

**MINUTES OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
12 JANUARY 2017 AT 10AM IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present:

Ms Judi Leon	Chair	Head of Governor's Office (HOGO)
Mr Paul McGinnety	Member	Acting Director of Safeguarding (DoS)
Mr Darren Clarke	Member	Director of Health (DoH)
Mr Nicky Stevens	Member	New Horizons (NS)
Ms Lolly Young	Member	Education (LY)
Mrs Coral Yon	Member	Salvation Army (CY)
Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Member	Children's Champion (CC)
Mrs Wendy Tinkler	Member	St Helena Police (DCI)
Ms Tracy Thomas	Member	Housing (TT)
Ms Sherrilee Phillips	Secretary	HR Safeguarding (Sec)

Invited:

Mrs Amanda Fowler	Finance Manager, Safeguarding Directorate (FM)
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1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Laura McMullen, Crown Counsel, currently off island and Stephanie Jones, Acting Team Manager for Children's and Family Services.

Welcome to Amanda Fowler, Finance Manager for Safeguarding, for item 2.

HOGO welcomed everyone and wished all a productive New Year for safeguarding. Congratulations were extended to Stephanie Jones for her promotion Team Manager of the Children and Family Services.

DoS advised that Samantha Dunn had now left the island and Stephanie had been recruited in her place. DoS also advised the board that a new Director of Safeguarding, Matt Ansell, had been appointed and will arrive on the 17 March 2017.

2. Budgets

DOS advised that Safeguarding was in a good position and Mandy worked over the Christmas to work on the Budgets. Some legal bills had been paid, while others were being followed up. Expenditure has kept within budget with a slight forecast under spend.

CC asked if budgets could be submitted prior to meeting. HOGO advised this is being worked towards as there are constraints for the finance team in SG due to the isolation which impacts on the information gathered to complete the budgets. The budget actuals are not finalised by Corporate Finance until the middle of the following month and so a lot of the figures have to be entered manually. Access to the corporate system is also difficult, but this will be resolved with the fibre optic link in due course.

Grant applications have been encouraging which makes the scheme worthwhile. Details in item 8.

CC asked if the layout of the budget could be altered to include a column with the Total Actuals. Also, if a note could be included at the bottom of the spreadsheet giving a total

cost of the Police System. It was also noted that the information was unclear with regards the Forecast Column and the Budget Total column.

Action: FM

DoH explained he experiences similar problems with timelines, which mean he has to update the budgets after changes by Corporate. A request was made for a member from the Corporate Finance team to be present in the next meeting to explain the corporate budget system and timelines.

Action: HOGO

DoS advised that £210k was handed back to Corporate Finance to go towards the cost of the Care System Programme.

NS asked what Safeguarding uses part time staff for. DOS advised that part timers are used in the Family Centre. This is a requirement to accommodate the children in care. Eventually it is hoped to have appropriate children in foster care.

3. Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting of the board were confirmed and a few adjustments agreed before they were published on the SHG web site.

Action: Sec, HOGO

4. Matters Arising

Sub Committee Group ToRs and the Safe Internet campaign are on the agenda for this meeting.

A Confidentiality Agreement is to be drawn up for members of the CSB. A draft is awaiting Laura McMullan's return from overseas.

Action: LC

5. Updates from Directorates

Police Services

In addition to the Action Plan items in the report submitted by the Police, DCI explained The CID had submitted an Improvement Plan on what is hoped to be achieved in 2017. This can be reported at the next SCB meeting. Currently staff are on call during the weekend to deal with domestic abuse reports. It is hoped that extra support can be given to uniformed staff to ensure incidents are given the immediate response as needed.

DCI reported the Police were working with Health, Education and New Horizons to raise awareness of the risks associated with cannabis with students at PAS.

Concerns were raised regarding the Hop at the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre which goes until midnight and the age limit is 18. Alcohol bottles, cans and condoms have been found around the premises after these nights. Board members were also concerned about the limited levels of supervision at the recently opened Games Room near Barracks Square, especially with regards to young children and security.

It was agreed the Police would take action on both issues and report back to the SCB. NS also offered to have a quiet word with Barry Francis owner of the Games Room.

