



At a meeting of the Hounslow Local Safeguarding Children Board held on Monday, 27 April 2015 at 2:00 pm at Ramada Hounslow, 8-10 Lampton Road, Hounslow, TW3 1JL.

Present:

Donald McPhail (Chair)
Jacqui McShannon (Vice Chair)

Alan Adams, Kate Allen, Kylee Brennan, DCI Mark Broom, Permjit Chadha, Niamh Farren, Paul Hewitt, Coretta Hine, Janet Johnson, James Jolly, Debra Kane, Linda Kim-Newby, Monica King, Bhupinder Lakharpaul, Michael Marks, Jane Medici, Margaret O'Connor, Joanna Parkinson, Elena Saragato, Dr Nimala Sellathurai, Roger Shortt, Alison Stewart-Ross and Jonathan Webster.

Dr Imran Choudhury, Chris Domeney, Julie Hulls, Sue Pascoe and Joan Wallace

305. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Brendon Walsh, Stuart Chrichton, Caroline Wright and Melissa Neilson-Rai.

Terry McGuire attended on behalf of Stuart Chrichton.

306. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2015

The consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting were delayed until after the presentations.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February were agreed to be accurate with the following amendments:

Item 283 to be changed from:

Melissa Neilson-Rai reported that the Youth Drug Strategy would be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.

To:

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

Item 284 to be changed from:

Niamh Farren reported that Feltham Young Offenders Institution had an unannounced inspection in August 2014.

to

Niamh Farren reported that in response to specific Safeguarding Children recommendations from the HMIP Inspection published in May 2014 London Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) has implemented a revised Safeguarding Children Performance Framework which should demonstrate that 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 CRC Probation staff to Children's Social Care, on all cases with effect from 1 June 2014 (the date from which the CRC was formally established).

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

Action - NF to attend Monitoring and Evaluation subgroup to provide more information on audit and ensuring action plan

Item 288 have **fro** substituted with **for** and **ha** with **has**.

Item 290 have the heading changed from Education Sub-Group to Education Network and that 'Sub-group' be substituted with 'Network' in the last paragraph of the item.

Item 293 has 'Sub-group' changed to 'Network'

Item 297 be changed to:

There were no items raised but there was an Ofsted safeguarding matter earlier in the meeting.

Item 301 be changed to:

c. Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983

Donald McPail 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.

307. Matters Arising

Item 281

Jacqui McShannon provided an update in respect of the query from Margaret O'Connor on the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families. Jacqui McShannon reported that there are currently 14 families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. 3 of these families are considered homeless, the other 11 families are categorised as having no recourse to public funding. While there were some care leavers over 18 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation they had only been placed there as a last resort. Jacqui McShannon reported that the key issue was the additional vulnerability of families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

308. Presentations

309. School Nursing - Joan Wallace

Joan Wallace presented a paper providing a review of School Nurses attendance at Safeguarding Meetings.

Paul Hewitt reported that they were in the process of creating Core Group Guidance and that these recommendations would be part of this.

In response to questions Joan Wallace reported the proposal did not include plans for further involvement in conferences and that training had been built into the proposal.

Donald McPhail reported that he was happy to endorse the principle on which the paper was informed. This was agreed by the Board.

310. Housing - Accommodation for Children leaving care (Bob Spencer)

Bob Spencer presented a paper (after item 6) on Accommodation for children leaving care.

Bob Spencer reported that the West London Alliance was doing work to create a framework to give guidance to potential providers of residential places. They hoped to have a formal list of providers in place by September/October this year. Bob Spencer reported that Hounslow was leading on this project.

Work is being done with Registered Social Landlords to increase the number of places. They would also continue to work with a small number of high quality private providers.

Donald McPhail asked what this meant for children leaving care.

