

MINUTES OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH
MARCH 2016 AT 10:00AM IN THE AG CHAMBERS THE CASTLE.

Present:

Mr Sean Burns	Chairperson	Head of Governor's Officer
Mr Angelo Berbotto	Member	Crown Council (AB)
Mr Matt Breeze	Member	Police Inspector
Dr Darren Clarke	Member	Director of Health (DoH)
Mr Nicholas Stevens	Member	New Horizons (NS)
Lieutenant Coral Yon	Member	Salvation Army (LCY)
Ms Lolly Young	Representative	Education Directorate (LY)
Mr Roy Burke	Representative	Safeguarding Directorate

Apologies

Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Member	Children's Champion
Ms Sam Dunn	Member	Safeguarding Directorate (Overseas)

The Chairman thanked those in attendance and clarified that the Ordinance allowed for all agencies to be represented. He made clear that if the regular delegate could not attend they were free to send a representative. What was important was that agencies had a voice at the SCB. He asked for the Secretary to be notified in advance.

Confirmation of Minutes

Two minor amendments – David Clarke (DoH) as printed in the Minutes of 28th January to be replaced as Darren Clarke (DoH) (wrong name used) and for Darren Clarke (DoH) to be deleted as an attendee at the meeting on 19th February 2016 as Lisa Rhodes attended as a representative for Health Directorate. Minutes of 26 January and 19 February were agreed.

Matters Arising from the meeting held on 28th January 2016.

Draft Legislation (on probation orders) would be ready for the next Legislative Council Meeting in May/June.

Safeguarding Action Plan Report

Education Directorate's Report A written report had been submitted and circulated. Particular reference was made to the Restorative Justice Training that had gone well. 28 people from Education, Safeguarding and Police Directorates had taken part. Another batch of staff from Education had attended the Level 3 Safeguarding Training on 17th and 18th February 2016 which included the Director and two Assistant Directors. It was felt that by higher level personnel doing this training it would give awareness to the content. The Board welcomed this approach.

Not all teachers had completed the safeguarding training although this was ongoing. Statistics were being collated to establish who had/had not attended. The majority of teachers have done Level 2 and a high proportion have completed Level 3. Other areas of training are being looked into which could possibly cater for groundsmen etc.

Even though the training had been delivered the key was embedding this. The challenge was to ensure that the teachers and other staff were confident enough to know how to deal with a

situation. This would need monitoring and would become part of the professional development agenda.

To gauge this it was suggested that it would perhaps be better to meet with individuals or small groups.

Jody Joshua, the individual Needs Coordinator has started Level 5 Counsel training.

A Primary school had run a very successful 'anti bullying week', which focused more around team work. Following a complaint, there was some discussion on bullying generally. The Education Directorate was satisfied that bullying was taken seriously and being addressed although it was noted that the school had dropped the anti-bullying policy. It was not known why. The DoE would look in to this and report back. It was noted that bullying behaviour is sometimes picked up at home and the attitude is taken in to school.

Safeguarding policies and procedures for all schools were still being reviewed and updated. They would be completed by end of the term.

The Chair asked for the policies to be completed by the beginning of April and that that statistics pertaining to the training (of teachers) be collated at the soonest.

Police Directorate's Report

A written report had been submitted and circulated.

The historic case review team was showing some success with review cases. 2 cases have resulted in charges and are awaiting court hearings.

Officers have received Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) training from the Independent Domestic Abuse Worker.

A further ABE course will be scheduled for 2016 when all staff are in post. This will be a multi-agency course and the date is yet to be set.

A review of the prison and offender management processes had highlighted that there were insufficient resources to effectively deliver all relevant services to offenders. A Domestic Abuse Specialist as well as a general Offender Manager are now in post. Another probation officer was due to return back to the island from maternity leave in May 2016

Other Matters

There are currently 23 registered sex offenders on the island of which 18 are managed within the community. , 6 of these have Sexual Offence Prevention Orders in place. Arrangements were in place to cover for the absence of the two offender managers. A succession plan to staff this section with a locally recruited officer was in place.

Level 2 and 3 training

All front line Police Directorate staff have completed Level 2 training with other staff starting the process. This training will become a minimum training requirement for all new staff joining the Directorate. All Police officers apart from 1 special have been given the Level 3 Training.

Safeguarding fund projects

OTRCIS – Fact finding trip was very successful, the system will match and in many cases exceed requirements. The servers have been built and are currently being shipped which should take around 4 weeks. Loading of UK convictions of saints or persons with connections to St Helena on to the OTRICS

Visa – Progress is good. System is built and testing will be completion soon.

‘Prove it Cards’ – There had been delays but the printer has now arrived and the designing of the cards, promotional and training materials are well advanced.

There was a comment that there was a downfall in the system as some proprietors didn’t bother to check if youngsters held a ‘Prove it Card’. This operation will be conditional on their licence which they must adhere to.

Health Directorate’s Report

A written report had been received and circulated.

Training

DoH - Safeguarding training for Health staff had been set as a high priority. A number of staff have completed Level 3 training and Level 2 online training has now been activated. The Practice Development Nurse is working with staff who are not computer literate to help them complete the training.

CRB/DBS - All current staff in the Health Directorate obtained the necessary clearance and this is renewed as and when necessary.

