

**IW LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
STRATEGY GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL 2009
AT THE BARGEMAN'S REST, NEWPORT**

PRESENT

David Parkinson	Independent Chair
Rosie Rae	Board Manager
Simon Smith	Chair – Serious Cases Working Group
Martin Ward	Chair – Monitoring & Evaluation Group
Linda Dawson	Police (obo Kevin Walton)
Dr Andrew Watson	IW NHS PCT
Steve Beynon	IW Council – Chief Executive
Janet Barker	IW Council – Legal Services
Sally Stewart	Interagency
Nikki Shave	Probation
Meg Abbott	Youth Offending Team
Carol Alstrom	IW NHS PCT
Lorna Neale	LSCB Operational Support (Minutes)

VISITORS

Jo Thistlewood	IW Council - Children's Services - Finance
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1. APOLOGIES

Duncan Mills, Nicolas Crick, Keith Woods, Kevin Walton

2. CHAIRS OPENING REMARKS

2.1 Feedback from Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

- The Annual Report is currently being drawn together and should be available by early May.
- Interviews for the CDOP Manager will take place at Portsmouth PCT on the 24th April. 4 people have been short-listed for interview.
- 2 x Training events have been planned at Netley with 50 delegates attending each session. These will be held on 1st May and 11th June.

2.2 Board Manager's Report

- The Board Managers Report has been circulated and was taken as read. It includes information on E-Safety, 4LSCB Website, Protocol for Mental Health and Substance Misusing Parents, SCR protocols and processes, Section 11 Audit, Sub-Group Membership, Training issues and dates and information regarding the review of safeguarding for Home Educated children.
- The development of the website has been delayed due to un-agreed changes with the site visual but the domain name issues have now been resolved. It is anticipated that the Isle of Wight page will be up and running by June but we are still waiting for structures to be submitted by Portsmouth, Hampshire and Southampton so these areas may take longer to set up.

ACTION: David to raise development of Website at next 4LSCB Chairs Meeting.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11.02.09

- The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Report on Travellers

- Mark Howell has changed roles but we understand that the report will be available shortly.

3.2 Child Protection Statistics

- A 4 year comparison of Safeguarding Referrals was circulated to members.
- The Board need to agree on a basic data set to be collected on a monthly basis. The latest figures produced appear to be very low and show discrepancies which may be due to coding problems and the change to a new computer system. Sally will raise this at her meeting with Sara Perkins and Barbara Milton.

ACTION: Sally to report her findings at the meeting in June.

3.3 Young Runaways Protocol

- Simon provided a breakdown of the figures for the 1st half of April. To date, a total of 11 missing persons reports have been logged (10 female and 1 male). 2 of the females (aged 14) are LAC and the boy (aged 10) is allocated to Social Care.
- Simon will give a full report at the meeting in June.

3.4 CRB Checks for Elected Members

- A reply has been received from the IW Council Head of HR confirming that there is currently no blanket checking of Members carried out at present. However, this will be reviewed in June.

ACTION: Rosie to follow up in June to clarify process.

3.5 Audit

- Rob Hutchinson – national speaker on outcome based accountability – has offered the IW a free day's training and Rosie and Gill Kennett from the PCT will be attending training on the mainland next week.
- Work is being carried out within the Monitoring & Evaluation Sub-Group to determine what data is available and what is required.

3.6 LSCB Partnership Agreement

- An agreement has been produced and circulated to Partners. The PCT legal team have raised a number of issues that they feel should be addressed within the document before they can sign up. Janet Barker will refer these back to the author and will also discuss whether FOI requests should be included.

3.7 YOT Safeguarding Guidance

- Meg Abbott provided the Board with a document detailing the Youth Offending Team's approach to safeguarding. The guidance includes compliance with Working Together, Identification Assessment Management, Risk of Harm, CAF, Vulnerability Planning, Relationship with Social Care, Workforce, Accommodation, Health Needs, Learning Needs, LAC, Victims, Point of Transfer, Domestic Abuse, Teenage Pregnancy, Bullying and the LSCB.

4. TO PROVIDE AN END OF YEAR UPDATE ON THE LSCB BUDGET – Jo Thistlewood

- The Budget monitoring report for end March 2009 has been circulated to the Board along with a forecast for 2009/10.
- There is an under-spend of £26247 within the 08/09 budget but costs incurred by the recent SCR and e-safety campaign will be deducted from this. It has been agreed that the remainder can be carried forward to 2009/10 as deferred income received in advance.
- The budget for 2009/10 is estimated at £70679. This is based on an assumption of the contributions from last year remaining constant and includes the c/fwd figure. We are still awaiting confirmation from Probation, CAFCASS and the PCT for their contributions.

