

**MINUTES OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY,
8 SEPTEMBER, 2016 AT 10AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present:

Mr Sean Burns	Chair	Head of Governor's Office (SB)
Mr Mark Charters	Member	Director of Safeguarding (DoS)
Mr Darren Clarke	Member	Director of Health (DoH)
DCI Wendy Tinkler	Member	Detective Inspector (DI)
Miss Nikita Crowie	Alternative Member	Crown Counsel (NC)
Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Member	Children's Champion
Ms Steph Jones	Alternative Member	Asst Team Manager (SJ)
Mr Nicholas Stevens	Member	New Horizons (NS)

Invited:

Mr Mike Rodden	Finance Manager, Safeguarding Directorate (FM)
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1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Lieutenant Coral Yon and Miss Lolly Young. It was noted that NC and SJ were present as alternative members. The Chair reminded members that if for any reason a member could not attend a meeting, they should try and find someone else to represent their directorate.

SJ introduced Amanda Constantine as the new Administration Officer who is responsible for CP Admin.

It was noted that Mr Rodden had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss budgets and it was agreed that he should be present at all meetings (for this item only) to provide financial statements and updates.

2. Budgets

A twelve month phasing budget was circulated to members at the meeting that showed actual expenditure from April 2016 to July 2016.

The DoS explained that the budget that is ring fenced to be monitored by the Safeguarding Children's Board had been a major piece of work to analyse as the details of the business case agreed with DFID was unknown. There was a gap between what was in the November 2015 bid (£2.2 million) and what SHG was eventually given (£1.3 million). The Safeguarding directorate was working with the Finance team to resolve this. Most of the funds would have been taken up by TC posts and training. The Board was keen to retain some funds for community based schemes, which had worked very well in 2015/16 but recognised that without the clarity needed on where the budget was, nothing could be agreed at present. After a lengthy debate, the Board agreed that this item is deferred and a special meeting is arranged prior to the departure of the substantive Chair so that further work is carried out to determine what projects is to be funded and that the business case endorsed by DFID is to be circulated.

Action – DoS/Secretary/Chair

3. Confirmation of minutes

The Chair reminded members to inform the Secretary if they wish to remove any confidential information contained in the minutes prior to publishing on SHG web site. It was agreed that the July minutes could be posted on the webpage.

4. Matters arising

The Chair advised that the recruitment process strategy is in hand. It was reported that Social Workers had been interviewed.

It was noted that Education was compiling a business case in relation to SEN and early years in readiness for DFID FAM visit in November 2016.

5. SHG Child Safeguarding Action Plan:

- Police Directorate

RSO arrested for breaching his SOPO and sexual assault on a young girl. He was charged with both offences and remanded into custody. He is currently still remanded in custody.

Concerns surrounding an individual allowing contact between her children and a RSO. It was reported that the children are now on the child protection register.

It was disappointing that all directorates were not represented at Dr Lynsey Gozna's training session into understanding the behaviour of offenders, personality traits and their methods of controlling victims. It was agreed that a thank you letter should be sent to Dr Gozna.

Action: Chair

Members looked forward to receiving recommendations for setting up a Strategic Management Board to review MARAC decisions and ensure that the appropriate management of cases is in place. The boards were usually made up of director equivalents.

Action: Detective Inspector

- Children's Service Report

Staff levels – court cases are requiring a high level of input in readiness for Supreme Court in November. August has resulted in a higher level of referrals. Two families have been referred on more than one occasion which led to Initial Child Protection conference for both families. The department has been actively leading a number of child protection investigations (three active) and jointly where appropriate with the Police. All cases are now being co-worked between SCO's and SWs which enables effective joint working and ensures unqualified workers are not solely responsible for statutory cases.

There are now four UK qualified SW in Children's Services on island. Ursula Smith has joined Children's Services as a Social Worker on a six month contract.

An advert is due to go out for a Fostering Social Worker for six months. Terms of Reference for this post to be circulated.

Action: Asst Team Manager

Concern had been raised as to why fostering did not form part of Safeguarding Directorate's bid to DFID last year. This had now been overtaken as the post was now being funded from the 'project funding' for 16/17. It was for a six month post and someone had been identified who had done similar work in the Falklands.

- SJ requested permission from the Board to consider undertaking a research project linked to Empowering Parents whose Children are Subject to Care Proceedings. There is no Ethics Committee on Island and any research would need to be approved ethically. The Board was informed that this would not have any impact on Children's Services deliverables as the research will be carried out during staffs own time. Any impact would likely be positive as social workers can learn from research to ensure their practice is evidence based. This was welcomed and agreed and the Board looked forward to receiving the report in due course.

- **Education Report**

Concern was raised that the Safeguarding Policies had not been implemented at the beginning of the new school year. This was currently with the Education Committee.

Action: Children's Champion

- **Health Report**

The Health Directorate continues to work in close collaboration with the Safeguarding Directorate and Attorney General in relation to the Client currently overseas.

The Prison and Offender Management Nurse pilot project continues to focus on the delivery of therapeutic programmes for prisoners.

The Health Directorate is continuing to work with Police regarding forensic examinations and gathering best evidence. A draft policy/procedure has been developed by the radiographer.

6. International Child Protections Certificate (ICPC)

The Chair advised that he had sighted the press release in relation to vetting which had been instigated by the St Helena Government UK Representative office advising returning workers from the UK that it is advisable to obtain a CBS check. This was fine.

7. Wass Action Plan

An update will be provided prior to the substantive Chair's departure.

Action: Chair

St Helena Equality and Diversity

DoS reported that the Equality and Diversity trainers will arrive on island on 10 October 2016 for ten days. The programme will be disseminated once it has been received.

Action: DoS

8. Sub Groups

Training – Chair, Samantha Dunn

The report was circulated to update members on the training progress and areas that is being reviewed to improve safeguarding and well-being of children and families on St Helena.

Quality Assurance - Chair, Christine Scipio-O'Dean

The report was circulated highlighting that between September 2015 and January 2016, each service undertook a self-assessment utilising the auditing tool where quality improvement plans were developed for each area audited and planned actions with proposed completion dates were circulated.

It was agreed that all services will provide an update on the planned actions to the Quality Assurance Sub-committee so that an assessment can be carried as to whether the proposed actions have been undertaken.

Action: All Directorates

It was also agreed that during October 2016, each service within each Directorate conducts another self-assessment audit to evaluate current performance against the criteria.

Action: All Directorates

Policies- Chair, Lolly Young

No report was circulated; to be followed up.

Action: Secretary

Vetting – Chair, Laura McMullan

No report was circulated; to be followed up.

Action: Secretary

It was agreed that Terms of Reference for all sub-committees should be formalised and circulated to the Board for endorsement.

Action: Chairs of Sub-Committees

9. Any Other Business

DoS suggested that the SCB might want to review the way it looks at statistics from the various agencies. In his experience, these can tell you a lot about the way things are improving (or not) in various areas and be an indicator for the targeting of resources.

Action – SCB to consider further

Chair thanked all in attendance and the next SCB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 20 October 2016, 10am at AG Chambers. CC advised that she is unable to attend the next scheduled meeting as it clashes with a Council Committee meeting.