



Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (Staying Safe)

7 October 2008 at 9.30am

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

Present:

Mr C Watt	NSPCC, Chair of T&W SCB
Ms G Bailey	T&WC: Mental Health (NHS Trust) (representing Gill Foster)
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
Mrs B Evans	T&WC: Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting
Dr M Ganesh	TandW PCT
Mr D Goss	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms L Heath	Secondary Schools
Mrs C Hughes	T&W SCB Training
Mr P Jackson	T&WC: Community Services
Ms S Jones	TandW PCT Sexual Health Services
Mr S Jones	T&WC: Integrated Child Care Services
Ms T Knight	T&W: Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting
Dr H Morris	TandW PCT (observing)
Mr D Robson	T&WC: Adult and Consumer Care
Ms A Rosser	Further Education Colleges
Ms A Scott-Ryan	TandW PCT
Ms J Sumner	TandW PCT
Major J Welsh	Army Welfare Service

1. Apologies

Ms J Almond	Director, Children & Young People
Ms C Barber	T&WC: Early Years
Ms J Clark	T&WC: School and Community Services
Mr J Collins	T&WC Learning and Achievement
Mr T Currie	Safer Stronger Communities Partnership
Ms K Fisher	T&WC: Legal Services

Ms S Fisher	T&WC: Licensing
DCI N Haggitt	West Mercia Constabulary
Ms H Hipkiss	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority
Ms L Hosking	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
Ms C Hobbs	Primary Schools
Mr A James	T&WC: Connexions 4 Youth
DSupt M Lakeman	West Mercia Constabulary
Mr P Lowe	Crown Prosecution Service
Ms AM Morris	Joint Commissioning Unit
Ms C Shouli	T.C.A.T
Ms T Tanner	SaTH
Mr M Turner	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms S Tyas	T&WC: Learning & School Improvement
Ms A Yapp	T&WC: Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting

Apologies not received

Ms S Collymore	CAFCASS
Ms L Foley	Voluntary Sector Representative
Mr N Janjua	CVS: Race & Diversity Partnership (RED)
Ms K Jones	T&WC: Housing
Ms J McGillivray	T&WC: Adult Protection
Mr B McKinnon	West Midlands Ambulance Service
Ms A Orr	SSAFA

Learning and Skills Council

Colin advised that the agenda for today's meeting was revised due to Martin Lakeman and Sandra Tilley being unable to attend. Items deferred were Police Performance and Unaccompanied Minors and Trafficking.

Colin also stated that Helen Hipkiss would like to attend the SCB meetings but due to capacity issues is unable to, however Helen will receive minutes and any invitations; Colin went onto say that he and Audrey Scott-Ryan had an introductory meeting with Helen which was very positive.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Page 1, Attendance - Dr Ganesh represents T&W PCT not SATH.

Page 3, Annual Report & Performance – ‘LSC website’ should read ‘SCB website’.

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

Matters arising

Page 3 – Children and Young People Plan

Everyone should have received a copy of this.

Sheffield SCB Multi-Agency Guidance

Anne Cole has not been contacted by any volunteers and therefore will start to contact people directly.

Page 3 - Annual Report & Performance

Anne advised that flyers have not been devised as the Annual Report is not yet on the Intranet, ICT have said it will take them approximately a week to do this once she submits the final CD of the revised site.

Page 4 - Training Plan

Claire Hughes advised that all courses are fully booked, Karen Perry has started as the new part-time trainer and midwives and nurses have recently attended Train the Trainers.

Anne indicated that no-one has volunteered to be the lead for the Communication Strategy and consideration is being given to approaching Anne Almond. Anne added that Nicky Peck has offered to do a few days work on the Strategy (in her own time).

Child Care Sufficiency Audit

The second consultation took place on 29 July 2008; work has been completed on the Action Plan and will be brought to the next Board.

Disabled Children Guidance

Claire and Richard Lansdale are in the process of identifying trainers.

Page 5 – Child Death Overview Panel

Colin Watt, Audrey Scott-Ryan and Kirsty Fisher are attending a regional event on 8 October 2008.

Page 6 – Section 10 Agreements

Anne Cole and Ann Marie Morris met to discuss this and Ann Marie suggested aligning the budget to outcomes.

3. Board Matters

3rd Inspectors Report

Colin advised that the 3rd Inspectors Report has been published and copies of the summary version were available at today's meeting (www.safeguardingchildren.org.uk). Two previous reports have been published. Colin urged everyone to read the report and indicated that it will be interesting to compare it with the JAR Report. The report contains recommendations that LSCBs are urged to consider. Colin also indicated that the report mentions that LSCBs should have an independent voice and he thinks this is key, it also talks about Local Authorities considering Safeguarding and not just Child Protection; Telford & Wrekin are already doing this. There is also a section which refers to MAPPA being represented on the SCB and again Telford & Wrekin are successful at this.

