

**MINUTES OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD MEETING HELD AT 09:30HRS ON WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2022, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE**

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| <b>Present:</b>   | Mrs. Tracy Poole-Nandy<br>Mrs. Wendy Benjamin<br>Mrs. Emma Pickard<br>Mrs. Rosalie Brown<br>Mrs. Pamela Ward-Pearce<br>Mrs. Cheryl Bedwell<br>Mr. Martin Henry<br>Mr. Ian Rummery<br>Mr. David Brickland<br>Mrs. Peta M Henry           | Portfolio Director (H&SC)<br>Portfolio Director (ESE)<br>Crown Council (Civil)<br>CCC Manager<br>NGO Representative<br>School Nurse<br>Minister (H&SC)<br>Acting Mental Health Team Lead<br>Probation Officer<br>Portfolio Assistant (H&SC)/Secretary   |
| <b>Invited:</b>   | Ms. Rosemary Bargo<br>Ms. Vyonna (Lolly) Young  | Children's Champion<br>Education Support Officer  |
| <b>Apologies:</b> | Mr. David Price<br>Mr. Peter Found<br>Mr. Gavin Jack Thomas<br>Mr. Mark Highfield<br>Mr. Nicholas Stevens<br>Mrs. Catherine Turner<br>Ms. Mercia Rinquist<br>Mr. Derek Burke<br>Mr. Tim McDermott<br>Mr. Derek Henry<br>Mr. Sam Collins | Chief of Police<br>Detective Chief Inspector (Police)<br>Senior Manager (SC)/Public Guardian<br>Team Manager (Adults Social Care)<br>Youth Organisation Representative<br>Human Rights Representative<br>Social Care Officer (SHAPE)<br>Health Services Director<br>Head of Governance<br>Head of Infrastructure<br>Senior Social Worker (Adults) |

**3.1 Welcome & Apologies**

The PD opened the meeting by welcoming all present. Apologies were extended on behalf of Officers unable to attend.

**3.2 Declaration(s) of Interest**

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

**3.3 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Safeguarding Board meeting held on Wednesday, 10 August 2022, were confirmed.

**3.4 Matters Arising**

**Corporate Parenting**

The PD advised that Corporate Parenting would have to be re-visited in light of the new ministerial government to ensure everyone is fully aware of their responsibilities, moving forward. She advised that a Corporate Parenting Board would need to be established as a means of oversight and scrutiny and be underpinned by legislation due to the advantages associated with this.

**Terms of Reference (ToR's) for Children's Champion**

The PD advised that she would seek to finalise amendments prior to the next Board meeting.

**Action: PD**

**3.5 Misuse of Drugs/Alcohol**

The Acting MHTL updated on the island-wide issue of 'misuse of drugs and alcohol' and the need for legislative change and unpopular decisions to be made, in an effort to combat issues currently experienced. He commented on the advantages of the sub-group and its remit.

Composition of the sub-group was confirmed as follows:

- Mental Health Team Lead
- Senior Social Worker (Adults)
- Senior Social Worker (Children)
- Detective Sergeant

- Probation Officer
- General Practitioner (Dr Abi Taylor)
- School Nurse

By way of actions it was agreed a date for the first sub-group meeting would need to be established; and an ExCo memo to evoke legislative change. The Minister advised that the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) had also offered support if indeed necessary. Involvement of church representatives was also considered advantageous in light of the work already done.

The ESO and PO joined the meeting at 09:50hrs.

### **3.6 Education Health Care Plans (EHCP)**

The ESO gave a comprehensive overview of content of the information paper that had been submitted. She commented on the statutory responsibility of those in Education to provide for the vulnerable and how different agencies worked in the UK (as set out in Chapter 9 of the Code of Practice). She went on to explain that whilst an EHCP was relatively straight forward and indeed doable in St Helena, statutory obligations remained unclear. The current challenges and how an EHCP should begin with a child of 14years of age, up to and including 18years of age and beyond, if possible; was discussed at length. The difficulty in getting these children into employment was likewise discussed and the need to start engaging with prospective employers in advance, moving forward.

The need for a business case to be able to access funding, whether internal or CSSF, was noted. By way of next steps, the PD advised of the need for the following:

- determine requirements and know exactly what we are asking for;
- look at current children numbers and what this would look like when they transfer into adults;
- look at new children accessing the service.

Following much discussion, the ESO left the meeting at 10:50hrs.

### **3.7 Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan 2022**

The PD gave an overview of the Strategic Plan and essentially what it aimed to achieve. She asked that the document be reviewed outside of the forum and comments/feedback be provided to the Secretary as soon as possible. Legal amendments would come from the CC(C).

**Action: All**

### **3.8 Nomination of Vice Chairperson**

The PD commented on all having collectively agreed at the last Board meeting that Chairmanship would be handed over with a view to this being as independent as in the UK. She advised that with the HoG having agreed to assume this role, there had been nominations in favour of the NGO Representative for the role of Vice Chairperson. Following much discussion, the NGO Representative confirmed that she was happy to accept.

### **3.9 Exploitation Feedback**

It was noted that a meeting had been held around the subject of exploitation in relation to children and vulnerable adults on the island. The PD advised that following their visit, the UKHSA had been interested in essentially 'where we are and what we've done' since the WASS enquiry and was keen to support from a financial perspective. She advised that she would therefore share a copy of the strategy and review CSSF at a meeting to be held during the course of the day. The UKHSA would then be contacted from a multi-agency request perspective with a view to sourcing help with our current problem profile and essentially what will come with the new internet connectivity etc.

**Action: PD**

Offenders was discussed at length and the need to unpick due to the criminalisation of those prosecuted for non-contact offences, committed as a result of a lack of education etc. The need for preventative and joined-up working with a view to positive outcomes was considered important. It was noted that this would be a holistic piece of work that would require multiagency/a collective response with a real balance.

### 3.10 Sub-Group Updates

#### **Training**

The need for a discussion with the Health Directorate around training (i.e. safeguarding for both children and adults, cyber-crime etc) for the next 12-month period, was considered necessary. It was envisaged a second meeting of the sub-group would be arranged during the course of the month and the School Nurse would form part of its membership, moving forward. The need for training to be delivered to parents was noted; and whilst there had been poor response from this stakeholder group thus far, training would continue to be offered in 'bite-size' chunks.

#### **Health Passport**

It was noted that a Health Passport was already in place at The Princess Royal CCC and working well. The PD advised that she would now need to see how this could be implemented into everyday practice, and whilst services would opt to use it or not, there was scope for the document to be linked to the Palliative Care pathway. It was agreed the sub-group would meet following return of the Team Manager (Adults Social Care) from overseas leave and the CCC Manager would join this group with a view to reviewing 'what we've got'.

#### **Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)**

See note at 3.6 above.

#### **Action Plan**

It was noted that this Plan was in place but would be re-vamped.

#### **Substance Misuse Strategy**

It was noted this would be taken forward by the relevant sub-group. See note at 3.5 above.

### 3.11 Any Other Business

#### **Sub-Groups**

The Minister advised that he would be more than happy to assist the work of any of the sub-groups in the event required.

#### **Meeting Schedule**

The PD commented on the need for the Board's meeting schedule to accommodate availability of the representative from Human Rights, moving forward. In discussing this, it was agreed meetings be scheduled for a Thursday, with exception of the third Thursday of the month.

**Action: Secretary**

There being no further business to discuss, the PD(HSC) thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 11:25hrs.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_