

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children's Board held at Highpoint Conference Centre, Leicester on Thursday 9 October 2008

PRESENT

Glenys Johnston (Chair)

Leicester City Council

Pat Nawrockyi	Head of Service – Children's Safeguarding
Penny Hajek	Interim Service Director – Access, Inclusion and Participation
Andy Smith	Interim Service Director, Social Care and Safeguarding
David Thrussell	Deputy Head, Youth Offending Service
Caroline Tote	Service Manager, Child Protection

Leicestershire County Council

Vanessa Bishop	Acting Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
Bob Parker	Service Manager, Safeguarding, Children and Young People's Service
Wendy Poynton	Head of Youth Offending Service (also representing Leicester City)
Jane Sharp	Headteacher Representative

Rutland County Council

Steven Attwood	Head of Service, Inclusion, Youth and Adult Learning, Children and Young People's Service
Jen Hazell	Rutland Headteacher Representative

Health Community

Jane Appleby	Lead Children, CAMHS and Safeguarding, East Midlands SHA
Mandy Ashton	Director of Quality and Governance, Leicester City PCT
Dr Janet Bruce	Consultant (Adult) Psychiatrist, Leicestershire Partnership Trust
Carole Devaney	Public Health Programme Manager, Domestic Violence, Leicester City PCT
Sharon Robson	Deputy Director of Quality Assurance, Leicester city PCT

Adrian Spanswick	Nurse Consultant, Safeguarding Children, Leicester City PCT
Helen Thompson	Associate Director of Children's Community Service, Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT

Leicestershire Constabulary

Det Supt Chris Thomas	Specialist Crime Unit
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Other Agencies

Trish Barnard	Leicestershire Connexions
Steve Coe	Service Manager, CAF/CASS
Martin Curran	Assistant Chief Officer, Probation Service
James Lynch	Bridges
Howard Robinson	Director of Community Safety, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Adam Suddaby	Vice Principal, Leicester College
Sarah Ward	Area Children's Service Manager, NSPCC

Officers in Attendance

Elaine Felstead	LSCB Practice and Performance Review Officer
Sue North	LSCB Training Co-ordinator
Rosemary Palmer	Committee Officer
Jane Phillips	Practice and Performance Review Officer
Inga Windley	LSCB Policy Officer

In Attendance

Hester Ormiston	Facilitator
DCI Peter Jackson	Leicestershire Constabulary (observer)

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:-

Kamal Adatia	Acting Head of Community Services Law, Leicester City Council
Steven Atkinson	Leicestershire District Councils
Rosemary Beard	Chief Executive, Leicestershire Connexions
Simon Catchpole	Leicester City Secondary Schools Representative
Michael Clayton	Head of Nursing Children's Services, University Hospitals of Leicester
Frances Craven	Assistant Director, Targeted Services, Leicestershire County Council Children and Young

Major Ernie Crew	People's Service
Bhupen Dave	Army Welfare Service
	Service Director – Community Services, Leicester City Council
Dr Ingrid Davison	Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, CAMHS
Sue Disley	Assistant Director, Leicestershire County Council Adult Social Care Service
Meena Evans	Crown Advocate
Colin Foster	Director of Adult Social Services, Health and Housing, Rutland Council
Gill Gates	Deputy Director of Nursing and Therapies, Leicestershire Partnership Trust
Sheri Holland	Assistant Head of Legal Services, Leicestershire County Council
Angela James	DAAT Co-ordinator
Dr Geth Jenkins	GP Partner/LMC Secretary
Laurence Jones	Leicester City YOS Programme Manager
Anne Marsden	Senior Development Manager, Family Welfare Association
Helen McDermott	Leicestershire Headteacher Representative
Anne-Maria Olphert	Associate Director, Children's Health Services, Leicester City PCT
Dr Sudhir Sethi	Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, Leicester City PCT
Anne Spaight	General Manager for Clinical Governance, Audit and Research, EMAS
DI Donna Thompson	Child Abuse Investigation Unit, Leicestershire Police
Caroline Tote	Service Manager, Child Protection, Leicester City Council

