



Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board

Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board, Monday 20th November 2017 at 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Committee Room 1, Civic Centre

Present		
Name	Agency	Designation
Alan Adams	London Borough of Hounslow	Executive Director Children's, Adults and Housing
Bhupinder Lakhanpaul	-	Lay Member
Chris Domeney	Youth Offending Service	Head Youth Offending Service, Children's Services
Councillor Tom Bruce	Education and Children's Services	Councillor
DCI Helen Flanagan	Hounslow Police	Detective Chief Inspector
Dr Johan Redelinghuys	WLMHT	Director of Safeguarding
Hannah Miller	Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board	Independent Chair
Hannah Rogers	West Middlesex University Hospital	Consultant Midwife, Safeguarding Lead
Jacqui McShannon	London Borough of Hounslow	Director of Safeguarding & Specialist Services, Children's Services
Jane Bennie	HRCH	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Janet Johnson	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Board	Training & Development Manager
Jo Leader	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Board	Acting Business Manager
Julie Hulls	CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Kylee Brennan	iHear	Service Manager
Lara Wood	London Borough of Hounslow	Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Mandy Harper	CLCH	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Marcia Lennon	CAFCASS	-
Martin Forshaw	London Borough of Hounslow	Head of Safeguarding Specialist Services
Michael Marks	London Borough of Hounslow	Director of Education
Monica King	WLMHT	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Permjit Chadha	Community Safety Partnership	Community Safety Manager
Phil Hopkins	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Troubled Families & Edge of Care, Children's Services

Ray Whyms	Lampton School	Assistant Headteacher
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Apologies		
Name	Agency	Designation
Dr Imran Choudhury	London Borough of Hounslow	Director of Public Health
Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	CCG	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Karen McLean	Voluntary Sector Representative	Homestart
Mary Harpley	London Borough of Hounslow	Chief Executive
Sharon Pearce	FYOI	Head of Safeguarding
Sue Pascoe	CCG	Associate Director for Safeguarding, CCG
Trish Stewart	CLCH	Head of Safeguarding

1) Introductions & Apologies

Board members introduced themselves to the meeting and acknowledged the apologies of members unable to attend.

2) Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and no matters arising were discussed. The action log was updated.

3) Early Help Position in Family First and Intensive Support

Jacqui McShannon summarised the report, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

Early Help is an important area of work and which unifies services for a consistently high quality service with a family based approach. A Troubled Families Programme was launched and this is well attended. Many services have been redesigned, more cases in need were meeting the thresholds for assistance and staff were better able to identify cases needing escalation and weekly intervention panels are also taking place.

The Education Welfare Services are also providing a consistent service. A strong emphasis was put on quality assurance and in ensuring robust systems and procedures were in place for better and clearer outcomes. Positive feedback was received from the JTAI.

Training is being provided for CFAN referrals. Some challenges continue to be the sustainability of funding. The service as a whole is beginning to have an identity and more creative ways of working are continually being sought.

The Chair commented that the report clearly outlined the good work being undertaken by the service and the progress which had been made.

4) FYOI Control & Restraint Audit

Chris Domeney summarised the report, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The audit was completed by an Independent Consultant commissioned by the HSCB. There are no suggestions in the report that excessive MMRP (Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint) has been used but there is a lack of evidence to account for the force used, due to delays in paperwork being completed.

The Board agreed that no further commissioned audits were needed for a year as currently there is work in progress to implement recommendations from the GOOD audit completed in July 2017 and the MMRP audit. Assurances will be sought from FYOI about the recommendations outlined in the audit.

Alan Adams commented that control and restraint was a difficult area but reassurances were found in the audit that the key areas of governance and administration would be addressed. However, there was a lack of evidence around training and refresher courses. It would be important to see FYOI's response to the highlighted issues of the audit. It was highlighted that MMRP is monitored in the Boards dataset and that weekly MMRP meetings are held where training is discussed which is attended on an ad hoc basis by the Business Manager and the Board can request oversight of the training figures.

***Action:** Head of Safeguards at FYOI to provide assurance report in response to the audit to the next Board meeting on 26th February 2018.*

5) FYOI Control & Restraint Annual Report 16/17

Chris Domeney commented that the report remains outstanding despite regular requests from the Head of Safeguards at FYOI. It was highlighted that the report is a statutory requirement and needs to be submitted to the Youth Custody Service. Jo Leader has communicated with Governor and Head of Safeguards but has not received a response. FYOI are busy preparing for an inspection which may have caused delays.

