

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

**Present:**

Ms Judi Leon	Chair	Head of Governor's Office (HOGO)
Mr Matt Ansell	Member	Director of Safeguarding (DoS)
Mrs 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)
Mr Dave Cushway	Member	St Helena Police (DCI)
Ms Tracy Thomas	Member	Housing (TT)
Laura McMullen	Member	Crown Counsel, AG Chambers
Ms Frankie Gonsalves	Member	Ag Team Manager, Children's (CF)
Mr Mike Rodden	Secretary	Child Services Safeguarding (Sec)

**Invited:**

Mrs Anne Bell	Fostering Social Worker (item 4, observer)
Mrs Amanda Fowler	Finance Manager, SFG (FM) (item 2)
Ms Claire Cox	Child Psychologist (item 4)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

HOGO welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Budgets**

FM agreed to circulate the P & L Report to members once it was printed. **Action: FM**

Members expressed frustration that budget report was incomplete and had not been received in advance. Budget report for FY 16-17 to be circulated when finalised.

**Action: FM**

CC advised Elected Members meet on 30 April to approve SHG budgets for FY 17-18. NS concerned about New Horizons' grant which ends in May.

Budget bid for Safeguarding to be compared with new budget when known. **Action: FM**

Children's car seats stored at Fire Station need to be promoted as being available. Seat belts are not yet law.

**Action:**

DCI

**3. Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting of the board were confirmed.

**4. Matters Arising**

Item 2 - P & L Report was sent.

Item 3 – MOPM of 23 Jan now on SHG website.

Item 4 Confidentiality agreement – to be circulated to members for signature.

**Action: HOGO**

Item 5 Dental provision & awareness – covered in item 5 below

Item 6 TORS for Training sub-committee – recently arrived DoS to be involved

Item 7 Need to align communications/campaigns by various agencies and SCB. Email or advise Sec of forthcoming plans so SCB can look to complement these **Action: All**

Item 8 Funding for two specialists is through Adult Services not from CS budget. Clarity needed on other issues. CC to speak to DoS. **Action: CC/DoS**

Lack of activities for primary school children after school and in holidays – not SCB lead. However SHG buildings could be used and SHG commission NGOs to deliver services through Service Level Agreements with grants as a source of funding. NGOs would need to coordinate. LEDGCO to consider available funding on 21 April.

Taxis certification (child safety) – Chris Pickard, Head of Tourism suggested an inspection team to brief and certify drivers, leading to an approved list. Police agreed to represent safeguarding interests on consultation group.

**Action: DCI**

## **6. Visitors**

**Claire Cox - Education Psychologist**, briefed the meeting on her role. Works with school, children & family. Tasks include consultations, assessments, supporting intervention, cognitive training, research and policy.

2 year contract and first residential psychologist in 2 years. LY advised of value of having this support post, working with Education and Health.

Members agreed a report to the Board would be useful in the future.

CF advised tight referral pathways in place. Policy on exclusion discussed – ordinances being reviewed. AG involved.

### **Anne Belle – Fostering Social worker**

First fostering social worker in St Helena. Started looking at what needs to be put in place including policies, legislation and other gaps. Working with crèches, child minders & Family Centres. DoS agreed much to be done.

## **7. Revised ToRS**

HOGO summarised her recommendations to changes to 2014 SCB ToRs: to include strategic vision; introduce flexibility over sub committees, depending on need; agree and publish Business Plan; use report to DfID as basis of annual report to Governor; run targeted campaigns.

Agreed DoS to be appointed Vice Chair - to chair next meeting/s until HOGO's successor's arrival. Discussed changes to membership including value of combining CC and

Elected Member roles (to be reviewed after Council elections), and participation by Acting officers when core members absent.

HOGO to discuss with DoS and circulate revised version to members.