2. Chair's Introduction

The Chair welcomed members of the Board to the meeting. She explained that the first part of the meeting would focus on current LSCB business. Following this Hester Ormiston, an external consultant, would facilitate discussions around the development of a new framework for the LSCB. This followed work undertaken by the LSCB Core Business Group, with Hester Ormiston, to sharpen the LSCB's approach and framework for delivering safeguarding. The three Directors of Children and Young People's Services had also had a key involvement with this process.

The Chair also reported that there were capacity issues within the LSCB. These were partly due to a lack of capacity in the LSCB office and partly due to the widening role of safeguarding.

All agencies were currently involved in a number of Serious Case Reviews. Work was being undertaken to improve the process, as reviews were now evaluated by Ofsted and the results fed into the annual performance assessment for local authorities and their partners. It was felt that the raised profile of Serious Case Reviews was a result of national anxiety that processes were not being followed and lessons were not being learnt. Ofsted had found the last two Serious Case Reviews unsatisfactory.

In addition, the Chair reported that the LSCB had been under pressure to submit the 2009-2012 budget to the Chief Officers meeting on 16 September. As training had not been costed, the three Directors of Children and Young People's Services had commissioned an external consultant to identify training requirements. The interim report would be considered at this meeting (minute ... refers).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2008.

It was noted that Dr Janet Bruce represented Leicestershire Partnership Trust, not University Hospitals of Leicester.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

4. Matters Arising.

Minute 11: Child Death Overview Panel

Mandy Ashton reported that a Child Death Overview Panel Working Group had been established. A replacement co-ordinator had also been appointed. The Working Group had made some progress but found that there was a lack of capacity across agencies.

A meeting was being held in Leicester City on 10 October to identify suitably qualified doctors for the rota for responding to Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infants and Children. It was hoped that this would lead to an improvement in performance.

It had been agreed to establish a subgroup of the Child Death Overview Panel specifically for health organisations. It was hoped that this would be chaired by the lead doctor identified at the meeting on 10 October.

AGREED:

That all health organisations be thanked for their contributions to the Child Death Overview Panel.

Minute 12: Serious Case Review Development

Pat Nawrockyi reported that, as the profile of Serious Case Reviews had been raised, it had become necessary to review all processes. Two workshops had been held to scope areas for change and improvement. A small group was also looking at how to improve various processes. It was important to get the individual management reviews right as this would help with the process of writing the overview report.

GOEM were hosting a training event on 1 and 2 December which would look at pooling information and improving processes across the region. The event would be repeated in February. Glenys Johnston, Bob Parker and Pat Nawrockyi were attending in December; there was a further place to be allocated and four free places for February. Glenys Johnston would ensure that places were filled appropriately.

It was anticipated that a report would be presented to the meeting of the LSCB in December, to seek agreement to a new structure for the Serious Case Review Panel. There would also be an opportunity for feedback on the GOEM training event to be provided.

5. New Framework to the Development of the Work of the LSCB.

Consideration was given to a letter from the Chair of the LSCB which set out the progress made in reviewing the role and function of the LSCB. A copy of the letter marked 'B' is filed with these minutes.

The Board also considered the notes of the work undertaken by the LSCB Core Business Group and Directors of Children and Young People's Services on developing the role of the LSCB, a copy of which marked 'E' is filed with these minutes.

The external facilitator, Hester Ormiston, had used recommendations from the Joint Area Reviews, the Third Chief Inspector's Report, key safeguarding aspects from the Children and Young People's Plans and the LSCB Business Plan to ensure that development priorities were aligned. She had also aimed to ensure that the LSCB was able to act flexibly and appropriately to the needs of the three authorities.