Colin spoke about the following sections:

Child Protection – it is a challenge to equip all staff with the tools and knowledge due to high staff turn over.

SCRIP – Colin stated that he feels the process is an evolving one but that Telford are very thorough. OFSTED are now reviewing all SCR reports rigorously.

Thresholds – the report is very positive and acknowledges that it is a huge challenge.

Recommendations – Colin is pleased to see some of the recommendations are for Government and feels that we have a positive relationship with the local government office.

Safer Recruitment – the Board has conducted a Section 11 Audit and needs to show that it has mechanisms in place regarding quality assurance; the Exec are having an away 'day' in December and will be looking at quality assurance.

Random sampling is not in place in Telford but the Board can consider this as a tool.

Colin advised that that he has contacted other independent chairs and they agreed to have a forum to discuss independence; Colin has obtained agreement from the NSPCC for them to host the first meeting which will be in November. If the meeting is successful it may develop into a national network. Colin stated that independence should not only be from C&YP services but also from Local Government.

New Terms of Reference

Anne explained that there have been a few minor amendments made to the Terms of Reference and these were highlighted on the copy circulated with today's agenda. Anne asked the Board to approve the amended Terms of Reference so that they can be included in the revised Policies & Procedures on the website. Pete Jackson stated that he is unclear of the responsibility of individual agencies to ensure any policies and procedures are approved. Barbara Evans responded that although the Board has responsibility to ensure there are policies and procedures it is the individual organisations responsibility to have them in place and ensure staff are compliant with them; Section 11 audit asks if this is the case. It was agreed that a sentence should be added to Section 5.1 of the Terms of Reference stating the above; all present then approved the document.

Independent Chair

A report was circulated with today's agenda.

Colin explained that the Terms of Reference state:

The Chair will be appointed for a period of two years with the option of being re-appointed for a further year if both the Chair and the DCS are in agreement.

In April 2009 Colin will have been chairing the Board for 3 years and although he was asked to consider whether he would like to continue he unfortunately feels unable to do so due to the pressures of his 'day job'.

The report outlined 3 options and Anne explained that the third option is favoured by the Exec and Colin which is to advertise externally. Anne added that David Goss has started to collate Job Descriptions and details of reimbursements for LSCB Chairs from other Local Authorities. Initial discussions with Julia Almond indicate that she is also happy with this option.

James Welsh questioned if there are independent people with the knowledge required; Anne responded that most people who are independent chairs are people who have taken early retirement and have previously worked in Children & Young People Services.

Colin said that he would be delighted to be involved in the transition process and in mentoring the new Chair.

Those present agreed in principal to option 3 and expressed their thanks to Colin.

4. JAR Feedback

Barbara advised that the final JAR report has now been issued and this was circulated with today's agenda. An Action Plan is now being devised and the Annual Performance Assessment is being undertaken. It looks as though this will be a paper exercise for Telford & Wrekin this year.

The JAR gave Safeguarding a 2, adequate, and although this was challenged we only managed to get the wording and tone of the report changed not the score. Barbara talked through the strengths outlined in the report and stated that there is work to be done for Safeguarding to be a 3, good. Work needs to be carried out in the Clusters and the Board needs to hold them to account that they are providing outcomes for children; Barbara advised that she is querying that if this is being done then why do Telford & Wrekin have a high number of children being made subject of Child Protection Plans, particularly for concerns of neglect? The Board needs to do some work on this and be proactive. Barbara added that it is important that Telford & Wrekin benchmark.

Barbara indicated that the JAR inspectors complimented Telford & Wrekin on all Child Protection conferences being in timescale; Barbara complimented Anne and her team for this. However, the inspectors did raise the issue of reports not being presented at conferences and Barbara stressed the importance of this and asked Board members to take this message back to their agencies.

Barbara also stated that the Board needs to know what work is being undertaken regarding accident prevention.

Barbara then went onto talk about the weakness outlined in the report:

- Deficiencies in the arrangement for case allocation.

This was challenged as all cases were allocated, and have been for some time, however the inspectors picked up on some family support cases which were not.

- Capacity problems for the case management teams.

There is some work to be done regarding this although CIC cases with no care proceedings now go straight to the CIC Team instead of Case Management.

- No systematic processes to collate information about the quality of practice and drive improvements in this respect.

The Board needs to look at quality assurance framework and how to pull audits together. File audits are very useful and the Exec are looking at the SCRP randomly choosing two cases a year and auditing those children's files from all agencies. Tina Woods is going to be approached to work with the Exec to develop a quality assurance framework.

The inspectors could not be convinced that we have a performance framework and therefore we need to show that we have.

- Inconsistent recording of ethnicity of files

Barbara asked all agencies to ensure they record ethnicity and advised that it is in the work programme for C&YP to look in January at their recording of ethnicity. The inspectors are expecting for ethnicity to be recorded at first point of contact; only 30% of files had it recorded and some agencies had it recorded differently from each other.