**Action: HOGO/DoS**

## **8. Updates from Directorates**

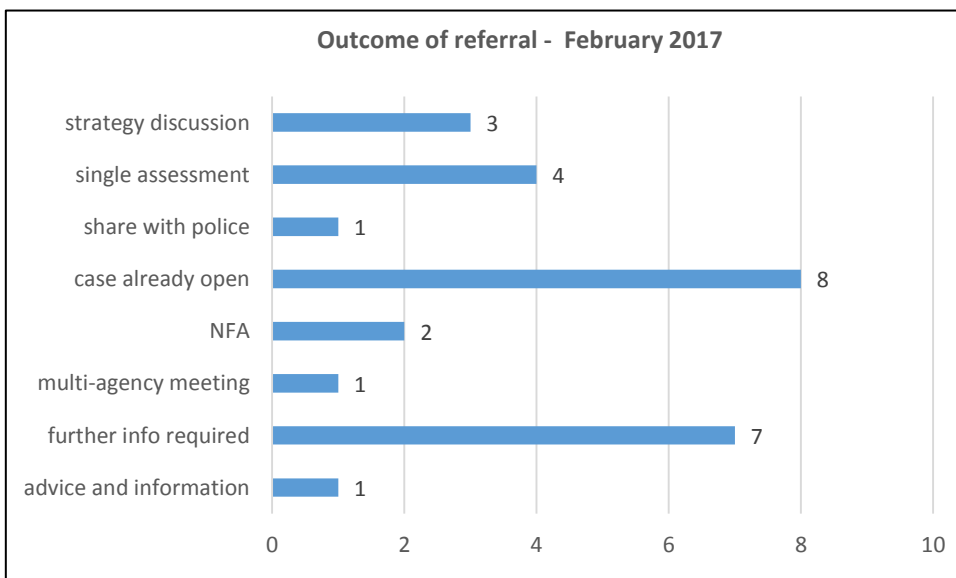
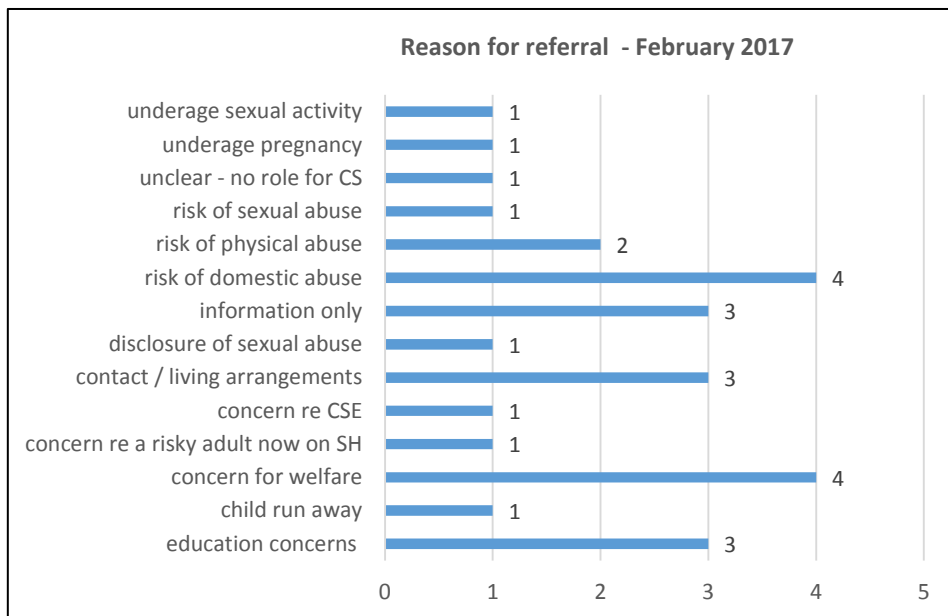
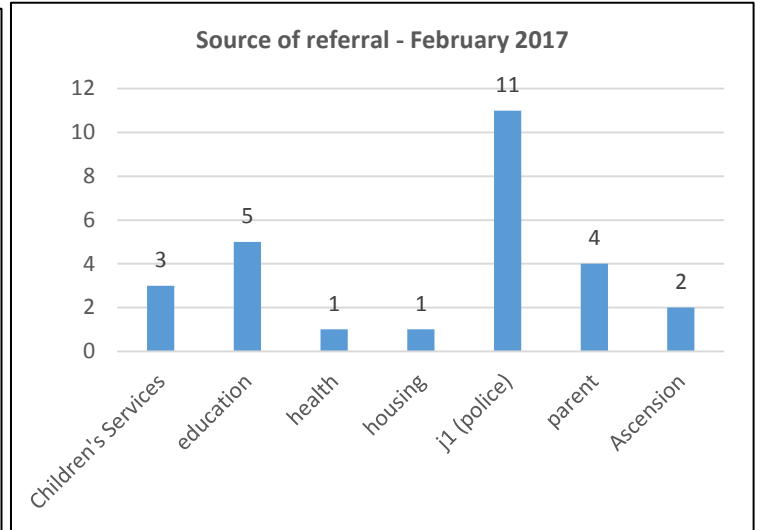
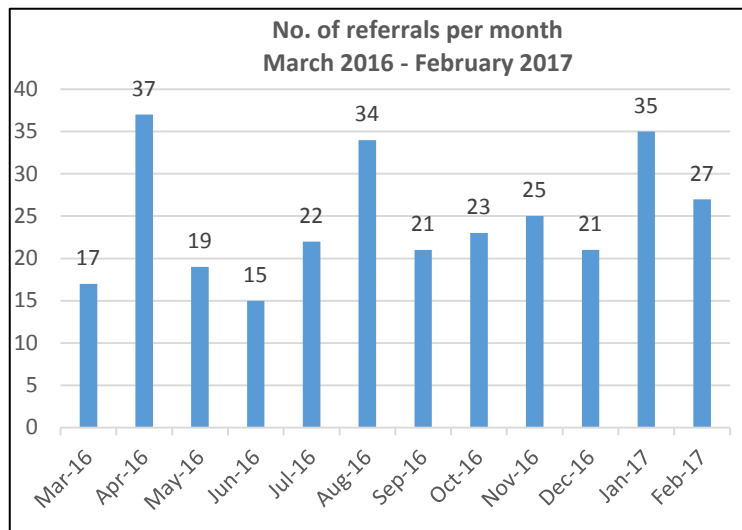
### **Safeguarding**

