



At a meeting of the Hounslow Local Safeguarding Children Board held on Monday, 16 February 2015 at 2:00 pm at Room 4, Lampton Park Conference Centre, (Civic Centre), Lampton Road, Hounslow.

Present:

Donald McPhail (Chair)
Jacqui McShannon (Vice Chair)

Alan Adams, Nicky Brownjohn, Chris Domeney, Niamh Farren, Siobhan Gregory, Paul Hewitt, Shan Jones, Monica King, Joanna Leader (observer), Michael Marks, Melissa Neilson-Rai, Margaret O'Connor, Dr Nimala Sellathurai, Alice Smith, Alison StewartRoss, Shilpi Verma (observer) and Glyn Williams.

276. Members Update

There was no Members Update.

277. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Superintendent Sally Benatar, Sarah Bennett, DCI Mark Broom, Permjit Chadha, Denise Chaffer, Steve Davis, Mary Harpley, Linda Kim-Newby (represented by Alice Smith), James Jolly, Bhupinder Lakhanpaul, Joanna Parkinson, Bronagh Scott, Roger Shortt, Jonathan Webster and Caroline Wright.

278. Health Visiting Needs Assessment

Julia Woodman, Public Health Improvement Manager, presented the item on Health Visitor Needs Assessment in which she summarised as follows:

- That the assessment was undertaken in preparation for the transfer of commissioning responsibilities for health visiting services from NHS England to LB Hounslow from October 2015;
- The assessment also considered modelling with linked services such as maternity;
- Health Visitors were concerned about the thresholds for Universal Plus and Partnership Plus which they wished to be reviewed as there was uncertainty with regard to which families fall within which tier for intervention;
- In relation to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), health visitors needed clearer guidance on the available pathways and requested that the procedures for dealing with these cases be improved and followed by all relevant LB Hounslow departments;

- Overall, the assessment showed that provision was working well but there were concerns from frontline staff with regard to housing such as the suitability of bed and breakfast accommodation for temporary accommodation.

Julia Woodman made the following replies in response to questions from Members of the Board:

- Health Visitors were extremely concerned about that procedures for dealing with FGM cases were up-to-date and followed as it seemed that regulation was the remit of two Government departments;
- Health Visitors needed to be suitably trained in dealing with FGM, (domestic violence and safeguarding);
- The role of the Health Visitor had changed with additional roles such as ante-natal training;
- LB Hounslow had 28 Health Visitors with funding for 8 further vacant posts. However, a further 4 posts were required due to the volume of case work and to meet the safeguarding objective;
- Health Visitors needed support from LB Hounslow colleague's especially housing staff as it was felt that housing vulnerable families in unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation was a potential safeguarding issue.

Julia Woodman offered to send the full consultation document to interested Members of the Board so that they fully understood the concerns of Health Visitors.

ACTION:

Members of the Board.

279. Elective Home Education

Penny Stephen, Senior Education Adviser for Vulnerable Groups, presented the item on Elective Home Education in which she summarised as follows:

- That the numbers of pupils electing to have home education was steady;
- That there were no child in need case pupils electing to have home education as education and social care services were ensuring that these vulnerable children were educated at school;
- That increased funding has resulted in increasingly secure and developed interventions where there are better outcomes for those vulnerable children who may had elected to have home education;
- Safeguarding concerns were being addressed such as small children being home alone or dealing with parents who had mental health problems;
- Overall, the Elective Home Education team had made an impact especially dealing with vulnerable children. However, further work was required with regard to an increasing amount of pupils electing to have home education.

Penny Stephen made the following replies in response to questions from Members of the Board:

- Funding for the Elective Home Education team was from the Dedicated Schools Grant and she was unsure how long the funding would last;

- Elective home education was a local and national issue with a national body formed to raise the profile and gather support from MPs;
- Processes for dealing with elective home education were reviewed 2 years ago and had led to greater co-operation with social care services and a change in school admissions policy so that vulnerable children were able to obtain a school place;
- The Elective Home Education team had a good working relationship with housing;
- The Elective Home Education team monitored and dealt with vulnerable pupils up to the statutory age (16 years old). Any vulnerable pupil aged 16 and above was monitored by the connexions team.