Transfer of client to the UK - Close collaboration continues with the Safeguarding Directorate and the Attorney General.

Communication – Information-sharing procedures are undergoing further review. Health Directorate does not have separate Safeguarding policies, rather they follow policies issued by Safeguarding Directorate and all of this information is available at the hospital.

Forensic Examinations – Ongoing work with the Police Directorate in gathering best evidence. A policy/procedure is being develop by the HNP in consultation with relevant personnel.

Staffing – Pending final budget for 2016/17 financial year additional posts will commence on the island. A Paediatrician will visit initially for 6 weeks and then will be reviewed. A full time school nurse allocated to the primary and secondary schools to help develop their full potential by providing a range of services and health promoting activities.

A resident full time Psychologist will join the Mental Health Team and two Mental Health nurses will also be appointed as well as a resident full time Dietician.

Safeguarding Directorate’s Report

A written report had been circulated.

The children’s services manager was in the UK attending conferences. Another member of staff would be returning from leave today and will take up the role of acting Team Manager during the manager’s absence.

Three staff members have been off sick placing additional workload on other staff members.

In response to the concern that some agencies were not clear as to who was in what role at Children’s’ Services, a staff structure chart had been drawn up and presented. .

It was suggested that this should published in the papers as this will also aid the public who are not always clear as to which staff works at Children’s Services and Adult Services.

A breakdown of referrals for February 2016 was outlined in the report. March had seen a higher number of referrals. Counselling was being provided to 14 clients.

Including awareness raising sessions on Ascension, training and case and group work on the island, over 299 persons had received training/service. An impressive performance

In February the number of children subject to child protection planning had gone down. However due to the numbers of child protection investigations in February and March it is likely that there could be a slight increase by the end of March.

Safeguarding Directorate asked other directorates to ensure staff has access to the Child Protection Policy and out of Hours Policy.

New Horizons

There was a question about CRB checks for a UK volunteer. If the person can provide a UK Instructor's qualification and a CLB/DBS and a local check done then there is no problem.

Salvation Army

CY – All is well – no issues to raise.

Any Other Business

It was suggested that someone from the Housing Section to be appointed as a member of the Safeguarding Children's Board. This was agreed by all Board members.

Action – Chair to speak to Director.

The first adoption was completed yesterday and the child has now been legally adopted.

Sex Education There was a Health programme hosted by the two Health Coordinators. The committee felt that more could be done to educate the island's younger people about these issues (STDs/contraception). Although parents had a role to play some were more focussed on preventing pregnancies rather than exploring the whole issue of safe sex.

Action – Health and Education directorates to review the various campaigns.

It was suggested that there also needed to be more work done on what are acceptable relationships in terms of age differences. A plan to be drawn up as to the way forward.

The Chair referred the meeting to the draft Safeguarding Children's Policy that had been drafted by social services. He commended the document to the Board. The Board welcomed the document. .

Cllr Scipio-O'Dean had offered to engage with elected members on the document.

Action – Cllr Scipio O'Dean.

It was suggested that comments to be submitted by 15th April. Written comments from the Police Directorate to follow up on discussions.

Crèches and Childminders – The Chair had been looking at the policies and processes. While the early year's adviser (now gone) had clearly done a lot of work, this had not been widely disseminated. There was some confusion over the roles of directorates. The priority had to be to

ensure that all service providers were inspected and registered. The forms were largely in place and it was now a question of conducting the physical inspections and issuing (if they passed) the certificates. It was agreed that while the registration process would be a social services responsibility, the inspections would be a joint effort by Education/Social Services. The first year would clearly take a little longer but annual renewals thereafter should be relatively straightforward.

Action DoE and SS.

Wass Action Plan

–Ginny Ferson was continuing with her review and on target to report to Parliament in May/June.

The need for an independent reviewing officer had been raised. Wherever possible a co-chair will be asked to sit in on the meetings.

A number of options were considered. The first was to recruit and appoint an IRO but there was not enough work on island to justify that expense. The second was to ask someone from Ascension but there was nobody with the required qualifications. The third was to ask someone to chair these remotely. The meeting felt this was a good option but it would have to be someone who knew the island.

It was agreed that while the PS was right to raise this, there was no legal requirement for an IRO and that the current arrangement was a pragmatic and transparent option until such time as an IRO could be found from off island.

A request had been received for the minutes of the Safeguarding Board meetings to be published. The Board didn't have a problem with this as long as the minutes had first been approved. Sensitive detail would clearly be minuted in a separate annex.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 11:45.

The next meeting is due to be held on Thursday 5th May 2016.

These minutes are not verbatim. Should any person identify discrepancies in the contents of these minutes they should report these as soon as possible for an addendum report to be attached.

Annex A

The Alternative Education Provision programme for a young male student at Prince Andrew School has started with a good degree of success. This is being done with support from Nick at New Horizons and the child's family is happy and supportive. It is anticipated to build upon the programme and integrate the young student back at PAS with full time support at the end of the school year. The aim is to rebuild faith in the Education system. LY and DoE to meet to further discuss.

A severely autistic child will be coming home from Ascension to attend Pilling Primary School. The School will be finding ways to accommodate this young child and matters are being taken on board which will be beneficial to all children. Strengthen links with Safeguarding Ascension.