#### **Children's Services – (Frankie Gonsalves)**

1. The Team Manager is currently off island on Annual Leave and her return was delayed by the RMS amended schedule. She will return at end of April 2018. The team has continued to operate at slightly a reduced staffing level due to this and the movement of staff to the Family Centre.
2. During February and March the Directorate has responded to several incidents involving concerns around professionals working with children and vulnerable people. This has led to ongoing liaison with the Designated Officer based in the UK. This has highlighted the importance of this role into the future and the need for easy access to independent advice and support in this area.
3. Children's Services has seen a reduction in the number of children subject to Child Protection plans. This indicates positive progress made by families who have previously been in need of the highest level of support. It has been positive that recent Child Protection Conferences have been attended by almost all agencies which has allowed the conference to be quorate in its decision making. An area for continued development is the provision of reports from partner agencies for these meetings and for the systems prior to conference to be followed so that families are aware in advance of the information that will be shared.
4. The Conferences are now following a 'Signs of Safety' model which is a solution focussed approach and utilising visual presentation of information which promotes the engagement of group members within the discussion and process. Whilst this is commonly used in the UK it is only recently being used on St Helena and is still in early stages of development within the service. Feedback indicates that this is an empowering and supportive approach which keeps the family and professionals focussed on the risks but also what is needed to bring about change.
5. The Social Care Officers and Social Workers continue to work closely with Children In Need and there are currently three programmes of Keep Safe work being provided as one to one sessions with children. Life Story Work with a Child in Care is also being completed and is being tailored to meet the needs of the individual child. A Safer Families programme has just concluded with a Family Safety Plan agreed. Each of these interventions involve a great deal of planning and preparation as well as evaluation on completion. The Social Care Officers involved in these areas are developing their skills in

direct work with children and also, particularly with Safer Families, being able to sensitively challenge and explore attitudes and beliefs of parents.

6. The service currently supports two families where the children are subject to long standing Supervision Orders. The Directorate will be making applications for these to be revoked as it is the view of the service that this level of oversight is no longer necessary or proportionate in order to support the families. Historically such orders were often made open ended and it is important that the progress made by the families is recognised by the directorate supporting the revocation of this. Again this is developing the skills of Social Care officers as one is being supported to write the necessary court report which requires an advanced level of report writing skills.
7. The plans for an Autism Workshop were re-evaluated and have been re-structured to better reflect the needs of both families and professionals. It has been agreed that separate sessions will be devised for the two different groups, beginning with a parent / carers workshop with an aim of them taking the lead in identifying areas of support or education needed. This is being co-ordinated jointly with Children's Services and Education and colleagues in Adult's services will contribute in terms of providing information on transitions between the two services.
8. Ann Bell, Fostering Social Worker has arrived on island. She brings a wealth of experience in both fostering social work and residential work with children and young people. She has been developing the policies and procedures around the recruitment and training of potential foster carers. It was identified that the content of the foster carer training (Skills to Foster) was also relevant to the development of the Support Workers and Carers at the Family Centre. As such Ann is adapting the sessions, and working alongside the Family Centre staff to provide monthly training sessions around different topics. This includes concepts such as The Importance of Identity, Understanding the Needs of Children in Care, and Providing Safer Caring. This feels very exciting and timely with the Family Centre staff being expected to meet a higher level of need and to take on a more supportive role than they have previously provided.
9. The development of the Azeuscare Case Management System continues and the trainer is now expected to arrive at the end of April. A representative from Children's Services has been involved in the development and planning for this.
10. The number of referrals to Children's Services reduced in February. 27 referrals were received which led to four single assessments and one S57 investigation carried out jointly with police. The criminal element of this investigation continues, the child is adequately safeguarded and family are provided with relevant support.
11. At the last SCGB it was requested that a further breakdown of referral information be provided to the meeting. Please see attached graphical data based on referrals from February 2017 to aid this and feedback if different areas of referral information is required for future meetings.