Bob Spencer responded that generally the physical side of the places provided was good when working with known and trusted providers in the Borough. Typically a 3 or 4

bedroomed house would house 3 or 4 young people with a key worker present 2 or 3 times a week. Some, with permanent on-site staff, were used for more vulnerable youth. Although 17 is considered the upper age limit still falling within the statutory care leaving provision. It was possible to continue to provide places through to 21, with links to Social Housing, in order to support those youth unable to manage the logistics of their own tenancy, and qualifying for care leaving support.

Donald McPhail asked whether there was a link between funding and Social Care in terms of some youngsters landing up in Bed and Breakfast, and in particular what this said about more vulnerable youngsters.

Bob Spencer responded that they do often land up in Bed and Breakfast in the older age group of 19 and 20 year olds. The Authority did have a residual duty to provide housing until 21 although the primary duty was Housings' responsibility. Bed and Breakfast was sometimes the only alternative, while placing youngsters in Bed and Breakfast was not good it was the best solution at this point. Currently there are no young people under 18 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

Jacqui McShannon asked whether the key issue was about work done with the young person to support independence and the quality of their preparation for adulthood rather than just about funding accommodation placements.

Bob Spencer agreed that some youngsters needed a greater level of support in preparation for taking on the responsibilities of adulthood.

Bob Spencer reported that WLA aimed to improve the situation by Autumn this year – they were off to a good start. The total spend across the WLA was around £12 000 000 and £2 000 000 in Hounslow.

Michael Marks asked whether any work was being done with regards to the cost to other agencies of the impact of the placement of young people.

Bob Spencer responded that the rate of progress with each individual young person was different and that this was problematic.

Debra Gore asked whether records were kept of LAC after they turned 21.

Bob Spencer responded that there was a duty to continue to support those remaining in education otherwise no specific tracking took place. In this respect the biggest problems were around those with some form of mild learning or physical disability who no longer qualified for joint services support and don't meet the adult support criteria.

Margaret O'Connor asked what impact Universal Credit would have.

Bob Spencer reported that this had not yet impacted on care leavers. The biggest issue was with care leavers being prepared, at 21, to manage rent payments themselves. The concern is that the standard of preparation of these young people is not good enough.

Donald McPhail requested an update in a year.

311. NSPCC programme update (Alison StewartRoss)

Alison Stewart-Ross presented an update on the current programme and reported on planned changes to the local programme.

Alison Stewart-Ross reported:

1. **SafeCare**, the one to one parenting programme, would continue for another two years.
2. **BabySteps** was due to continue for another one year. NSPCC are currently looking for somebody to take over following this.
3. **Family Group Conference** would take no further referrals after July. Once the referrals stopped a report is to be prepared on feedback and numbers.
4. The **Taking Care** programme would be transferred to Children's Social Services together with all information on the programme.
5. **Protect and Respect** is a new programme for 11 – 19 year olds which will be introduced from July 2015. The programme will support children at risk of, or involved in, CSE.

Monica King questioned whether CAMHS would be able to refer to this service.

Alison Stewart-Ross confirmed that referrals could be made from different services and reported that a referral form was being prepared. The referral form was extremely thorough although it was uncertain when it would be available.

Donald McPhail reported that the different strands were key to the success of the overall programme. Therapeutic work carried its own risk. Donald McPhail said that he was 'delighted' to hear that the programme would be carrying on into the Borough.

A key recommendation coming out of the Rotheram Review had been that support should not be short term. The three year strategy for the 'Protect and Respect' programme would provide a good start into identifying the longer term support needed.

Alison Stewart-Ross informed the board that the programme could provide a possible year of support for CSE victims.

Michael Marks reported that opportunity was needed to refer these CSE victims onto other services.

Michael Marks asked whether, in terms of managing referrals, there would be any guidance to support agencies in the referral process.

Alison Stewart-Ross informed the board that an initial 6 week assessment period would include referring on children where needed.

Alan Adams reported that as the Authority approaches the end of a review of services it was looking at what services were commissioned and what the LA could provide in house. It was important to know what services are available and that other services had enough information to know what these services did.