Action: DCI, NS

The need for Safeguarding Level 3 training was discussed, especially in Housing and Education. Sam Dunn's departure combined with a lack of capacity and experience in Children's Services mean there is limited capability available on island. DoS explained that a training bid for £80k including an external trainer had been submitted to FAM. DCI confirmed that Dave Honan is available until his departure later this year.

NS, DCI and DoS raised their concern about the recent outcomes in the Supreme Court and the impact this could have on victims and their families, who could be less willing to stand, and the pressure on services when the accused are not found guilty. HOGO said that the Governor was looking at the role of juries in the light of these cases, and would pass on the SCB's concerns so they could be taken into account.

Action: HOGO

Safeguarding

DoS updated the SCB on the issues covered in the SCDC January report.

Education

LY gave a verbal update, explaining the action that was being taken to re-integrate a child. She thanked those SCB members who had assisted in this multi-agency approach. LY reported that the Child Protection Policy was being submitted to the Education Committee.

Health

DoH summarised the issues in his report. He also explained the work Health were doing on the Tobacco Control Order, in conjunction with the Dept of Health in the UK. Issues being considered included packaging and a 100% ban on sponsorship and advertising.

DoH agreed to provide an update on dental provision and awareness at the next SCB.

Action: DoH

Housing

TT raised concern on the Homeless and the issues surrounding Domestic Violence and Social Behaviour.

Some of the Housing policies has loop holes.

They are now advertising for a Housing assistant as they want to always make sure there are two people at all times making house visits.

Concern was raised over support for single mums with children maybe food packages as the struggle could have a knock-on effect with the children.

6. Sub Committees – reports

7. Sub Committees – value and ToRs

Training – following Sam Dunn's departure, membership of this group was discussed. DoS recommended Matt Ansell should join, on arrival, while it was suggested that Dave Honan, Cynthia Bennett and Heidi (Health) would join/continue. The reinforced sub-committee to agree ToRs and prioritise delivery of consistency of training across the agencies.

Action: DoS

Quality & Assurance – CC agreed to continue as lead for this sub-committee. She will again request comments on the ToRs. It was also agreed CC would conduct an audit.

CC asked for clarification as to the process for agreeing revised ToRs, and said the original ToRs had been agreed by the CSB in 2014. HOGO requested sight of these so they could be discussed at the next meeting. HOGO had sought examples of ToRs from DfID and other OTs but no useful documents had been shared.

Action: CC, HOGO

8. Cyber Bullying, Safe Internet Use and Parental Responsibility Campaign

HOGO introduced this 4-week campaign, launched this week, which is all about keeping children safe, supported by Sure and Gigabyte IT Solutions. She welcomed ideas and feedback. HOGO asked for volunteers, preferably islanders from the Board, to take part in radio interviews on three different subjects. NS and LY volunteered their services.

LY said Wendy Benjamin, Ag Director, is going to put together a curriculum for the Primary Schools. LY raised the importance of keeping up to date with new IT platforms, eg Snapchat. It was agreed a one-off campaign was only the start and it would be necessary to reiterate these messages at regular intervals.

9. AOB

DoS advised that currently there are no services provided to children to have legal representation. This has been raised with DFID as there has been no provision for this in the past. CC asked if safeguarding is in a safe place to provide these services as there should be consistency especially when staff leave. This will be considered on receipt of DfID's response.

HOGO gave an update on the Grant Scheme. SCB representatives had approved the majority of the 14 applications received, with additional information requested in order to reach a decision on some of those outstanding. CC asked HOGO if information on the grants could be circulated to members before it goes in to public domain.

Action: HOGO

HOGO advised that Ben Merrick, Deputy Director of the OTs' Directorate in the FCO with responsibility for the FCO OT's Child Safeguarding Unit, was visiting on 29-31 January. It was agreed to hold a special Board meeting on 30 January to discuss issues with Ben, and that it was important he should undertake some site visits.

CC asked if Ben could go back on a positive note and ask for more money as progress has been made but there are still challenges. It was agreed that Ben should have a full picture of what has happened but there is still a way to go to embed multiagency working and ensure sustainability of services at the next level. HOGO to arrange safeguarding elements of Ben's programme.

Action: HOGO

HOGO thanked all present and the meeting ended at 12.10hrs.