

At a meeting of the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board held on Monday, 18 January 2016 at 3:00 pm in the Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow.

**77. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were given.

**78. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the 23 November 2015 were agreed and signed with the following updates:

Page 3

**51. Private Fostering:** Having met with school heads, Donald McPhail reported that while some were familiar with the concept it had been a good opportunity to ask and answer questions, there will be a further meeting in February which will raise awareness.

Page 4

**54. Fatal Stabbing:** To change the wording of the second paragraph to:

The support of the board was requested for the further development of a local gangs strategy. Steve Liddicott said that a specific strategy was needed around young people in gangs, how they were recruited and how they could be supported to exit. A possible strategy is to be discussed with the Community Safety Partnership Board. Permjit Chadha and Chris Domeney are to meet to discuss a way forward.

Page 7

**71. Female Genital Mutilation:** Change the wording to:

Permjit Chadha reported that additional schools had now taken up the offer to run FGM training.

**Actions:**

The first item at each future Children's Safeguarding meeting is to be an update from the Youth Forum presented by Steve Hutchinson, who will attend for this purpose only then leave the meeting immediately due to a work commitment.

The Board is to be informed when children are admitted to adult mental wards.

**79. Fatal Stabbing Action Plan - Steve Liddicott**

Steve Liddicott presented the Fatal Stabbing Action Plan, providing an overview of the plan. The Board requested that its implementation be monitored and reported on to the board. The report from Concordia should inform a further section on improving Concordia.

It was further agreed that the plan could be shared with the training provider.

The overall strategy in respect to gangs included a multi-agency aspect to ensure all agencies had opportunity to contribute information as relevant, however as this particular plan was case specific it only included those relevant to the specific case.

The board requested that the title be amended to indicate that that the plan was for a specific case. Any comments on the plan should be sent to Steve Liddicott, the deadline for these was the end of this month.

The implementation of the plan will be overseen by the Cases Sub-committee.

**80. Deep Dive Audit - Steve Liddicott**

Steve Liddicott spoke to the report. It was concluded that the Deep Dive Audit had not been completed successfully and that an alternative method be used to look at the shared work between the Children's and Adult's Services; along the lines of those used in a serious case review. The Local Authority is keen to get added value from the joined up working between the Children's and Adult's Services particularly where domestic violence or substance abuse are contributing factors. The Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-committee has been asked to look into the audit and provide feedback on why it did not work, without delay.

**Action:**

Steve Liddicott to consider an alternative approach to obtaining the necessary information. Alan Adams suggested it be conducted along the lines of a serious case review.

**81. GP Attendance at Child Protection Case Conferences - Steve Liddicott (paper)**

Steve Liddicott presented the statistics for attendance at Case Conferences. The low level of attendance and participation by GPs at case conferences was considered unacceptable. The Board felt that the contribution, in the form of either reports or attendance, of professionals at case conferences was non-negotiable although the need for attendance at particular case conferences could be considered on a case by case basis. The administrative arrangements for the sending of invitations to case conferences needs to be reviewed and clearly directed invitations to be considered for use with professionals. The Board agreed that it was essential that GPs were invited and if they did not engage this should be escalated back to NHSE.

Professionals are invited to case conferences to contribute professional knowledge and expertise, providing valuable insight and even suggesting lines of possible concern to be further looked into. Attendance by professionals was considered critical to the outcomes of cases. Further specific questions were asked about the lack on input from CAMHS. The board requested that this be looked into to identify details, including individuals, of any barriers to involvement.

The statistics showed that Social Housing had also had little involvement although this was thought to be because there had been no identified issues necessitating an invitation being issued to them.

**Actions:**

Dr Nimmi Sellathurai, Donald McPhail and Steve Liddicott are to meet and agree a plan to improve GP attendance and contribution to Case Conferences and consider actions to follow for non-contributors.

Monica King is to take the report to CAMHS and question their lack of contribution at case

conferences.

**82. Review of Safeguarding Boards - Donald McPhail**

Donald McPhail reported that a Government review of Safeguarding Boards was being undertaken and that reports were due back by March. It was unclear why the review was being conducted. He said that there were a number of different contributors to the review, including the Independent Chairs. Donald McPhail will report back to the board once the review is completed.

**Action:**

Donald McPhail to report the findings of the Government Review of Safeguarding Boards to the Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Board once these are available.

**83. Allegations Management Report - Steve Liddicott**

Postponed.

**Action:**

Steve Liddicott to present the Allegations Management Report at the next meeting.

**84. Local thinking about sexual abuse in the family environment - Janet Johnson (paper)**

Janet Johnson spoke to the attached paper. The Board expressed concern at the decrease in numbers of reported cases of CSE in the home and considered the possibility that the ongoing increased publicity around incidents of CSE outside the home had led to abuse in the home being overlooked by local agencies. The Board questioned whether there was an explanation for the lower incidents of reported CSE in families in Hounslow and whether anything could be masking the real situation. Concern was expressed that cases of CSE in families were being overlooked and the possibility that changes in what is looked for and how this is reported on meant cases were not being identified as CSE early on. It was thought that the publicity around the recent Cleveland and Baby Peter cases may have caused a higher number of referrals which had now declined.

Donald McPhail reported that he was confident that local school staff were trained and able to make referrals although attention would continue to be given to the level of preparedness within schools. Roger Shortt confirmed that CSE was a major priority within schools and was high on the agenda for teaching staff, he agreed to raise it at the next Education Network meeting.