Overall the report is very positive but there is still a lot of work to do. Barbara explained that it can't be assumed that the inspectors have access to the most up to date information, they will only access what they think is in place so need to be provided with the rest.

Dr Ganesh asked if there is national guidance on multi-agency audits and Barbara responded that there is not but this will be part of the quality assurance framework. Barbara added that some Boards are happy to share their frameworks with us and the Exec will be looking at this at their away day.

Colin referred to point 81 of the report (page 23) and asked if more Social Workers are needed in teams or the clusters; Barbara responded that this is needed and Lead Members and corporate directors are very supportive of this, however Social Workers can not be taken away from Case Management and placed in the clusters until there is a decrease in the number of children with Child Protection Plans. It is hoped that there will be some budget support to enable Social Workers to be placed in the clusters but consideration needs to be given on how to maximize resources already available and the portfolio needs to be looked at this.

5. Progress reports on Action Plans

Anne showed those present the updated SCB website as additional sections have been developed. ICT are now in a position to train authors and editors but there is an issue with capacity of those to be trained.

C&YPP Action Plan

Please see copy circulated with today's agenda which has been updated with September's progress reports. Anne explained that a statement has been added at the top of the document regarding the colour coding as amber means they may not be achieved within our original timescale not that they may not be completed at all; some actions are taking longer due to people's availability

The action plan will be going to the Children's Trust Board next week.

Business Plan

The following updates were discussed:

Domestic Abuse – there are currently issues over transferring data between the police and the clusters.

E-safety group – Insp. Steve Hill has taken over the chairing of these meetings from Claire Hughes and the next meeting is next week. Chris Enright has changed posts and is now developing an E-safety school and producing a roadway.

Listening to children and young people – this is progressing although it has been difficult for the task group to meet due to availability issues. There is a lot of good practice in place and proposals have been made. An update will hopefully be brought to the next Board meeting.

Think Family – As with the above availability/capacity has been an issue although there is a willingness to look at this. There is a steering group meeting next week.

6. Half year performance

Anne talked through the attached presentation and thanked Helen Smith for preparing the report. Anne highlighted the following points:

Risk assessments have improved and therefore most children being discussed at Initial Child Conference are found to be in need of a Child Protection Plan.

There has been a decrease so far this year in the number of children with Child Protection Plans but it can not be predicted that this will remain the case as a number of factors will affect the figures for example large sibling groups.

A high number of children under the age of 5 years old are being made subject to Child Protection Plans for concerns of neglect and the Exec has asked for a piece of work to be commissioned to look at why this is.

7. Crucial Crew and Child Safety Week Feedback

This item was deferred due to Lyn Hosking being unable to attend today's meeting.

8. 6 month update on CDOP

Audrey gave an update. There have been 30 deaths from 1 April to the end of September (11 being in the last quarter) which is more than predicted and therefore Dr Bell has increased her sessions. One of these cases was taken to SCRIP for consideration but on the evidence available it was decided not to do a Serious Case Review. It has been acknowledged that all agencies need to have an awareness of rapid response and CDOP overall. Audrey is looking at who needs training and when.

The panel meets bi-monthly although they an extra meeting is to be held as they have only managed to discuss 1 case this quarter. It has been decided to set up an executive committee and then business items can be discussed by them and the panel can discuss cases.

Audrey explained that the form A is completed by Deborah Passant / Dr Bell and the form B by agencies involved before being sent back for Dr Bell to see. Both forms are then presented to the Panel and form C completed by them.
(all the documents will be available on the updated website)

9. YOS Inspection Feedback

Lesley Burrows advised that the inspection took place in February and included inspectors from all agencies that make up the YOT partnership. There were 12 inspectors who were very thorough and robust. 82 cases were examined and these were chosen by the inspectors. A range of people were interviewed including staff, children, families, and victims.

YOS achieved a 3 (good) and Lesley spoke about the five recommendations and explained what processes have been put in place as a result. An action plan has

been devised and this was reviewed last month, a lot of progress has been made.

The inspectors stated that “YOS does know what progress is for young people”

10. Information Items

SHA Guidance on SCR – this was circulated with today’s agenda.

3rd Inspectors Report – www.safeguardingchildren.org.uk, copies of the summary report were available at today’s meeting.

Private Disclosures – please see the attached. Warwickshire is our nearest pilot area although Anne advised that the police already do disclose details of offenders if they feel the need is great enough, so do the Safeguarding Team.

11. AOB

Your Community Matters – The Local Strategic Partnership are running several events with the first being tomorrow (8 October) in Woodside; Anne will be having a stand on the work of the Board.

Date of Next Meeting:

Local Safeguarding Board (Staying Safe), 9.30am on 6 January 2009, Training room 5, AFC Telford.

Future dates for 2009:

07.04.09

07.07.09

06.10.09

All meetings at 9.30am in Training room 5, 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.