ACTION: Jo Thistlewood to invoice all agencies for their budget contributions.

- With the anticipated expenditure for 2009/10, there is likely to be no remainder at the end of the year. This could have implications for activity during 2010/11 as with

contributions at their current level, there will only be a budget of £44K. Budget contributions will need to be confirmed by Autumn 2009.

- The full cost of the Board Manager will be shown as additional income from IW Council.

5. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SAFEGUARDING INSPECTION – Steve Beynon

- The IW Council have recently been involved in a pilot Safeguarding Inspection, one of 3 carried out across the country.
- A FOI request has already been received but as this was a pilot and also a training exercise for the Inspectors, there will be no published report and the request has been turned down.
- Overall the inspection found safeguarding on the IW to be adequate although there were some areas found to be inadequate. The Cabinet Report is being discussed this week and contains an Action Plan to address the issues.
- Case thresholds for intervention were believed to be too low and therefore children subject to unnecessary CP plans.
- There are recommendations around Social Care practice and the need for more stringent oversight by Management so that cases are closed at the appropriate time.
- It was found that there is reluctance across agencies to adopt the CAF and use it in practice.
- Training undertaken by Headteachers shows good progress.
- There were specific recommendations for the LSCB as it was found to be functioning insufficiently. The inspectors recognised that the absence of a full time Board Manager had hindered this and there has been positive progress since, made by Rosie Rae. Some of the areas for improvement include:
 - The relationship between the LSCB and Childrens Trust
 - Management of the Independent Chair and Board Manager
 - Performance management
- There will be a meeting of the core partners of the LSCB called by Childrens Services to address the issues; and the Chair proposed a working group to look at the relationship with the Childrens Trust.
- Sally Stewart has been working on attendance and decision making at case conferences and requested the Boards approval to return to core group decision making. Concern was raised that core group decision making may cause stagnation but this should be addressed by quarterly forums. Following discussion the Board agreed that there should be 1 nominated core member and 2 deputies from each agency.
- It was also agreed that the Board should request a quarterly report from the CP Conference Chair on the implementation of this scheme.

ACTION: David Parkinson to write to each agency explaining this decision and requesting action by 1st June 2009.

6. TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

- It was agreed that a data set and reporting cycle should be in place by the next meeting.
- OFSTED have suggested that we look at the London Safeguarding data.
- Kate Freeman and Rachael Dominey have been tasked to look at data for the Childrens Trust.
- The Monitoring & Evaluation Group have been tasked with developing a 3 year work plan, part of which will be to regularise audits. The work-flow between sub-groups should inform the cycle.

ACTION: Rosie, Sally and Martin to meet with Kate and Rachael to discuss data sets and avoid duplication.

7. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

- Building on the feedback from the Away Day and sub-groups, the Board discussed a review of the current structure. A presentation on the proposals will be circulated following the meeting and members will be asked to comment.
- Sub-groups are not clear about their role and remit and unable to benchmark and measure progress. There is also a mistaken belief among some sub-group members that that the work groups are strategic and not operational.
- The Public Awareness and Training Groups have been unable to achieve anything against their work plans due to lack of resources and there is a lack of co-ordination of work flow and interface between groups.
- A new LSCB structure was proposed which includes an additional "Policy and Practice" sub-group.
- There is already a Strategic Communications group made up of representatives from IW Council, Police and PCT. The Board agreed that there was no need for the LSCB to have an additional Communications sub-group as any work could be directed through this existing group.
- Terms of Reference have been prepared as part of the proposal for restructuring the existing sub groups to increase capacity for the Board to deliver against its core objectives.
- There will be 2 x full LSCB Away Days per year and 2 x Practice Days.

ACTION: Rosie to circulate the proposals to the Board for comment by

8. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE REVISED BUSINESS PLAN

- The proposed new Business Plan has been circulated to the Board and was discussed at the meeting.
- 4.1 of the plan is a work in progress and will tie in with the work done by the Childrens Trust. It was suggested that this needs to be more specific.
- 2.1 needs to include children missing from home or care.

ACTION: Rosie to circulate the Plan to the Board to be returned with comments / feedback by 15th May.

9. TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK TEMPLATE

- Following the recommendations of the LH SCR and in compliance with Section 11, Kathy Marriott has produced a LSCB Partner Competency Framework for voluntary, community and private organisations.
- The document - which is good practice rather than statutory guidance - will be circulated to the Board for comment.

ACTION: Rosie to email document to members for comment and approval.

10. TO DISCUSS LOCAL SAFEGUARDING PROVISION FOR E-SAFETY

- It was noted that the officer responsible for E-Safety within schools will shortly be made redundant and therefore there is an identified gap in service provision. After discussion, the Board agreed that this is an issue for the IW Council and Childrens Trust but the LSCB will monitor this as a gap in safeguarding.

11. TO DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LAMING REPORT

- The Chair has made a study of the Laming Report and identified the recommendations for SCRs and the LSCB.

ACTION: David to circulate recommendations to the Board.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

- OFSTED is piloting a whistleblower hotline for council employees and those working with young children who want to report concerns about practices and procedures for the safeguarding of children and young people. The hotline can be contacted by:
Telephone – 08456 404046 (Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm)
Email – whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk
Letter – WBHL, Ofsted, Royal Exchange Buildings, St Ann’s Square, Manchester, M2 7LA
- Implementing the Laming Recommendations: Keeping Children Safe – Conference to be held in Westminster on 21st May 2009. Delegates will consider the impact of Lord Laming’s recommendations on child protection. Details can be found at: www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=292
- Strengthening Practice in Child Protection – Conference to be held in London on 12th June 2009. This conference looks at the new thinking around child protection and its implications for practice. Details can be found at: www.conferencesandtraining.com/child-protection

13. TO RECEIVE BRIEF FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

13.1 Monitoring & Evaluation Group

- The group discussed DNAs and whether this is an issue for the group to pick up.
- Jenny Johnston fed back in terms of what the Health Service procedures are – there has been a lot of work done – and is investigating how these are handled by CAMHS and Adult Mental Health.
- The group felt that GPs would require further training with regard to their responsibilities and it was suggested that Dr Kaiser and Caroline Morris are involved with this.

ACTION: M&E Group to take this forward.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- **Wednesday 17th June 2009**
- **10.00am – 1.00pm**
- **Venue – To be confirmed**

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM MEETING OF 11th February 2009

Action	Responsibility	Due Date	Actioned
Provide Board members with a copy of the results from the Traveller user-group	Deb Abell to send when ready	ASAP	
Look at safeguarding training for elected members.	Training Sub-Group	20.05.09	c/fwd to Sept.
Give an update on the implementation of the new national guidelines and local protocols for Young Runaways.	Simon Smith	17.06.09	c/fwd to Sept.
Investigate whether or not Missing Persons figures can be shown on individuals and not just incidents.	Martin Ward	17.06.09	17.06.09

ACTIONS FROM MEETING OF 15th April 2009

Action	Responsibility	Due Date	Actioned
Raise issue of development of Website at next 4LSCB Chairs Meeting.	David Parkinson	03.06.09	17.06.09
Meet with Sara Perkins and Barbara Milton to discuss accuracy of CP data and report back to Board on findings	Sally Stewart	17.06.09	c/fwd to Sept.
Clarify new process for CRB checks on elected members.	Rosie Rae	17.06.09	c/fwd to Sept.
Invoice partner agencies for their budget contributions.	Jo Thistlewood	ASAP	19.05.09
Write to each agency explaining the Boards decision to move to core membership and decision making at CP Conference and request action by 1 st June 2009.	David Parkinson	30.04.09	12.05.09
Write to Chair of CP Conference and request quarterly reports on implementation of the above.	David Parkinson	30.04.09	
Meet with Kate Freeman and Rachael Dominey to discuss data sets and avoid duplication	Rosie Rae, Sally Stewart and Martin Ward	01.05.09	01.05.09
Circulate new Board Structure proposals and receive feedback	Rosie Rae		17.06.09
Circulate the new Business Plan to the Board to be returned with comments / feedback	Rosie Rae / All Board Members	15.05.09	17.06.09
Email Commissioning Framework document to members for comment and approval	Rosie Rae / All Board Members	30.04.09	07.05.09
Circulate Laming Report recommendations to the Board	David Parkinson	30.04.09	07.05.09
Investigate training for GPs regarding DNAs.	M&E Group	17.06.09	c/fwd to Sept.