Donald McPhail was happy that the model was working well and asked to be informed if there were any funding problems.

ACTION:

Penny Stephen.

280. Looked After Children

The presentation and report on the item was not discussed by the Board.

281. Use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation

Nicky Pooni, Interim Head of Housing Accommodation, presented the item on Use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation in which she summarised as follows:

- That homelessness in Hounslow was increasing due to:
 - ❖ a reduction in housing benefits making private accommodation less affordable;
 - ❖ greater evictions as landlords responded quicker to rent arrears or wanted higher rents;
 - ❖ loss of home through parental or relative eviction due to the threats of domestic violence;
- Demand for homes was still great even though Housing had secured 408 private sector properties for homeless household accommodation in 2013/14 compared with 278 in 2012/13;
- The number of households in temporary accommodation (1100) and bed and breakfast accommodation (250) was stabilised as result of temporary accommodation management by Housing;
- There were 90 families currently in temporary accommodation, some placed out of the borough, that were sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities;
- Bed and Breakfast was used only as a last option as it was not cost effective. However, there was limited local supply of suitable homes as landlords had raising rents to meet the demand of 400 families relocated from other more expensive boroughs. Therefore, 270 local families had been relocated out of the borough where cheaper accommodation could be found.

Nicky Pooni made the following replies in response to questions from Members of the Board:

- Temporary accommodation was not necessarily bed and breakfast accommodation with shared facilities as there were also self-contained temporary accommodation properties;
- No families were placed in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks;
- There were no young people in bed and breakfast accommodation
- Housing's support team ensured that families were not placed with known offenders (as information was shared pan-London on offender movements between boroughs);
- Housing tries to avoid multi-moves of homeless customers but were not in control of landlords nor homeless customer preferences;
- Families moving into the borough from other boroughs were still the responsibility of the 'original home borough' but LB Hounslow would need to provide school if necessary;
- Housing does block book suitable temporary accommodation but was unable to match some other local authorities who offer 5 months rent upfront (compared to 3 months) so accommodation was in short supply locally.

Nicky Pooni asked Members of the Board to email her of any concerns or cases with regard to the use of temporary accommodation.

ACTION:

Melissa of the Board.

Melissa Neilson-Rai agreed to invite Nicky Pooni to a further Board meeting to provide an update on progress.

ACTION:

Melissa Neilson-Rai.

282. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2014 were agreed to be accurate.

283. Matters Arising

Minute 253 – Child Death Overview Report (CDOP) Annual Report

Melissa Neilson-Rai reported that she would be reporting at the next Board meeting with feedback on the action points raised in the CDOP Annual Report.

Minute 273 – Youth Drug Strategy

Melissa Neilson-Rai reported that the transitions Protocol agreed between the Young Peoples Substance Misuse Service (VISIONS) and the Adult Service (iHear) be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting

Minute 273 – Joint Protocol

Monica King thanked officers for their feedback on the development of a joint protocol between Adult Mental Health Services and Children's Services in each authority that the West London Mental Health Trust operated.

284. Matters arising from Safeguarding inspections

A. Feltham Young Offenders Institution

Chris Domeney reported that Feltham Young Offenders Institution had an unannounced inspection in August 2014. The HM Inspectorate raised a number of safeguarding concerns in relation to gang violence. The mitigation of these issues had commenced and it should be noted that actions were being put in place to address any outstanding concerns.

B. West Middlesex Hospital Inspection

Sian Jones reported that a recent inspection at West Middlesex Hospital had highlighted no concerns in relation to safeguarding.

C. London Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

Niamh Farren reported that in response to specific Safeguarding Children recommendations from the HMIP Inspection published in May 2014 the London Community Rehabilitation Company has implemented a revised Safeguarding Children Performance Framework which should demonstrate the CRC is completing all critical routine tasks in relation to safeguarding children practice.