CF spoke regarding Action Plan as follows:

Developing SCO skills.

Autism Care Project

AZEUS Care Training – end of April

Referrals down, no trends. Members welcomed the increased information on referrals and asked if this could be provided each month.

**Action:**

**CF**

## **Education (Lolly Young)**

### **Policy and procedures:**

Final draft documents are with Safeguarding Director for comments.

Education is currently reviewing and updating the Education Ordinance. A complete review of SEND provision is taking place and there will be a strong focus on Safeguarding. The Director from Safeguarding and his team will be consulted on this.

The Safeguarding audit has been finalized and an action plan drawn up.

### **Staffing matters of concern**

Following allegations from a vulnerable child a staff member was suspended from work, whilst a multi-agency investigation took place.

### **Report for DfID**

The Educational Psychologist and I produced a statistical report for DfID based on the schools current SEN registers. Report attached.

The report will be developed to include some further statistical information with regards gender and individual school statistics, but will, in the main form the basis for an annual statistical report from Inclusion Services.

### **Alternative Education Provision**

The focus now for both cases is on reintegration into school. The Secondary child is receiving increased time at school and this will soon extend to include break sessions.

Discussions are taking place on how best to facilitate a start of reintegrating the primary child back into school.

### **Training**

The Educational Psychologist has delivered Attachment Training to Teacher Trainees and will be delivering Attachment and Emotion Coaching training for staff working within the AEP programme- specifically geared to the two children currently on AEP.

Cynthia Bennett delivered a three hour interactive Equality and Diversity session to all non-teaching staff within the Directorate.

### **Transition from Primary to Secondary**

Preparation for children transitioning to PAS is beginning. The Inclusion team will work closely with Primary schools and Secondary to support the transition of children with SEND and our most vulnerable children.

There is also a focused programme around children with disabilities transitioning from PAS to work/ beyond school.

Draft policies & procedures. DoS to peruse these.

Statutory guidance, allegations against staff.

Intervention – could address some issues early on if Health able to flag up future cases.

Rare disorders.

Report to be distributed.

**Action: Sec**

### **Health**

- **CRB/DBS:** All current staff in the Health Directorate obtained the necessary clearances prior to engagement and these are renewed as necessary.
- **Transfer of client to the UK:** The Health Directorate continues to work in close collaboration with the Safeguarding Directorate and Attorney General in relation to this matter.
- **Staffing Update:**
  - Dietician (TC Post) to arrive in April 2017.
  - Optician visit scheduled April – July 2017.
  - School Nurse (TC post) commencing May 2017.
  - Paediatrician visit postponed to mid-2017.
- **Dental**

All schools receive one school screening examination per year. The Traffic Light scale is used to triage patients. The screening is followed by an in surgery examination

(including a charting and radiographs) and treatment of all children, starting with the red triage stage.

Outcomes of this screening for 2016/17 are:

490 children were screened.

2 children were triaged red - patients in this category have severe need-'rampant' decay, pus-discharging sinuses, abscesses and other pathological conditions.

115 children were triaged amber - Patients in this category have early decay, orthodontic problems and poor oral hygiene.

373 children were triaged green - patients in this category have no caries, or the caries have already been treated with fillings or extractions, the oral hygiene is good and there are no potential orthodontic problems.

Prince Andrew School was screened in June 2016 and Harford, St Pauls and Pilling Primary Schools in October 2016. The 2017 screening is planned to commence on 27 June. Dental treatment of school children mainly takes place during the holidays and every effort is made to complete all treatment within 3 months of screening.

Appointments are only made for Red and Amber triage patients and parents of green triage patients are responsible to make their appointments themselves.

At this point in time there are no serious concerns regarding children's dental care.

- **Child Welfare Clinics**

All children under 2 years old are followed up regularly by the Child Welfare Nurse, who documents their height, weight and head measurement and plots the information on a centile chart. Any concerns result in additional follow up and/or a doctor appointment if necessary or the child is listed to see the dietician due to arrive in April. All children in this age group are up to date with their immunization programme.

All school children from nursery to year 12 have an annual BMI screening done in schools during March and April. This is in progress and will be completed by the end of April 2017. An update will be provided in the May report.