***Action:** The Chair to write to FYOI regarding the Control & Restraint Annual Report 16/17.*

6) Neglect Strategy Position Report

Reports from Public Health, Children's Services, the Police, and Health services were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Public Health

The Chair noted that there was no representation from Public Health at the board meeting but assurances were given that the proposals in the paper were being embedded and that information had been provided on the next steps being applied.

CCG and Primary Care

Julie Hulls presented the report on behalf of the CCG and Primary Care Services which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The implementation of the Neglect Strategy is being rolled out in the safeguarding training programme across primary care settings and the CCG and endorsing the use of the Quality of Care (QoC) tool. Progress has also been made on the SystemOne IT records system and a successful trial run has taken place.

Mandatory training is embedded throughout the Healthcare Service and is delivered by Designate Nurse for Safeguarding Children. The communication issues with Health Visitors and GPs are moving forward but there is still some work required on training for GPs, especially around the CFAN process.

It was noted that the challenging areas for GPs are the time constraints as they only have a 10-minute slot per patient, in which it would be difficult to apply the QoC assessment tool, However, a shorter version of the QoC assessment tool has been developed and cascaded.

Police

DCI Flanagan presented the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The 'Spot It Stop It' campaign places a duty on all front-line officers to observe and identify concerns relating to children and to share them with Children's Social Care. A central training programme is to be rolled out and neglect and safeguarding will be part of this programme over the next 6 months.

Police use a Merlin reporting system and not the CFAN but the Merlin report covers all the same elements. Police are not currently using the QoC tool. It was acknowledged that for consistency, the tool used by the Police needed to be evidence based for Neglect cases particularly as Police, along other agencies, contributed to the Child Protection Plans (CPP). It was emphasised that performance should be monitored and emphasis given to the quality rather than quantity of reports.

Janet Johnson commented that partners have appreciated the shorter tool which is quicker to use. GPs and other health professionals have used the tool and it would be useful for the Police to see how the screening tool is being used.

***Action:** Janet Johnson to forward screening tool to DCI Helen Flanagan for review.*

Hounslow Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)

Jane Bennie presented the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The QoC tool has been widely cascaded throughout HRCH. The response from the staff suggests that the tool is very lengthy and therefore the compressed version is widely-used especially in supervisions. FNP nurses are also using the tool. Other tools are also being used alongside. The screening tool does not replace but supports the existing tools. The vulnerability matrix is also used, predominantly in supervisions. The tool is also used by staff for escalation of cases.

Children's Services

Lara Wood presented the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The QoC tool is being used in all cases where neglect has been identified as the category of risk. Training led by the HSCB is being rolled out to Social Workers and the partnership about how to use the QoC effectively. Head teacher briefings have taken place. The challenges are to evidence how well the QoC assessment tool is being used and what its impact is. The Neglect Task & Finish Group has facilitated and monitored the implementation of the Neglect Strategy.

The Annual Child Protection (CP) Report is due at the next Board. The key priority of the CP report is for Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to assess whether the neglect tool has been adequately used and to assess the impact of using it. Data collection is also being reviewed with changes to the performance indicators on the IT systems.

The Chair commented that the Early Help Strategy being developed by the Children's Delivery Group needs to acknowledge and support the Neglect Strategy to support the prevention agenda.

West Middlesex University Hospital (WMUH)

Hannah Rogers presented the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The strategy has been disseminated to all maternity staff. It has been discussed at the Annual Board held in September 2017 and discussed at the monthly meeting. The maternity Level 3 training has been updated to incorporate neglect and the same has been done with cases studies. Training is being provided at WMUH and its effectiveness is being measured. The short version of QoC tool is being used particularly in escalation and used to strengthen of referrals. Eighteen midwives have been trained and will be liaising with safeguarding teams.

The Chair summarised that the reports evidence that the agencies base-line awareness and response to children living with neglect was improving. The scoping and assurance provided by the reports good but the challenge is how to bring everything together. The QoC tool is key in delivering better outcomes for children.

7) Working Together to Safeguard Children Consultation

Jo Leader summarised the consultation brief members prior to the meeting and sought the views of members.

Members commented that the proposed Working Together Guidance allowed for flexibility on how some areas of guidance are implemented locally and in practice however overall it was felt that it made very little difference to current arrangements. All members noted that it was important not to make safeguarding too wide and that a restricted focus was taken on Child Protection issues.

The Chair commented that we need to learn from inspections and how to bridge gaps where contact has been lost between executive and lower boards. A 12-month period has been allocated for Local Authorities to respond with their proposed way of working together in partnerships.

