreed to attend a future Board meeting to discuss the Communications Plan.

David requested that training is publicised more on the SCB Website.

7. AOB

Consultation on revised Chapter 8 of Working Together

The DCSF are asking for comments on the revised Chapter 8 of Working Together by 23 October 2009 and it was agreed today a joint response should be sent. Chris advised that Kirsty Fisher has offered to coordinate the responses and therefore Emma will circulate the document asking for comments to be sent to Kirsty before 21 October 2009.

C&YPP Bulletin

Julia advised that this is sent on a fortnightly basis and suggested the Board utilising it as a way to disseminate information; any information should be sent to Kay.McClean@telford.gov.uk or anne.almond@telford.gov.uk

..... Forum

1. Welcomes and induction

Members of the Forum attended at 11.00am and introductions were made.

2. One Children's Workforce Tool (KW & GS)

Kris Woodcock attended and gave a brief background to the One Children's Workforce before facilitating a workshop.

An update on the One Children's Workforce Tool will be provided at a future Board Meeting.

Information Items

The following items were circulated with today's agenda.

- PPRC – *this is now fully implemented and operational; there is a meeting later this week to discuss how to implement with C&YPP*
- Children missing from home – *this is now fully operational*
- Response to Laming Report

- ISA presentation and FAQ
- Private Fostering Annual Report

Date of Next Meeting:

To be Confirmed.

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 Chris Brannan, Laura Johnston or Emma Boddison.

Actions

Annual Report

Julia Almond to present the Annual Report to the Heads Forum	Julia Almond
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Dr Ganesh to present the report to the PCT Board	Dr Ganesh
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Business Plan

The Exec to consider having a performance indicator regarding the number of children discussed at MARAC and also how many of them have received positive intervention	Exec Members
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Karen Perry and Michael Bennett to discuss the SCB having a target relating to the impact of drugs and alcohol on young people	Karen Perry and Michael Bennett
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CATE

Julia to discuss mainstreaming exploitation awareness into PHSE lessons at the next Heads Forum	Julia Almond
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Laura Johnston to feedback at the next Board Meeting. Laura Johnston

Consultation on revised Chapter 8 of Working Together

Emma to circulate the revised Chapter 8 of Working Together to Board members and ask for comments to be sent to Kirsty Fisher by 21 October 2009. Emma Boddison

All Board members to read the revised Chapter 8 of Working Together and send comments to Kirsty Fisher by 21 October 2009. All Board members

Kirsty Fisher to co-ordinate responses and send a joint response by 23 October 2009. Kirsty Fisher