The Board questioned whether other agencies, including the voluntary and PVI sector, on the frontline were identifying and reporting any incidents. Donald McPhail reported that guidance was being prepared for these agencies.

Michael Marks raised concern about several recent incidents among the Early Years and Childminding Sector.

It was considered that cases of CSE had recently been identified following other concerns bringing children to the attention of social services and that the actual number of CSE cases was potentially higher than those reported as CSE initially.

The Safeguarding Conference scheduled for 24 May needs to be promoted to ensure that agencies get the right people into training. Janet Johnson agreed to include a question during the conference workshops about the low number of reported CSE.

It was considered whether the environment around children provided the right support to make disclosures, although it was felt that schools, in particular, did encourage and support open discussion and disclosure by pupils.

**Action:**

Guidance currently being prepared regarding CSE, in the family, for the voluntary and PVI sectors to include Early Years and the Childminding sector as well.

Attendees at the conference on 24 May are to be asked, during workshop sessions, why attendees feel that numbers being reported are down.

**85. Radicalisation - What does the board need to do? - Steve Liddicott**

The Prevent Guidance was introduced to the Board. It was reported that the Prevent Co-ordinator was now working closely with other services and was sharing information about individuals with social services. Work was also being done with the schools. Feedback from across London indicated that the numbers of individuals being reported was increasing, this was, in turn increasing pressure on services as they appeared to have no exit as issues remained unresolved. The Board were cautioned to be aware of new areas of concern in relation to the links between the Prevent agenda and safeguarding concerns and to consider how these could impact on overall strategy.

**86. Information Sharing at CDOP - Steve Liddicott**

Steve Liddicott reported that there had been a tendency to be less rigorous about the standard applied in respect to the sharing of information. Agencies had been found to be sharing information inappropriately at CDOPs, particularly during verbal discussion at meetings. There had been a raised awareness concerning the specific law regarding what information could be shared at rapid response and CDOP meetings. The Board agreed that Chairs should introduce an overview of information sharing legal responsibilities at the start of the meetings.

**Action:**

Steve Liddicott to provide guidance regarding the correct information sharing protocol to be introduced at the start of every CDOP meeting to ensure that all participants have a clear understanding of their responsibilities in the respect.

**87. Health Agency Annual Reports**

The Community Health report is to be presented at the next meeting.

**88. Community Health**

**89. Reports from Sub-Groups**

**90. Cases (paper)**

No comments or questions.

**91. Missing and Vulnerable**

No comments or questions.

**92. Monitoring and Evaluation**

No comments or questions.

**93. Training (paper)**

Janet Johnson thanked the members of the Board for their response to her request.  
**94. CDOP (paper)**

No comments or questions.

**95. Child Sexual Exploitation (paper)**

No comments or questions.

**96. FGM (paper)**

Guidance was requested regarding the gap in terms of the availability of counselling for those affected. Concern was expressed about where girls would be referred in the event of identified cases.

Donald McPhail and Permjit Chadha are to meet and discuss a way forward.

**97. Education Network**

The Terms of Reference had been revised. Notifications had been received from Ofsted regarding incidents with two childminders and two further incidents in settings.

**98. Health Network (paper)**

There had been an increase in referrals to Social Care from West Middlesex University Hospital, the Board requested further information. The Board was informed that a SQC inspection was due to take place at the end of February.

**99. Feltham Young Offenders**

Caroline Wright reported that concerns around training were being investigated and would be reported back to the Board at the next meeting. She extended an invitation to members of the Board to view the new restraints system at an open morning on the 29<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Action:**

The Safeguarding Process at FYOI is to be on the next Board Agenda.

**100. AOB**

#### **Referral Pathway into MARAC**

Permjit Chadha questioned whether the Board could endorse the development of a referral pathway into MARAC with the intention to increase the number of referrals. The Board considered that the introduction of pathways may not resolve the issue and that there were existing examples of pathways available. The Board requested data on the referrals being made to help inform the way forward. Janet Johnson suggested looking at the Child Protection Procedures referral to MARAC guidance, currently under review, to provide guidance. Permjit Chadha felt this could potentially be a pan London issue and agreed to take it forward together with Donald McPhail and Steve Liddicott.

#### **Serious Case Review**

Judy Durrant informed the Board that the recent serious case review of the case involving a teacher at the International School was due to be released on Thursday. Individuals affected by the issues could access support on numbers to be publicised.

#### **Joint Inspection**

Arrangements were now in place for a joint inspection. CSE is one of the priority themes

being looked at. The new framework is to be looked at on the Board's Business Planning day.

### **Vice Chair**

The Board was asked to consider whether it was correct for the Director for Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services to be vice chair of the Board.

### **Voluntary Sector Training**

Margaret O'Connor requested a breakdown in respect to the numbers and agencies from the voluntary sector who had attended safeguarding training in the last year.

### **Business Planning Day**

#### **Action:**

Steve Liddicott is to provide the contact number for the upcoming serious case review to front line staff.

A review of the new joint inspection framework is to be added to the scheduled business planning day – Brindha Emmanuel

#### **101. Future Meeting Dates and future agenda Items**

The next meeting is on 14 March 2016.

- New Joint Inspection Framework
- The Safeguarding Process at FYOI is to be on the next Board Agenda.
- The Community Health report is to be presented at the next meeting.
- Steve Liddicott to present the Allegations Management Report at the next meeting.
- Donald McPhail to report the findings of the Government Review of Safeguarding Boards to the Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Board once these are available.

**The meeting finished at Time Not Specified.**