Donald McPhail asked whether NSPCC felt sufficiently linked into the other local services.

Alison Stewart-Ross reported that it was helpful to know what other avenues of support existed and who provided them. Operational strands should be linked.

Corretta Hine asked whether there had been any issues around ongoing criminal proceedings involving young people being supported on the programme.

Alison Stewart-Ross responded that the main issue was getting hold of the young people and getting them into the programme to access the support they needed. Many did not see themselves as victims and some were afraid to come forward. Alison Stewart-Ross did not have any specific concerns about criminal proceedings.

Donald McPhail thanked Alison Stewart-Ross. It was important that this programme be seen as a start to addressing the issue of CSE and not to dismiss the need to continue to develop this area of support.

312. MARAC annual Report (Elena Saragato)

A power point hand out was provided at the meeting.

Questions

Alan Adams asked what the pattern, in terms of other areas, should look like with regards to the figures presented. The information was not available at the meeting. Targets set are generic and are based on the information and knowledge from 'Safe Lives' regarding the expected number of incidents and referrals from different agencies nationally.

Permjit Chadha stated that the lack of referrals is an indication that a variety of agencies are not referring, not just children and adults but also housing etc in spite of high levels of training.

Alan Adams reported that he would like some specific idea with regards to the number of referrals that should be coming in and also needed more information on why there was not a working feedback loop in operation to help identify incidents not being referred to MARAC.

Jacqui McShannon asked how many of the 331 children and young people referred to MARAC were known to other agencies dealing with Child Protection and Children in Need.

Chris Domeney asked whether there had been many referrals from teens in relationships affected by 'domestic violence'.

Monica King reported that Mental Health refer more individuals to Domestic Violence Agencies. Permjit Chadha confirmed that there had been low numbers of referrals from the NHS.

Corretta Hine expressed concern about (1) whether the issue of low referrals was because of the belief that the specific cases were already being dealt with, and (2) where the police referrals have gone as they seem to have dropped in number.

Elena Saragota responded that staff turnover had impacted on referrals and that there was a lack of staff to make referrals now. She confirmed that there had generally been a decrease in police referrals.

Michael Marks questioned the impact of MASH and asked whether the police now referred more through the Merlin route. He questioned whether the use of the single 'front door' could have lead to the decrease in the number of different agencies now recorded as referring on. There was a possibility that referrals through the Early Help Hounslow route were changing the number of referrals which would normally come from a wider range of agencies. Michael Marks asked that the referral pathway be clarified to provide more detail around the referrals being received.

Corretta Hine asked whether there was some way to challenge the process of referral and if numbers had improved following the implementation of the escalation process. Elena Saragato confirmed that numbers had increased following the implementation of the Escalation Policy.

Janet Johnson reported that 120 people had attended MARAC training with the thinking being that once training had been delivered the profile of MARAC would be raised but she reported this had not worked.

Donald McPhail asked whether there were possible solutions to issues around domestic violence, given that Hounslow had a high focus on domestic violence issues in respect to consequences for children and young people.

Corretta Hine asked whether other MARACs had been looked at to consider how they work, specifically those areas where targets are being met and whether the solution could be around agency process.

Permjit Chadha confirmed that they were looking at the process when victims present with domestic violence.

Debra Kane reported that she was aware of 3 or 4 children involved in domestic violence. They had not always been told the background i.e. that domestic violence was behind involvement with the looked after children or children receiving social services support.

Janet Johnson questioned whether the organisational process used for social services assessments were creating a block to referrals. Particularly were referrals from Barnardos were not cross referenced to domestic violence.

Niamh Farren expressed concern about the lack of repeat referrals and asked how MARAC held agencies to account, particularly in terms of repeats and their referrals. She was concerned that it seemed possible to lose individuals within the process. MAPA had been successful in holding agencies to account.

Permjit Chadha confirmed that this did happen and that MARAC were on top of this with monthly reviews taking place.

