

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

Present:

Mr Matt Ansell	Chair	Director of Safeguarding (DoS)
Dr Akeem Ali	Member	Assistant Director of Health (DoH)
Mr Nicky Stevens	Member	New Horizons (NS)
Mrs Coral Yon	Member	Salvation Army
Mr Dave Honan	Member	St Helena Police (DS)
Ms Lisa Phillips	Member	Governor's Office (GO)
Ms Christine Cooper	Member	Crown Counsel (AGO)
Ms Stephanie Jones	Member	Team Manager, Children's (CF)
Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Member	Children's Champion (CC)
Shirley Wahler	Member	Education Directorate (SW)
Mr Mike Rodden	Secretary	Child Services Safeguarding (SEC)

Apologies:

Ms Tracy Thomas	Member	Housing (TT)
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DoS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Budget** – DoS advised regarding the £330k he will be talking to DfID regarding the £330k that has been allocated to the Safeguarding Project so as to clarify what they actually approved for the Safeguarding Project. DoS to meet with CC after the meeting. CC advised of handrail costs being charged to CS Budget. This may be a misallocation of funds. There was also a discussion on the Board's role. Training and an advertising campaign – DoS to communicate by email.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting of the board were confirmed.

3. Matters Arising

FAM Paper and Grants Criteria to be Circulated

Action: SEC

Calendar of events to be sent to Secretary – aim to have a co-ordinated media campaign.

Action: ALL

Confidentiality Agreement to go out – CC to confirm it is suitable.

Action:

AGO

SW advised schools would continue to carry out their own local projects without referring to the Board.

Disability toilet – understood to be now functional, but SW would need to confirm. **Action: SW**

Alcohol & young people issue. To discuss later.

Geek Unique – Okay, no issues.

Churches Safeguarding Policies – This is being worked on by Legal. In terms of other organisations most groups have Safeguarding Policies, but need to scope these to see if there are any gaps. AG was to look at the law surrounding this.

Action: CF

The minutes were confirmed.

4. SHG Child Safeguarding Action Plan

Details the work carried out by the 3 working groups:

Healthy Living - CF briefed the meeting on the physical, emotional need & health.

Diets important – free school meals. Looked at this and from research there is evidence of improvement in learning at school. The cost of providing meals on a daily basis is expensive especially depending on the cost per meal

DoS suggested we need to get a strategic plan in place and get some actions around this.

Safety & Security – DS advise a CSE Issue – Substance misuse, road Safety, Domestic Abuse.

DoH important to focus on CF & DS's work. CF & SW advised that poor relationships damaged children. DS advised domestic abuse a real issue on the Island. This is an underlying issue for children & their emotional needs. SW advised that 2years of children's safe regard shaped by other influences.

Access to Support for Families - DoH – Home environment, mental health & housing are all issues of concern.

Agreed by the Board that we address these issues.

DoS to draft, circulate & discuss at the next meeting, sign off and start getting things done.

Each representative to have discussed & agreed with their directorate/organisation.

Action: DoS

5. Independent Officer Role

CF – spoke to her paper on this.

Normally there are 5 to 12 cases a year that would need to be reviewed in Children's Services.

IRO holds Directorates to account e.g. currently we have 2 children on full orders for a long time, which could come under scrutiny

Chair to have casting vote Dave.

CC suggested one person to do Children & adults.

IRO could provide training

Independent view of Mappa cases could also be a task

CC suggest an approach to DfID.

Really a SW role – AGO

Important having people on the Island who are accessible.

Falklands have an IRO.

St Helena ahead of other OTs in terms of practice.

Approach would be to address issue immediately – draft a proposal and a job profile also.

Interim Solution – DoS to seek a colleague to do this.

Dos & CF to work on this and seek funding. Agree to progress.

Action: DoS/CF

6. Saint Helena Signs of Safety

Presentation by DoS on this model which has been used for 20 years in Australia.

A strength based model with – honesty to clients, attachment important.

Comments from local members of SCB suggest a new approach not always good as systems/models get abandoned when people leave.

This has long term support from Providers of the Model.

Important it is aimed at local people.

Preventative community work.

GO advised to be aware how locals could react to a Blue Print

DoS asked the meeting to sound people out, bring back and discuss.

Action: ALL

7. Updates from Directorates & Sub Committees

A brief discussion on these. Reports necessary if there is something to report, but could be a time wasting exercise.

Safeguarding Children's Services (CF) - Staff movements – Frankie Gonsalves & April Lawrence (newly qualified) are expected to return soon. Ursula Smith has completed her contract & Anne Bell will move to support the Home (Family Centre) Supervisor.

Family Centre is proposed to be renamed Children's Residential Home.

Two difficult cases have had support from Police. Multi agency response is urgent situations is positive, but attendance & contributions to planned Child Protection Conferences seem to have declined. Detailed guidance and report templates are sent out with invites. For a meeting to be quorate at least 3 agencies need to attend. Without that the meeting cannot go ahead.

The number of referrals to Children's Services in May was 12.

Health (DoH) – No specific new updates. Health representatives have been sent to case conferences as required

Police (DS) Issue of child offenders a concern and historically children have received criminal convictions for an offence leading to difficulties later in life, in terms of seeking employment etc. Paper to be circulated prior to next board meeting.

Housing (TT) Dealing with 5 ongoing cases. This includes a father requiring larger accommodation and being resolved by swapping with another tenant. An overcrowding issue for young mother and assisting to re-house to a larger property.

Education - Nil

Sub Committees - Quality Assurance – DoH to address later.

8. Other Business

AGO advised Child employment / Child cruelty legislation had not gone to committee as yet. Once the election is over these can be dealt with.

Educational ordinance – Many seem to be unaware of this.

AGO & SW concerned about 15 year olds working in Bars and DoH concerned about children being exposed to alcohol. Need to check what has been done in the past and bring it back to the next meeting.

Action: CC

SW & DoH concerned about legal recommendations. Nothing will happen prior to the next meeting.

Medical Examination Suite – Discussion held on sourcing equipment for this.

Car seats – DS advised that car seats are available free to those earning below £25k and £50 for those above £25k. These cannot be sold, but can be gifted on. Publicity will be required on how to fit them into vehicles.

Chair Person

Discussion non who should Chair the Board. GO - do we need a different Chair?

Interim period Matt to Chair until issue is resolved.

CC concerned Governor's Office has a rep only

Governor's Office still represented on Board.

SFO rep on impartial

Change TOR–circulate. DoH has drafted an amended TOR & SEC to circulate.

Action: SEC

DoS thanked all those present. The meeting closed at 12.03hrs.

Next meeting to be held at 10am on 10 August 2017 in the AG Chambers, The Castle.