The Framework has six key measures one of which specifically relates to verification that requests for Safeguarding Children Checks have been made by the CRC Probation staff to Children's Social Care, with effect from the 1st June 2014 (the date from which the CRC was formally established).

The audits results in Hounslow indicate that there is work to be done to improve the completion and recording of critical routine practices however, it does not appear that the backlog is overwhelming.

Action – NF to attend the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub group to provide more information on the audit and ensuring implementation of the action plan.

285. Organisational change and Issues of capacity

Nicky Brownjohn reported that there were no known capacity issues at Hounslow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Siobhan Gregory reported that she would update the Board at its next meeting on the safeguarding support available for health visitors.

286. Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Group

Paul Hewitt reported that:

- The number of children with protection plans had decreased from 251 to 194;
- Only 3 cases formerly with protection plans had returned to the plan in the last year;
- There was a small reduction in looked after children to 312;

- Analysis of cases involving missing children and/or child sexual exploitation were regularly monitored with the numbers of cases rising putting extra pressure on Police resources;
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) data and activity was being collated;
- External auditors had been commissioned to look at safeguarding practice involving adults.

287. Feltham Youth Offender Institute (FYOI) Sub-Group

Chris Domeney reported that Feltham Youth Offenders Institute, as previously reported, had an inspection by the HM Inspectorate in August 2014. The report highlighted the issue of gang violence which included access to education. The Board's multi-agency FYOI Sub-Group had scrutinised the provided safeguarding data but was concerned about the management of violence through "formal and informal segregation" and single lock. An independent review of the "formal and informal segregation" provision commissioned by the Board's Chairman would hopefully resolve these concerns.

288. Missing and Vulnerable Sub-Group

Paul Hewitt reported that:

- 14 children had been reported missing from care with 2 children for more than a week;
- Multi-agency panel referrals have increased;
- The Sub-Group were heavily involved in the development of the child sexual exploitation improvement plan to help meet the 79 targets;
- It was proposed that another sub-group to deal with child sexual exploitation be set up as the number of cases was increasing with a 300% increase last quarter with 51 cases (22 reported by schools).

289. Child Sexual Exploitation

A. Operation Makesafe

Donald McPhail reported that Operation Makesafe was being launched nationally on Monday 18 March. On Monday 23 March, Hounslow Council would be launching a joint initiative with the Police which requests the assistance of the local business community to help identify potential victims of child sexual exploitation. Operation Makesafe would seek to raise awareness within Hounslow's hospitality, transport and licensed premises trades around the possible warning signs to look out for when coming into contact with young people they believe may be at risk of sexual exploitation.

B. Peer Review

Paul Hewitt reported that there had been a peer review with a number of London Boroughs on procedures for dealing with child sexual exploitation. A co-ordinator funded by Public Health had helped to deliver on these recommendations that included:

- Some of the actions arising from the peer review being included in the improvement plan;
- Further work was being undertaken to improve the risk assessment and referral forms;

- Improvements to the multi-agency approach would be undertaken through improving MASH.

290. Education Network

Michael Marks reported that the key areas discussed were:

- exploring how best practice and advice could be shared with schools and parents on self-harm and suicide;
- investigating how safeguarding alerts from Ofsted were handled and whether there were any trends for inclusion in future teaching staff development needs;
- the child sexual exploitation session to be delivered by Paul Hewitt, Sgt Nathan Fane and DCI Mark Broom.

The Network wanted to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation through the Headteacher Breakfast Briefing and online training as well as exploring how best practice and advice could be shared with schools and parents on self-harm and suicide.

291. Update Forward - FGM project

Elena Saragota, Community Safety Officer for Violence against Women and Girls and Hate Crime, explained the invaluable work of the FGM project. The Board, at the request of Community Safety, agreed that the FGM project become a Sub-Group of the Board in order to raise its profile.