Monica King asked whether there was an assumption that if individuals were known to MARAC no further action was needed.

Donald McPhail confirmed that MARAC was a referral process and not a service and that currently no assessment process linked adult victims of abuse to children at risk or being abused. Donald McPhail requested that the board consider other ways to improve the system.

Corretta Hine questioned how well MARAC communicated with other agencies locally and whether there was something in place to keep reminding agencies of MARAC.

Permjit Chadha reported that agencies needed to take responsibility for this role.

Janet Johnson questioned what proportion of women had been referred and how many had children with child protection plans. The case conference process needed to work alongside MARAC.

Imran Choudhury asked the LSCB to think outside the box and consider taking a paper to the CCG Board. General Practitioners needed training to understand the MARAC process.

Donald McPhail responded that the issue was too complicated to resolve at the meeting and that a small task group would be needed to come up with clear proposals creating links between domestic violence and children at risk. The group would need to get the operational side's input to increase referrals.

Permjit Chadha reported that they would welcome a small group to look specifically at this.

Alan Adams asked that the sub-group should pick up all the different angles to this including the referral issues.

The group should have representation from:

- Adult Services
- Borough Police
- Mental Health
- Community Services
- Ambulance Service
- Children's Service
- Children's Social Care
- Early Intervention

Michael Marks agreed to scope out the remit for the group. Donald McPhail would speak to Permjit Chadha and assist in the set up of the group.

Action: Permjit Chadha

313. Transition Protocol (Kylee Brennan)

Kylee Brennan reported that this item was incorrectly titled and should have been referred to as a report on the Transition to Adult Services.

Kylee Brennan presented the attached report.

Chris Domeney reported that there was a gap in services for young people receiving clinical intervention from CAMHS and other health services.

Chris Domeney asked where the responsibility for this lay in terms of Safeguarding and community safety issues.

Michael Marks reported that the Children's Delivery Group had asked for a review. Nobody had currently been commissioned to deliver this.

James Jolly questioned who would be commissioning the services and whether it would be the Children's Delivery Group. Kylee Brennan reported that nobody had currently been commissioned.

It was agreed that a gap did exist between Children's and Adult's Services, particularly in respect of Public Health and Children's Services.

Donald McPhail offered to write to the Board.

Alan Adams agreed that Donald McPhail should write to Councillor Bruce.

Michael Marks reported that further clarity was needed on who is currently funding drugs and substance misuse services for children and young people in Hounslow, including the Visions Service.

Action: Donald McPhail

314. LSCB financial position (Paul Hewitt) - paper attached

Paul Hewitt reported on the current financial position. Paul Hewitt reported that the Board was in a financially critical situation this year. The Board has limited options to rectify this:

- Agencies could increase their level of contribution to the board, there was no specific historical record with regards to the current contribution level as far as Paul Hewitt was aware.
- The Board could decrease the number of initiatives it was involved with. Specifically, it could end the current Deep Dive Audit which had already been funded to an amount of £7000 and would need a further £7000 before completion.
- The Board could become more commercial and charge for training.
- The Board could reduce current staffing, although Paul Hewitt did not recommend this option.

In response to a question about how long the board had been overspending Paul Hewitt reported that there had been £50 000 in reserve at the start of the financial year, but that this had been used for additional work undertaken over the year. Work such as the Serious Case reviews and the Deep Dive Audit had not been part of the planned budget spend this year. In addition the cost of the Chair's time needed to be recalculated as the planned cost of 20 days work did not accurately reflect the amount of time demanded of the Chair.

Monica King reported that when the LSCB began the financial commitment from the Health Trust had not been clear and had become somewhat random with no specific guidance regarding the amounts to be committed to LSCB.

Paul Hewitt reported that in his last local authority role the CCG commitment had matched the Social Care contribution and agreed this needed some consideration. The current situation was not easy to resolve and that the Board would need to consider other ways of gaining contribution for the work they did.

