

MINUTES OF SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN'S BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017 AT 10AM IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS CONFERENCE ROOM.

Present:

Mr Matt Ansell	Chair	Director of Safeguarding (DoS)
Mr Dave Honan	Member	St Helena Police (DS)
Ms Christine Cooper	Member	Crown Counsel (AGO)
Ms Stephanie Jones	Member	Team Manager, Children's (CF)
Mr Nicky Stephens	Member	New Horizons
Ms Coral Yon	Member	Salvation Army
Ms Wendy Benjamin	Member	Education (DoE)
Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Member	Children's Champion (CC)
Hon Tony Green	Member	Elected Member (EM)
Ms Tracy Thomas	Member	Housing (TT)
Ms Fiona Campbell	Guest	Probation (FC)
Dr Akeem Ali	Member	Director of Health (DoH)
Paul Bridgewater	Guest	Adult Services (PB)
Mr Mike Rodden	Secretary	Children's Services (SEC)

1. Welcome: DoS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Nil

2. Confirmation & Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Building for education around children with difficulties to be addressed by Education. Education to report to the Board on progress. **Action: DoE**
- Disability toilet – Commode due in January & home one to be used meantime. TT had questioned Property about the hoist issue. The hoist & commode have been ordered. TT has raised the question about bringing the Property personnel involved & discussing it with them. Discussion around an enquiry as to how it got to this point by CC & DoS. DoS recommended that a letter be written to the Governor that a formal investigation be carried out.

There are real lessons that need to be taken forward such as financial issues, a lack of understanding and other significant issues. An independent enquiry needed & the letter to include this request. **Action: DoS**

- PHSE – DoE to speak to AGO & report back at next meeting. **Action : DoE**
- April will be the Fostering Campaign.
- JMC took place – intervention
- Board Training – Mike Cotteril here in February. FCO to support flights.
- Training – Paul Bridgewater to speak to meeting.
- Mock Training – Steph has a case that can be used for the exercise. Agreed to hold it separate from the meeting on 23 January.

- Welfare Home Regulations – Currently there are no regulations to cover Children’s Residential Home. These address that with standards & expectations similar to UK. These have been to EXCO & subject to going to SoCB today for any amendments. AGO advised that these were much more comprehensive. Private residential home regulations could be looked at. Request through AG Chambers.

Form to be completed & submitted.

Action: DoS

Currently 2 Govt properties are allocated and could take up to 8 children. Are numbers correct? One home could have a maximum of 6 children. **AGO to change numbers to more than 6 for each building.**

Action:

AGO

Page 15 Section 6 – “practice within 24 hours” to read “no later than 48 hours”.

Page 18 Section D2 – 6 months rationale discussed and the name department versus Directorate. AGO explained that the Directorate is considered the Department.

Financial explanations, funding, no complications, buildings acceptable, staff suitable.

Concern expressed to why we don’t have regulations.

Page 4 Reg 5 (j) add “wishes & feelings of the child be taken into account”.

Page 9 (subst 2) “and any other person with parental responsibility”.

Page 10 – “Manager to have full vetting (criminal record) certificate”.

Page 13 – Access to communication. Restricting children to comms could be a role for the children’s champion and this was agreed to.

Chief of Police had some comments in this area which were also considered. These were around staffing & internet access.

AGO to complete the above amendments.

Action:

AGO

3. Feedback from BOTCS

DoS advised on the Conference he attended in London, between the Overseas Territories & UK Govt.

There is a memo of understanding between the 2 entities.

5 areas for discussion.

The purpose was to get together & get updates from Project leads as follows:

- Information Sharing – Criminal Records Office – sharing information.
- Safer Recruitment – St Helena is some way ahead in this area & is to pass information to assist Montserrat to develop a template.
- Fostering & Adoption – Gibraltar is a good example of moving children from residential home to private foster carers.
- Online Resources – Falklands

- National Response Plans – St Helena which is also a good example in this area.

Conference – better to have a practice conference. DoS to send out papers. **Action:**

DoS

4. Adult Training

Paul Bridgewater briefed the Board on the training available and outlined the following;

- Pathway of clear training.
- Training for carers.
- Model for St Helena (with guidance from UK)
- Minimal level of training.
- Staffing.

Ideally the training would be available to everyone. Does the SoCB want this?

Agreed to take this forward. Safeguarding will work on this over the next 3 months & bring back to the Board. **Action:**

PB

5. Essential Updates from Directorates

Health – DoH advised that Health now have a formal children’s safeguarding policy in place. A copy will be provided to the Board. **Action:**

DoH

Housing – TT advised of 5 cases requiring housing for families. Some have been successful.

Police – FC advised she was replacing DS Honan today with an emphasis on the proposed alcohol project.

Education – Dealing with an ongoing safeguarding situation. Four children with complex needs will be attending school next year. LADO & referrals can be made at the same time.

Golf Club – EM confirmed that the Golf Club has a Safeguarding Policy.

AG Chambers – AGO advised CRH bill will go to LEGCO on Tuesday. Proposed child labour legislation restricts children working in Bars to twice a month. There may be a move to remove that on Tuesday. Do we want to make representations to have no restrictions? “Approval of parents” could be added.

Children’s Champion – CC advised Autism issues being worked upon. Working with PAS – workshops i.e. Children’s rights and are police involved in supporting this.

6. Drug & Alcohol Service

FC advised that she was seeking support from the SoCB and was hoping to get started in the New Year.

Has spoken to Magistrate, Nick Aldridge and will have further discussions.

Cost will be modest. There will be issues around banning orders, Police not Court to monitor/action.

It is hoped that the diversionary side of the justice system will come into play.

A voluntary group could be used with structured support for individuals. Jilly Brooks (qualifications ?) involved.

It would target adults, but would need to consider impact on families & children. Some questions – can a 14 year old access the service? Child services would be involved. Who pays the costs? Would it be through court orders or the individuals? Needs to be confirmed.

Also where does the health service fit in versus the need here? Court has to be specific. Tier 2 & 3 actioned by Health??

Progress is good, but need a steer.

EM advised a helpful service has been provided by Health.

FC to look at numbers of people involved.

If formal then this means having staff available.

Court wants to address this & push for a voluntary separate service.

Court favours a structural programme. Creating a new system. Further work to be done. What do the Court want or do?

Court Order would specify x number of sessions.

To work on the above issues.

Action: FC

CC to arrange what a Court Order looks like and provide to DoH.

Action: AGO

DoS thanked all those present. The meeting concluded at 12.10hours.

Next meeting to be held at 10am on 25 January 2018 in the AG Chambers, The Castle or Children's Service Ebony View (TBC).