

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Present:-

Reg Pengelly (Independent Chair)
Ashley Ayre (B&NES- Strategic Director for People and Communities)
Richard Baldwin (Divisional Director, Children and Young People's services)
Mike Bowden (Deputy Director, CYP Strategy & Commissioning)
Jason Everett (AWP)
Jenny Daly (named nurse RUH)
Sally Churchyard (B&NES Youth Offending Service)
Julie Downey (Independent Safeguarding Consultant)
Fiona Finlay (B&NES CCG)
David Gee (CAFCASS)
Liz Jones (Commissioner for Children's Specialist Services, B&NES)
Bruce Laurence (Director of Public Health)
Judy Lye Forster (City of Bath College)
Roz Lambert (Children and Young People's network)
Chrissie Hardman (Sirona Care and Health)
Lesley Hutchinson (B&NES)
Michelle Maguire (for Oxford health- Head of Service for Swindon, Wiltshire & B&NES)
Imelda Murphy (Independent Child Protection Chair)
Donna Redman (Named GP, Child Safeguarding, B&NES)
Michael Sidey (Independent Child Protection Chair)
Liz Spencer (Head of the Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset National Probation service)
Duncan Stanway (Barnardo's)
Sophia Swatton (B&NES CCG)
Polly Wright (iHOP, Barnardo's)
Tamsin Cole (IRO)

Apologies: Dawn Clarke (B&NES CCG), William Bruce Jones (AWP), Helen Blanchard (RUH), Sarah McCluskey (B&NES), Dine Romero (Cabinet Member, B&NES), Rachel Williams (Avon & Somerset Police)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members made introductions.

37 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

38 PRESENTATION ABOUT iHop SERVICES BY BARNARDO'S

Polly Wright of Barnardo's gave a presentation about the work of the iHop service. She explained that this was a national service, currently funded by the DfE until March 2015. Its aim is to support professionals who are working with the children and families of

offenders. The service provides an online information directory and a free helpline. It also has a strategic role in developing services across the country for children of offenders in collaboration with local authorities. The service was developed in response to the government's 'troubled families' initiative, Ofsted's identification of these children as a vulnerable group and as a result of concerns raised by safeguarding agencies. Approximately 200,000 children every year experience having a parent in prison which is around 7% of the school population. There are 10,000 visits per week to prison by children and young people. However, many schools and other agencies involved with children are not informed of the fact that a child has a parent in prison. It has been found that many suffer the same experiences as looked-after children and 65% of boys with fathers in prison go on to offend. Many families worry about the stigma and will not talk about the problem.

Polly was asked if the number of children in B&NES with a parent in prison was known and replied that there was no system in place to record these statistics. She was also asked if there was any initiative to signpost to families where they might get help and replied that a few prisons used the local children's centres, but that this practice was not universal across the country. There was no system yet for logging the numbers involved – the problem being exacerbated by the fact that many people were not in prisons in their home area – the nature of the dispersal of offenders and families was a national issue. There was a need to collate and cross-reference the data and it was important that information is shared between local authorities. Sally Churchyard informed the Board that a preliminary group were looking at information sharing and Polly added that a group had been set up in Bristol which modelled good practice. She welcomed the chance to work with LA's.

The Chair thanked Polly Wright for her presentation.

Action: Richard Baldwin to scope with Polly the setting up of a Task & Finish group.

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared a non-prejudicial interest in his capacity as a lay member of the Dorset LSCB and the Pan-Dorset CDOP. He is also an independent safeguarding consultant. Apart from the Safeguarding E-Academy, none of his clients function in the B&NES area.

There were no other declarations of interest.

40 MINUTES, ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last Board meeting of 9th September 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

The Chair went through the Minutes and the Action Log for any matters arising.