There are 3 children with Type 1 diabetes and are on insulin treatment. Parents of these children have been educated on managing their child's diabetes. Teachers at the relevant schools have been educated on storage of insulin, treating moderate hypoglycaemia (glucogel and glucose tablet) and hyperglycemia, and how to manage the child pre and post PE. The children have their own blood glucose monitor and in addition St Paul's and PAS have a blood glucose monitor in case teachers don't understand the children's personal monitor. Pilling will be issued with a monitor as soon as it arrives; in the meantime they are supported by the hospital if it becomes necessary.



- **Update from Hospital Nursing Officer**

During February, the Hospital nursing officer attended the following meetings:

Child in need – 2 children

Child Protection – 2 children

Child Sexual Exploitation – 2 children

There were 5 requests for information from Safeguarding.

Disability toilet at PAS still to be completed. TT to check with ENRD **Action: TT**

Optician due soon – Board agreed to continuation of free spectacles & hearing aids, subject to funding.

### **Housing (Tracy Thomas)**

The Housing service is currently dealing 4 cases, 3 of which have been referred by Children's Services.

Household status	
Mother/Father + 1	Given 2 months to vacate current residence. This case is not with Children's Services.
Father + 1	Paternal father seeking larger accommodation in order to obtain full custody of daughter. Daughter currently resides with maternal mother in government housing.
Mother + 1 (5 months pregnant)	Mother seeking larger accommodation prior to the arrival of baby. Currently unemployed after resigning from SHG.
Mother + 1	Family returned to St Helena on the 04 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 after being deported from the Falklands.

The Housing office has successfully housed a family in a recently refurbished property in Jamestown.

As part of our ongoing improvements to government housing the housing service has relocated one family to alternative accommodation to improve the property internally.

Aiming to renovate 21 properties by September. Intention to agree a Service Level Agreement to get work done quicker.

### **Police Services (Wendy Tinkler DCI)**

#### **INVESTIGATIONS**

Supreme Court – two cases were not guilty, one case stayed due to abuse of process.

Offender conviction of Sexual Activity with a child and sentenced to 5 years custodial, now subject to RSO status.

Joint Investigation with Children Services, offence Rape of a child under 13. Investigation on going, child has been safeguarded. Suspect is currently on Police Bail. However there are concerns in respect of the grandmother returning to their address with her disabled son, overcrowding in a two bedroomed property and the impact that is having on the wellbeing of the young victim. Hopeful that the family will be provided with their own accommodation.

Joint Investigation with Children Services, offence Sexual Activity with a child resulting in pregnancy. Joint work conducted with Children Services and immigration to support family leaving the island due to father's end of contract.

Investigations – 2 not guilty, 1 not continued, 1 SOF sentenced to 5 years, 1 awaiting tests.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

##### **HALF TREE HOLLOW DISCO**

Further visit has been conducted with Ms Sylvia Phillips the Chair person for HTH Community Centre and who organises the children's disco on Saturday evenings, she has been made aware of the complaints in respect of used condoms and alcohol containers being left outside of the premises. She states that she will check the area prior to their event commencing and check it afterwards as she believes that some of this is from the young people hanging around the area at other times. Police will continue to monitor.

##### **EVERY CONTACT COUNTS – VICTIM CONTACT CONTRACTS**

New initiative introduced by the police to provide better contact with victims of crime to improve confidence and satisfaction levels in the service they receive.

##### **CONDOM SHORTAGE**

Following a report of condom shortage on the Island and young people being unable to easily obtain them, checks were conducted with Health and further supplies provided to premises who provide them for free.

#### **PROBATION WORK**

Reports for court were completed by Probation for the Offence of sexual activity with a child as shown above.

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#### **8. Sub Committees – updates and reports**

Training - none received. DoS to pursue with Dave Honan on his return. **Action: DoS**

Quality Assurance – CC requested outstanding forms so sub-committee can complete evaluation.

**Action: CC**

### **9. Embedding Multi Agency Working**

Need to keep this topical. CC to speak to DoS.

**Action: CC/DoS**

### **10. Any Other Business**

CC finishes 20 May – need to identify someone to chair Quality Assurance sub-committee.

NS questioned about 10.30pm curfew. DCI confirmed there is nothing in place. SCB previously raised the issues and advertised. DCI to investigate. Could be focus for future campaign.

**Action: DCI**

Geek Unique – CF has spoken to Manager at his request.

HOGO thanked those present for their support since October as this was her last Board Meeting. The meeting closed at 12.20hrs.

Next meeting to be held 18 May 2017