Donald McPhail recommended that the Board consider Paul Hewitt's suggestions.

Paul Hewitt responded that the solution may well be a combination of the suggestions i.e. to postpone the Deep Dive Audit which, while useful, was not essential.

Alan Adams responded that he felt the Deep Dive Audit was too important to abandon and Jacqui McShannon agreed, reporting that she would not support aborting the audit at this stage.

Janet Johnson reported that many of the current agency contributions were historically linked to agreements to provide safeguarding training and that the amounts had originally been agreed as an alternative to charging for each course.

Donald McPhail reported that the Board's role was to challenge that appropriate training was taking place and not specifically to provide training. Charging for training would not be appropriate.

Schools were already having a high level of success in accessing training from the online provider.

Debbie Gore reported that the current access route into training was cost effective and that schools had found the twilight and on-line training easy to access. Debbie Gore expressed concern that making training into a commercial venture would create barriers to access which would have a detrimental impact on the number of people willing to access the training, however, she said that if the LSCB were to charge between £30 - £50 per training session that this would still be reasonable in comparison to other out of borough training courses.

Donald McPhail suggested that a group of funders and potential funders of the Board be drawn together.

Action: Donald McPhail

315. Reports from Sub-Groups and network groups:

316. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

An verbal update with an accompanying paper was provided.

It was reported that it was important that the Board remain mindful of thresholds for findings in the paper and the agreed actions.

It was reported that the number of children on Child Protection Plans had returned to what was considered the 'traditional' level of around 200 children at any one time. High numbers in the 4th quarter of 2014 were a result of people understanding what was abuse and what wasn't and what would warrant a Child Protection Plan. There was also a high use of 'emotional harm' as a category.

It was reported that the current trend in terms of LAC is now downwards, this was having a significant (positive) impact on the demand on the preventative services and also in terms of the cost to Social Services.

When looking at the number of children coming onto the plan for the 2nd time it is evident that the right actions were being taken.

It was reported to the Board that the current LAC and CP statistics are sound, indicating that results were as they should be.

The paper gives a good analysis and current information although the Board were asked to be mindful of the historical nature of the information contained in the paper.

317. Feltham Young Offenders Institute

Chris Domeney provided a verbal update together with a written report.

Chris Domeney reported that prisoner on prisoner violence was high with known gang involvement.

A report was being prepared to look at the administration of additional measures of controls. This report would be the focal point of the sub-group.

Donald McPhail reported that an annual meeting had been set with Feltham Young Offenders Institute.

318. MISSING AND VULNERABLE

Paul Hewitt reported that Child Trafficking needed to be added to the list of focus items for the sub-group. The sub-group is to look at responsibility in terms of referrals in order to ensure improved data.

A paper on Child Trafficking was included in the pack.

Paul Hewitt reported that child trafficking is a global issue, it transcends boundaries. The majority of children at risk locally are British nationals. Examples of children trafficked locally also included Vietnamese youngsters trafficked to work on local cannabis farms, however, the problem needed to be considered in the wider context, not only in terms of missing children and Child Sexual Exploitation.

319. EDUCATION

Michael Marks provided an update on behalf of the Education Network. The recent Breakfast Briefing had been well attended by Primary and Secondary Heads. They had agreed to review and update the existing Safeguarding, Education and Social Care protocol. This would be signed off at the next Education Network meeting to be held in June. The next Breakfast briefing would focus on radicalisation and would be delivered by Joan Conlan.

320. TRAINING

Janet Johnson and Paul Hewitt reported that a paper had been prepared on CSE training activity. Current feedback from those attending both face to face courses and doing online training was that their awareness and understanding was enhanced however, the materials introduced on the courses may not be being widely used.

Donald McPhail asked what could be done to ascertain the impact on practice of the training attended.

Paul Hewitt responded that they were gathering evidence and feedback. Janet Johnson responded that social work feedback had indicated that they felt the training was not relevant to their role, although the data gathered was limited as only 8 in 100 social work staff attending training had been interviewed.