Action log		
Note: This action log will be reviewed and updated at each LSCB business meeting		
Actions	Responsible officers	Completion Date
203. The Chair has met with chair of LSAB to	Reg Pengelly/	On agenda

explore joint aspects between the 2 boards.	Sarah McCluskey	
227. Berwick Report – learning and improvement strategy. To come to Development Day	Richard Baldwin	On agenda
231. Details of any challenges for agencies welcomed as the documentary evidence is needed for Ofsted. Please feedback to Lesley.	All agencies	By 19 th March 2015
232. Transitions & Safeguarding – Mike MaCallam to contact other groups about this issues and report back to September LSCB	Mike MaCallam	Deferred till March 2015 LSCB
234. The Communications group has met and will report back	Richard Baldwin	March 2015?
235. New schools/academies audit to go out mid-October to be returned by mid-November. A good number have been returned which will be examined in January. Report to board in March 2015.	Julie Downey	March 2015
236. Social care administration side of assessment process to be investigated	Richard Baldwin	March 2015
237. The PPP group to review current information about the agreement concerning multi-agency intelligence sharing and bring an update report to the March LSCB.	PPP group	March 2015
238. feedback re LADO report to be sent to Lesley Hutchinson.	All agencies	March 2015
239. All agencies to confirm the adoption of Children Missing Home and Care Protocol.	All agencies	As soon as possible
240. Lesley Hutchinson to follow up and report back re status of electronic system for information-sharing	Lesley Hutchinson	March 2015

41 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION CHAIRS, SAFEGUARDING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE (report 5)

Imelda Murphy and Michael Sidey (CP Chairs) introduced the report and summarised the findings. Michael reported that the sharing of social work reports with families has improved with 72% being shared at least 2 days beforehand. However, this was still not good enough and more efforts should be made to send papers out earlier. Imelda pointed out that posting the reports to parents did not count as helping them to participate. However, it was now normal for parents to

attend case conferences and it was also helpful when young people attended as they tended to be very honest about the process. It was up to the chairs to be more challenging and check out why targets were not being achieved.

Richard Baldwin said he welcomed the improvement and hoped to raise the 72% to 80%. Liz Jones added that in her observations of assessments over the past year, she had seen an improvement in the way social workers recorded family histories. Judy Lye Forster commented that the notifications of conferences were often sent with very short notice, which meant that it was difficult for some agencies to attend. Michael Sidey agreed that the reminders needed to go out earlier so that the right people could attend.

The Chair added that this was an area of concern that affected everyone.

Action: Richard Baldwin was tasked to investigate the social care administration side of this process. To report back March 2015 LSCB.

With reference to Paragraph 6.2 (Workplan 2014-15), it was requested under performance indicators that attendance statistics are included. Lesley Hutchinson added that it would be useful for the Board to look at the outcomes with the CP chairs, together with any other areas that could usefully be focussed on.

42 THEMED REVIEW: LEARNING FROM CHILD PROTECTION AUDITS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE (report 6)

Duncan Stanway and Lesley Hutchinson introduced this item (with reference to Appendix 1 – Child Protection Pathway) and took the Board through the flowchart. The key findings were:

- a) the differences between agencies over the perception of risk as to assessing whether a child was at risk of significant harm or was a cause for concern. The process needs professionals who are attuned to making their own judgement.
- b) Inconsistency in how the assessment of initial risk is categorised into different kinds of abuse. This decision has to be correct for the action plan to work.
- c) Lack of evidence of challenge concerning a) and b) above.
- d) Queries about how well staff communicate with parents about their assessment and how the risk issues are explained.

Board members were then divided into groups in order to reflect and discuss how the learning from CP audits and QA is disseminated within their agencies as detailed in Section 5.2 of the report.

The Board re-convened for a plenary session to share comments and proposals. Mike Bowden commented that it was difficult to talk about and possibly challenge the category of abuse especially when social workers were talking in front of parents. He suggested that the category could be sorted out in advance of the meeting with parents. Ashley Ayre agreed that better information should be provided to parents before the S47 assessment. Lesley Hutchinson added that it was important that staff develop the skills to conduct difficult conversations. Richard Baldwin added that staff should focus on the quality of the care plan and not get too prescriptive about categories.