Four functions had been identified at the away day to describe how the LSCB might deliver its work in the future. These were:-

- Developing;
- Co-ordinating;
- Influencing and supporting
- Quality Assuring

The Directors of Children and Young People's Services had agreed these terms and felt confident with the new direction of the LSCB.

AGREED:

That the new direction for the LSCB be welcomed.

6. **Budget – Including Training Report and Child Sexual Exploitation.**

(i) Budget

Consideration was given to a report which set out the LSCB budget for 2009-2012. This had been updated following the meeting with Chief Officers on 16 September 2008 to reflect the both the discussions at that meeting and the meeting between the Directors of Children and Young People's Services and the LSCB Chair, and the interim training report. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that the LSCB used to be comparatively well resourced, but this was no longer the case. However, Chief Officers for all agencies had agreed the budget increase and requested their representatives on the LSCB to confirm this at the meeting.

The figure for Serious Case Reviews was an estimate as the number of reviews that would be carried out was unknown.

AGREED:

- (a) That the need for considerable additional financial commitments for the LSCB to meet local and national expectations be accepted;
- (b) That the increase previously agreed with Chief Officers by letter be confirmed

(ii) Training

Consideration was given to a report which provided information on the review to date of single and multi agency safeguarding training. This had been produced to inform the budget process and did not yet contain all the necessary details. A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with these minutes.

The Board was reminded that the Training Subcommittee had already considered the need for a new training strategy. An external consultant was being funded by the three Directors of Children and Young People's Service to accelerate the process. She had worked with agencies to identify their training needs and had also looked at the role of the LSCB in relation to training. Her view was that the training currently provided was of excellent quality. This might not be sustainable in the long term, but good quality training should still be provided.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- The Board was generally supportive of the proposals in the report. However, concern was expressed that the impact on agencies may be greater than expected. If agencies were expected to release trainers to provide safeguarding training, there could be capacity issues. It might be necessary for each agency to provide extra funding to meet any additional requirements made of them.
- Concern was also expressed that individual organisations had not yet been consulted on the proposals for the training strategy. The Chair apologised for the fact that usual processes had not been followed and explained that this was a result of the strategy's involvement in the budget process which Chief Officers had required shortly after the meeting in September
- The proposed role for the LSCB in training was to provide quality assurance and check that training at the appropriate level was given to all staff.

AGREED:

- (a) That the proposals set out in the report be agreed in principle;
- (b) That all LSCB members discuss the proposals within their agencies to discuss the implications;
- (c) That the final report of the review of training be presented to a future meeting of the LSCB.

(iii) Child Sexual Exploitation

It was reported that the police were proposing to scope the extent of the problem of child sexual exploitation. It would be a three year project, with the creation of a specialist post to support the work in years two and three.

This was a priority which had been identified during the 2007 Development Day. In three years time consideration may need to be given to making the project a part of the LSCB's core work.

AGREED:

- (a) That a report on the project be submitted to the next meeting of the LSCB;
- (b) That it be noted that a report on Child Sexual Exploitation will also be submitted to the Crime and Disorder Partnerships.

7. Annual Report of Adult Protection Services.

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board. A copy of the report marked 'F' is filed with these minutes.

Glenys Johnston was intending to discuss the possibility of having a seat on the Safeguarding Adults Board.

AGREED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the report be received by the LSCB on an annual basis.

8. Chief Inspectors Report.

Consideration was given to the third joint Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children. A copy of the report marked 'G' and a copy of the summary marked 'H' is filed with these minutes.

The Board noted, in relation to concerns raised in the report about the mental health of children in custody, that there was a proposal for 360 additional beds for 15 to 17 year old boys at the Glen Parva Young Offenders Institute.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

9. Staying Safe Action Plan.

Consideration was given to the staying Safe Action Plan produced by the

Department for Children, Schools and Families. A copy of the report marked 'I' is filed with these minutes.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

9.00am – 10.30am
9 October 2008

CHAIRMAN