They would need to gather more specific feedback and determine how and what

questions needed asking.

Chris Domeney asked whether a form could be designed for use during supervision by line managers to gather this information.

Janet Johnson reported that Ofsted appeared particularly interested in how they measured the impact of training on strategic change.

321. HEALTH

Nothing to report as no meetings had been held.

322. CASE REVIEW

No new activity to report.

No final report had been received for the fatal stabbing case but a summary would be given to the executive group once available.

Chris Domeney reported that the Youth Justice Board would like to see this review.

Donald McPhail responded that the Youth Justice Board should contact him with any requests for copies of reports.

323. Child Sexual Exploitation

It was reported that the group was now active, the membership had grown and now included teachers, public health and the NSPCC. Current work included a review of planning. It was reported that according to current knowledge there were a possible 18 young people at active risk. The CSE Sub-group had asked for a paper to be written on the implications of a child being part of MACE.

It was further reported that Operation Make Safe had received a positive response from the local hotel community and that as a direct result of the information shared a local hotelier had contacted them with concerns about guest activity involving an adult and a child. This had led to a positive outcome.

324. Child Death Overview Panel

The actions for the CDOP are progressing and will be reported on in full in the next Annual Report.

325. FGM

The report was not in the pack – no update provided.

326. Annual Report Safeguarding Data (Paul Hewitt)

Paul Hewitt reported that the annual report contained duplicated statistics.

Donald McPhail requested that the Annual report focus on qualitative rather than descriptive issues.

327. Local Assurance Test (Alan Adams) - Paper Attached

Alan Adams requested that this item be postponed to the next meeting as the paper had not been attached to the supplied paperwork.

328. Publication of Minutes (Donald McPhail)

A document outlining the principles of publication for the minutes of the LSCB was handed out.

Members raised the following concerns:

- Was the Board subject to Freedom of Information requests ?
- Where had the publication request come from?
- Concerns were expressed around the possible identification of individuals roles and their participation within meetings.
- The Board needed to carefully look at the format of published minutes, with particular consideration being given to the issue of accountability.

Donald McPhail reported the Board was not subject to Freedom of Information and that when minutes have been published in other areas, no Freedom of Information issues had been raised.

Michael Marks reported that there was a risk that in sanitising the minutes for the purpose of publishing that the Board did not overlook the role of the minutes in providing evidence of challenge within the meetings.

Alan Adams reported that publication would allow key issues to be identified but that the board would need informed guidelines. Alan Adams reported that it was important to keep the minutes open and as complete as possible to ensure full accountability.

Jacqui McShannon reported concerns about issues of confidentiality particularly around serious case reviews.

The board agreed that the minutes of the current meeting would not be made public but that the Chair would provide a sample redacted version of the minutes for consideration by the Board at the next meeting.

The Board agreed that the issue of publication of the minutes would be discussed further at the next meeting. The principle would not be adopted until after they had been able to consider the sample redacted minutes to be provided by Donald McPhail.

Action: Donal McPhail

329. Any other business

Jacqui McShannon reported that Martin Foreshaw would be returning to his previous post as Head of Operational Child Protection and Safeguarding Service.

Michael Marks reported that Sandra Morrison had been appointed Interim Head of Early Intervention Service Hounslow.

The LSCB annual conference was planned for the 18th May 2015.

Jacqui McShannon reported that the Lead Member, Councillor Tom Bruce had requested that the LSCB be moved to a later time slot to allow his attendance.

The Board carefully considered the possibility of further changes to the time it held meetings but concluded that it would not be expedient for the majority of members to make the start time later. It was decided that a later start time would lead to the loss of a number of critical representatives at the meetings.

330. New Safeguarding Documents

No discussion took place.

331. Future Agenda Items

- The number of children being held in Police premises pending mental health assessment.
- Young people being held in Police detention.

The meeting finished at 4:30 pm.