Group leaders provided feedback from their group discussions.

43 REPORT FROM THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER 2013-14(report 7)

Tamsin Cole introduced this report which had been prepared by Jackie Deas. She reported that the care plans had significantly improved, especially where children and families were closely involved. There was also a greater focus on building relationships with young people by spending time with them – this encourages better communication.

David Gee informed the Board that CAFCASS runs a legal helpline offering independent advice which is available to IROs as part of a national protocol. Michelle Maguire referred to children who needed CAMHS support and offered to supply the relevant information. Lesley Hutchinson offered to co-ordinate responses to the report.

44 MULTI-AGENCY INTELLIGENCE SHARING REPORT (report 8).

Lesley Hutchinson introduced this report by Deborah Klee, which looked at the role of intelligence amongst agencies in order to develop a more preventative approach. Agreement was sought from the Board to progress this work – this was given. The first meeting of the project group would be in January 2015.

Action: The PPP group to review current information about the agreement and bring an update report to the March LSCB.

45 LSCB WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15 (report 9)

The work programme was noted by the Board.

46 LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO) REPORT 2013-14 (report 10)

Lesley Hutchinson introduced this report and highlighted the key issues. There had been a rise in enquiries but not all of them result in a meeting. Many of the enquiries relate to schools. However, it would seem that some of the data was not entirely accurate and that there may be a coding issue on the data set. The Chair commented that the figures must be challenged and corrected.

Action: feedback to be sent to Lesley Hutchinson.

47 WEST OF ENGLAND CDOP ANNUAL REPORT (report 11)

Richard Baldwin (current chair of CDOP) introduced this report and informed the Board that the death rate in the West of England was significantly lower than the rest of England. One of the current themes for special focus was unexpected death in infancy, which was frequently caused by babies sharing a bed with adults who were under the influence of drugs, smoking or alcohol. There followed concerns around the care of the next infant after the first death and the need to work with parents to keep the subsequent child safe.

48 VERBAL UPDATE FROM RECENT SCR MEETINGS

The Chair reported that the recent child death in B&NES did not meet the requirements for a Serious Case Review.

49 JOINT LSCB/LSAB WORKING AND SHARED VALUES (report 13)

The Chair introduced this report prepared in conjunction with the Chair of the LSAB, Robin Cowen. It was agreed by LSCB members that the Boards should hold a joint development day. The Chair further announced that from June 2015, he would be Chair of the LSAB, following the retirement of the current chair.

50 REPORT FROM PPP MONITORING SUB-GROUP

The Board noted the report and recommendations from the Policy, Procedure & Performance Monitoring Sub-Group.

The Board agreed:

- i. To note the performance highlights set out and the key areas of follow-up work underway
- ii. To note the findings of the Audit of CP Plan Categories and consequent action plan (also discussed as part of the Themed review)
- iii. To note the approval of the Children Missing from Home and Care Protocol and the Pre-birth Protocol to Safeguard Unborn Babies.

51 REPORTS FOR SIGN OFF/ INFORMATION

The reports from the PPP Monitoring Group, Early Help Assessment Statistics, Missing From Home and Care Protocol and CCG Thematic Review were received and noted by the Board.

Action: All agencies to confirm the adoption of Children Missing Home and Care Protocol.

52 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair congratulated Richard Baldwin and his team on the Stakeholder Event.

Julie Downey reported that they had been in discussion with South Gloucestershire Council regarding private fostering of students. Some of the students (who are primarily Chinese) had been placed in B&NES with no checks or social worker involvement. Schools needed be reminded that they should inform social workers.

Chrissie Hardman asked about the status of the electronic system for information sharing; specifically who is the social care lead on this in B&NES.

Action: Lesley Hutchinson to follow up and report back.

The meeting ended at 4.55pm.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Tuesday 3rd March 2015 in the Community Space (above the Library) Civic Centre, Keynsham.** (Directions to this new venue will be provided with the agenda despatch)

Chair (person).....

Date Confirmed and Signed.....

Prepared by Democratic Services