Action: Agencies to return their views on the Working Together Guidance to Jo Leader by 19th December 2017.

Action: Jo Leader to compile a summary response for the Working Together Consultation, to be endorsed by the Chair.

Standing Agenda Items

8) MASH Performance Report

Martin Forshaw presented the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

An independent re-audit of the MASH commissioned by the HSCB will take place in December 2017 to ensure recommendations from the audit undertaken in 2016 and the JTAI are progressing. The IT system has been improved with a new dataset. There is a decrease in the number of Merlin reports. MASH checks that have declined to be undertaken can now be reported on. Comments were made that 19% was a high percentage for the number of cases declined for checks to be completed.

The next area of work to develop is risk assessments, particularly MASH checks are returned and the final rag rating is applied.

The Mash Audit report will be presented to the Board in April 2018 after it has been considered by the MASH Strategic Group.

9) JTAI Action Plan Progress Report

Elaine Peers presented the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

There are 66 actions in the JTAI action plan many are completed and the outstanding actions are in progress. There has continued to be a lack of engagement from CRC. On the 23rd of November 2017 CRC will release a position statement on how they will be engaging with partners.

The performance reporting around Early Help seems to have an ambitious timeframe as discussions have only just commenced. Michael Marks stated that data-sets need to be in place, the ICT infrastructure and the ability to sustain the infrastructure needs work and further work is needed on the EMS. The Chair questioned if progress could be expedited.

The Probation Service checks are not having the impact hoped for. There are a high number of requests for information but this is not a high priority area for the service. Martin Forshaw stated that Probation Services are currently struggling to fulfil requests for information but are optimistic about better dealing with this in the future. It was suggested that whilst electronic responses may take time that verbal information for urgent issues would be comparatively easier to provide. It was recommended that Probation Officers should request information by way of phone calls.

It was questioned whether the 'Let's Talk' programme could be extended to the older age group of 12-16-year-olds living with domestic violence and abuse. Permjit Chadha stated that the Domestic Violence work may not continue if £60K could not be secured.

Jacqui McShannon commented that there has been no sign off from OFSTED about Hounslow response to the JTAI recommendations and that an invitation has been received for discussions on how to respond to domestic abuse due to the delivery of positive outcomes on the JTAI.

10) Feedback from the Strategic Boards

Youth Crime Management Board

No safeguarding updates were shared with the meeting.

Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

No safeguarding updates were shared with the meeting.

Community Safety Partnership Board

No safeguarding updates were shared with the meeting.

Health & Wellbeing Board

No safeguarding updates were shared with the meeting.

Hounslow Safeguarding Adults' Board

No safeguarding updates were shared with the meeting.

SEND Inspection

No safeguarding updates were shared with the meeting.

11) Agency Reports to the Board

Designated Officer Annual Report 16/17

Hetsie van Rooyen presented the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

Training has been provided to IROs on allegations investigations and there is ongoing awareness training being provided to schools and other agencies. Agencies have found this useful. A referral pathway has been designed to manage allegations against prison staff in FYOI as well as Health Service allegations. Work has also been done to link with the role of Barnardos. The 'Lessons Learnt' initiative is an important aspect to report on to ensure safeguarding practices are efficient and the safeguarding risk assessment tool has been used for repeat allegations against the same member of staff.

The Chair questioned how many cases of allegations have gone through for prosecution. Lara Wood commented that figures on prosecution are not available at this time as some intervention work is also done by the CAIT team. Further the allegations are currently lower end cases rather than higher end as they relate to issues around professional boundaries and disciplinary as opposed to criminal processes which are more likely to be addressed in court.

It was mentioned that the private and voluntary sectors have their own policy for safeguarding. The adequacy of these policies was questioned and suggestions were made to assess them by Section 11 audits or to view the safeguarding policies.

12) FYI

Adults' and Children's Social Care Reciprocal Training Paper

Lara Wood noted the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

Members did not have any questions or comments on the report which had also been shared at the Hounslow Safeguarding Adults' Board.

13) Any Other Business

Alan Adams congratulated the Chair on the improvements that have been made in the HSCB. The Chair thanked Jane Bennie for her contributions as an active member of the Board as she leaves HRCH. She will be replaced at Board meetings and at sub groups by Anthony Bowen.

The Chair thanked Imran Choudhary for his contributions to Board, who also will be leaving. He will be replaced by Laura Maclehose, Acting Director of Public Health.

Part B Agenda – Confidential

No Part B agenda items were discussed.

