

**MINUTES OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
23 February 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 Helen Lawrence	Member	Assistant 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 Frankie Gonsalves	Member	Ag Team Manager, Children's (CF)
Mr Mike Rodden	Secretary	Child Services Safeguarding (Sec)

Invited:

Mr Nicholas Yon	Assistant Financial Secretary (AFS)
Mrs Amanda Fowler	Finance Manager, Safeguarding Directorate (FM)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Laura McMullen, Crown Counsel, Coral Yon, Salvation Army & Darren Clarke, Director of Health.

HOGO welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mike Rodden for taking over as Secretary. She apologised for the late circulation of papers.

2. Budgets

DOS advised that Safeguarding was heading for a small under spend. Litigation costs are continuing and will be significant later in the year. Expected underspend, excluding these, is £40k. Summary and variance column requested. Legal costs high, but employment of extra legal staff has kept that down.

AFS explained the monthly budget/reporting process and the actions required to achieve this.

CC requested a copy of the monthly P & L Report. FM to forward to Secretary who will send it on to members.

Action: FM/Sec

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

Draft Confidentiality Agreement is with LC.

Action: LC

Concern about Jury system – HOGO has spoken to the Governor and Ben Merrick (Deputy Director, OTD, FCO) who has raised with FCO legal advisers.

Health – DoH to provide update on dental provision and awareness at next SCB.

Action: DoH

Membership of training sub committee to be reinforced, before agreeing ToRs and prioritising consistency of training across the agencies.

Action: DoS

CSB ToRs to be reviewed by HOGO and circulated to LC then all for comment.

Action: HOGO

Internet Use – limited feedback received on campaign. Education has taken a number of actions. It was agreed this should not be a one-off exercise, and that it should adapt as the technology and usage evolved on the island. Education had previously run a campaign prompting the Board to agree Directorates should let SCB know about their future safeguarding-related activities so these could be coordinated.

Action: All

Grants Scheme – New Horizons concerned about an application being rejected due to lack of physical activity issues. HOGO reminded NS there is money to fund a new bid that meets the criteria, if they wanted to apply.

Action: NS

Ben Merrick's visit – HOGO thanked those involved and reported back Ben's positive comments on the work being done to progress Child Safeguarding.

5. Updates from Directorates

Police Services

A number of investigations occurring, historic & current.

Geek Boutique – Police made 4 visits. Restricted games being actively supervised by Owner/Manager who said he has a zero tolerance around bullying and intoxication/drug use. He is willing to undertake Level 2 training if this is open to him.

Action: DoS

Police will continue to do spot checks. Owner asked to have meeting with Child Services. NS raised concerns about one individual and will share these with DCI.

Action: NS

HTH Disco – Chair has made some improvements but further supervision needed. Advice given on children:adults ratio and finishing time. Often a lot of rubbish including bottles and cigarettes outside next morning. Police are continuing to monitor.

Probation Officer from Falklands providing locum cover for 8 weeks.

Other issues – Cannabis presentation, purchase of children's seat belts and update of Improvement Plan.

Safeguarding

High referrals last month mainly on open cases, no specific themes. CC requested further high level info.

Action: CF

CF is discussing 17 year olds in need of housing with TT.

Fostering Social Worker, Anne Bell, arrives 25 Feb.

Education

Theraplay confirmation letters received by some staff.

Equality & Diversity training being cascaded.

Education Ordinance to be updated with an emphasis on safeguarding of children. Other policies at schools emphasise this also and Community College will include the Public Library.

Other issues include Citizenship Award with Police and Healthy Schools audit.

Claire Cox, recently arrived Educational Psychologist will attend next meeting.

Health

Concerns raised that the recently appointed Speech & Language Therapist and Behavioural Therapist were (part?) funded by the SCB but their emphasis seems to be on adults not children. HOGO to speak to DOS/DOH.

Action: HOGO

A number of specialist staff have commenced or are about to commence including a diabetes specialist (Endocrinologist).

A Health Promotion Advisory Group and a Health Promotion Advisory Consultative Group being established. Emphasis on healthy eating, exercise and reducing incidence of obesity.

NS concerned no response from Health re gym equipment and hoped to address this today.

Also NS advised netball will be a new focus New Horizons. A fast growing sport and potential aim for St Helena is Commonwealth Games.

Discussion about need for more activities after school and in holidays, especially for primary school children. Could school facilities be used, how best to coordinate with CSH, Library, New Horizons etc? NS offered to speak to CSH.

Action: DoS / NS

Housing

Finalising rehousing of 3 families.

Housing 16 to 18 year olds an issue, need to ascertain whether these are SHG or parental responsibility.

There are concerns about some families with domestic violence and anti-social behaviour, but people are reluctant to report these. Agreed need to continue to encourage people to share information.

6. Sub Committees – reports

None received. Current focus on updating membership and ToRs.

7. Sub Committees – value and ToRs

ToRs

ToRs not updated since 2014. HOGO to investigate.

Action: HOGO

Training

ToRs need Board approval.

Quality Assurance

CC requested outstanding updates be sent to her by 3rd week in March.

Action: All to check

8. Embedding Multi Agency Working

Consider this for next meeting. HOGO invited all to come with ideas about how to progress this.

Action: All

9. Any Other Business

HOGO indicated her intentions to re-invigorate the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Taxi assurance certification – LY questioned Taxi certification and what it involved.

Action: HOGO / DOS

NS questioned whether it would be acceptable for costs incurred studying for a further counselling qualification to be met by SHG.

Action: HOGO / DOS

HOGO thanked those that were present and the meeting closed at 12.10hrs