

**MINUTES OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 20
October 2016 AT 10AM IN THE AG CHAMBER'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present:

Ms Judi Leon	Chair	Head of Governor's Office
Mr Paul McGinnety	Member	Ag Director of Safeguarding (DoS)
Mr Darren Clarke	Member	Director of Health (DoH)
DCI Wendy Tinkler	Member	Detective Inspector (DCI)
Ms Lolly Young	Member	Education Department (LY)
Miss Laura McMullan	Member	Crown Counsel (LM)
Ms Steph Jones	Alternative Member	Asst Team Manager (SJ)
Mrs Coral Yon	Member	Salvation Army (CY)

Invited:

Jo Cheeseborough – DFID (JC)
Sarah Williams – Executive Assistant for Safeguarding

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies: Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean and Mr. Nicholas Stevens

Chair introduced herself and welcomed all. Chair advised that she had discussions with FCO before she arrived and they said there has been a lot of work done through working together in the last 2-3 years and she would like for all to keep this up. Chair advised she is looking forward to working with everyone. Chair also said that she would like all concerns to be brought before the board to address together. Introductions from board members and Chair thanked Sherrilee Phillips for secretary duties.

2. Confirmation of minutes

Minutes of the 8th September 2016 were confirmed.

3. Budgets

DoS advised budget changed to £1.5 million.

6 October budget meeting – underspent £35,000 for this year (board to decide on small grants) £15,000 is in small grants on budgets. DoS advised that if an advert is sent to the press shortly after this meeting, grant money could be distributed to successful applicants by January/February 2017. Grants are up to the value of £1000. **Action: DoS**

2016/17 budgets were produced for all members to view/discuss.

DCI concerned about one year posts as those who are in post undertaking investigations are then gone at important time such as Supreme Court.

4. Matters arising

MAPPA – DCI advises that review and quality check of MAPPA cases has not being conducted. It requires a volunteer who is not involved in the process who can provide

cast a critical eye over cases to provide reassurance that they are being considered appropriately. SJ volunteered to conduct a dip sample review.

Fostering children Social worker advert has gone out.

LY informed that the Education Statutory Safeguarding Policies were presented to Education Committee. The Committee wanted some further policies related to Safeguarding of teachers, which the Director is working on. LY offered to review the draft policies **Action: LY** Equality and Diversity Training – Trainer arrives 15 November. Directorates have received email to make the training accessible and are asked to encourage colleagues and let Sarah, Executive Assistant of Safeguarding know as soon as possible. **Action: DoS (EA to circulate)**

Sub Groups – See sub groups comment below.

Policies – See Sub-groups comments below.

5. SHG Child Safeguarding Action Plan:

- Police Directorate

Registered Sex Offenders – Work is currently being conducted with AG Chambers in relation to a loophole in the registration of offenders who return to St Helena and are subject to a and indefinite period of registration. It is hoped that once this loophole is blocked those who have been de-registered will be required to re-register.

OTRICS - Has created watch list on system which is accessible in customs terminal.

DCI advised they are currently preparing for Supreme Court in November and a lot of work is being done. DCI also advised John Clarke, Detective Constable (Offender Manager), arrived on the RMS who will work very closely with the updating of register.

Video Conferencing Facility – DCI advised this is now in place in the prison and awaiting connection with SURE.

- Children's Service Report

SJ advised the C&F section has been busy with Supreme Court also. SJ advised they are working very closely with the Police in regards to RSO's and there are currently no issues.

Staffing changes – staff changes are unsettled but SJ reassured they are all working together.

It was also advised the post for the Director is currently being advertised.

SJ advised the recruiting for the Fostering Social Worker is in progress and hopefully should be here Jan/Feb 2017.

- Education Report

Staffing – LY advised they are currently without a SENCO however, they are looking to restructure.

LY put a proposal to the board for alternate provision for children with learning difficulties i.e. 1-1. CY advised the school could use the Salvation Army Hall in Jamestown for short-term and DCI advised they could utilise the Half-way House until accommodation can be source for long-term. LY to explore further. **Action: LY**

- **Health Report**

Staffing - DOH advised they cannot recruit for school nurse post despite advertising numerous times. Therefore they will be proceeding for a TC.

DOH advised the Educational Psychologist will arrive Jan 2017.

The recruitment of a full-time Dietician is on-going as the candidate withdrew prior to commencement.

50 hearing aids due to arrive and due to high work load audiologist returns on this ship – factor annual visit.

DOH will be submitting a bid for a health visitor for children between the ages of 0- 5 years of age

St John's Villa is no longer the Community Nurses' building it is now used for mental health. DOH advised a two bed mental health unit is urgently needed and hopefully will be in the Capital Bid for next year.

There are plans to expand HTH Clinic and Sandy Bay clinic however this clinic is in a dispute over ownership – however had money set aside for refurbishment.

6. WASS Action Plan

Chair apologised for sending two versions of the WASS reports to members. She was keen to agree outstanding actions.

Incoming staff – Induction plans are in place for all Directorates including a monthly induction for all new comers across SHG. Education needs to do more work into induction programs. Safe guarding induction always updating as policy ever-changing – agreed with Police and Health.

*Need fostering legislation – been drafted by Ag chambers and with Safeguarding. Successful candidate will be here in January/February.

Diversity Training - Trevor Gordon arriving 15 November. The Level 2 course will be conducted 16 – 22.

The DV Policy is on-going.

OTRIS moving from amber to green on the WASS report.

DOH advised the EDF bid is not a priority – this was for new hospital build – but instead refurbished general hospital which is completed. Since using new South African health service this has opened up accessibility to additional hospitals in South African aside from LIFE.

Chair to update WASS report and circulate to all plus FCO.

Action: Chair

7. Sub Groups

Training

Sam Dunn currently off-island.

Quality Assurance

Health undertook audit but have not seen any audits from other Directorates. DOH to circulate to all Directorates for completion. **Action: DoH/All**

The Board discussed the value of the Sub Groups and agreed it would be helpful to (re)visit their TORs for Training and Quality Assurance (subject to CC's comments on the latter) to ensure they contributed to the Board's functions as set out in the Welfare of Children Regulations.

Members agreed the Policies Sub Group was not required as this function was carried out by the separate Directorates.

JC will explore as to whether DFID/FCO have any TOR's available for the sub-groups and the Safeguarding Children's Board (March 2010 ToRs attached) so this matter can be taken further. **Action: JC**

Vetting

LM advised that she and WT had met to discuss vetting and had also met with SHG HR in order to ensure that there is compliance at this time with the current system. They raised concerns as to whether the current system was appropriate.

LM stated that having spoken with the previous vetting sub-group chair, Angelo Berbotto, she was made aware that the group had been created to progress legislation relating to criminal conviction checks at the time of job applications/offers. She explained that at this time there was no specific legislation in St Helena to address the issues. As a result, LM stated that this work would need to be undertaken by the AG's Chambers rather than by the sub group. She proposed that she would research this area of law and provided proposals for legislation to the SCB.

It was agreed that the vetting sub-group be disbanded at this time.

Action: LM (on-going)

8. Any Other Business

Campaigns – Ag DOS advised all members that if they have any campaigns for the Festive Season if they could be forwarded to him as soon as possible. **Action: Ag DOS/All Members**

Chair said she would discuss the Board's composition and functions with DoS to ensure it was well placed to deliver its responsibilities.

Action: Chair/DoS

Chair thanked all in attendance and the next SCB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 1 December 2016, 10am at AG Chambers.