ACTION:

Melissa Neilson-Rai

At the request of Melissa Neilson-Rai, Jonathan Webster and Siobhan Gregory volunteered to join the FGM prevention group.

ACTION:

Melissa Neilson-Rai

292. Training Sub-Group

Paul Hewitt reported that the training conference on Monday 18 May had a child sexual awareness theme. He confirmed that the e-learning training on domestic violence had been delivered.

293. Health Sub-Group

Dr Nirmala Sellathurai reported that the Sub-Group had no outstanding concerns with regard to the Designated Nurse at Hounslow CCG as adequate cover arrangements had been made. Michael Marks requested that individual health cases should be shared with the appropriate professionals outside the Board meeting.

294. Case Review Sub-Group

Nicky Brownjohn reported that the Sub-Group had only looked at one case that would be a serious case review. Melissa Neilson-Rai informed the Board that all the relevant agencies had now nominated their representatives to the Serious Case Review Panel.

295. CDOP Sub-Group

Nicky Brownjohn reported that there were many outstanding cases with some cases were 2 or 3 years old. She also felt that CDOP panels were not the best use of Doctor's time. Paul Hewitt informed the Board that local CDOP panels would be meeting to clear the backlog.

Unfortunately, no one was able to answer Sian Jones query about the key discussion area relating to "Access to Senior Hospital staff outside of normal working hours".

296. LSCB Ofsted Update

There were no matters raised under this item.

297. Children's Services Ofsted Update

There were no items raised but there was an Ofsted safeguarding matter earlier in the meeting (see minute item 280).

298. Publication of minutes

Donald McPhail reported that some Boards published their minutes and wanted to know whether this was possible. Many members of the Board felt that a published summary of the Board's business was required not necessarily published minutes. Donald McPhail requested that clear guidance be provided on the form of publication.

ACTION:

Melissa Neilson-Rai

299. Self-harm and suicide workshop

Donald McPhail reported that agreement needed to be found on the content of training materials relating to self-harm and suicide. Also, training to frontline staff on recognition and response to self-harm or attempted suicide was required. Therefore, it was apparent that all agencies involved needed to develop a coordinated strategy to address self-harm and attempted suicide including training on low-level (below tier 3) intervention.

300. Business Managers updates

There were no matters raised under this item.

301. Any Other Business

A. Joanna Leader

Melissa Neilson-Rai introduced Joanna Leader and said that Joanna would be joining LB Hounslow as a Safeguarding Children Board Development Officer.

B. Young Awards

Melissa Neilson-Rai asked whether the Board were interested in sponsoring (£250) an award at the forthcoming Young Awards in March. At the request of Donald McPhail, the Board agreed that an award relating to safeguarding should be sponsored next year and thought this was a good opportunity to highlight the work of the Board.

ACTION:

Melissa Neilson-Rai

C. Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983

Donald McPhail requested that an item on children held in custody under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

c.1 Information was requested on young people held in Police detention after charge rather than being transferred to accommodation or a safe place

ACTION:

Melissa Neilson-Rai

D. Allegation of historic abuse

Jacqui McShannon reported on an enquiry into an allegation of abuse from an adult in a Hounslow children's home over 30 years ago would publish its findings later this month.

E. Domestic Violence

Donald McPhail requested that an item on domestic violence be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting so that the Board could keep track on whether action had been followed up in relation to health visitors, bed and breakfast accommodation, elective home education etc.

ACTION:

Melissa Neilson-Rai

302. New Safeguarding documents

There were no matters raised under this item.

303. Future Agenda Items

The Board noted that the following agenda items were scheduled for the next Board meeting in April:

- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) annual report (Permjit Chadha);
- Youth Drug Strategy (Kylee Brennan).

304. Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 27 April at 2pm in the Board room GS3/4, Sovereign Court, 15-21 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3HR.

The meeting finished at 4:38 pm.

The minute taker at this meeting was Jonathan Regal

