

MINUTES OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD MEETING HELD AT 10:00HRS ON THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2023, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE CASTLE

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

4.1 Welcome & Apologies

The HoG opened the meeting by welcoming all present. Following introductions, apologies were extended on behalf of Officers unable to attend.

4.2 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

4.3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Safeguarding Board meeting held on Wednesday, 9 November 2022, were confirmed.

4.4 Matters Arising

ToR's for Children's Champion

It was noted that the ToR's had been finalised and were now with the AG's Chambers. Whilst the CC was content with these, there remained concern that the CC role was not entirely independent.

The PD confirmed having undertaken some work to outline the role of Children's Commissioner and advised that this role was essentially one that 'promotes good practice and seeks best outcomes for children'. She gave an overview of CC roles elsewhere and the current issue of whether we choose to have a role that is wholly independent, moving forward. The HRR commented on there also being a Children's Commissioner as part of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and whether the two roles would be seen to overlap. Much discussion followed.

Exploitation Feedback

The PD commented on the current Exploitation Strategy and agreement with UKHSA to rebrand this. She advised that with very little having been done around exploitation thus far, a meeting with key partners would be arranged in an effort to move forward and essentially progress the work necessary.

Action: PD/Secretary

Meeting Schedule

It was noted that the newly agreed meeting schedule had been issued and was already reflecting in e-calendars.

4.5 Action Plan Review (April '21)

The HoG commented on both the composition and size of the Action Plan and sought views on whether this should be closed off or rolled over. In discussing this, the Board agreed the document be closed off with a view to a new Action Plan taking effect from the current Board meeting.

Action: Secretary

4.6 Proposed Safeguarding Board Strategy 2023-28 & Annual Plan 2023-24

In an overview of key priorities, the HoG commented on the need for these to link to overall SHG Strategy, moving forward. The Board was therefore asked to review, along with the Annual Plan and provide feedback to the HoG in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

Action: All

4.7 Review of ToR's (Safeguarding Board)

The PD advised of the need for the ToR's to be reviewed to reflect 'what the legislation needs us to do and essentially what the spirit of the Board actually is'. It was therefore agreed this would be assigned to the Policy & Procedure Sub-Group with a view to being ratified at the next Board meeting.

Action: HoG

4.8 HCC Desktop Review (Children's Services)

The HoG advised that the presentation slides that had been circulated, essentially gave an overview of what was planned for the 6-week period ahead. He commented on the Administrative resource that had been allocated and would undertake the setting up of interviews and review of current policies and procedures etc. He went on to explain that HCC had also been keen to meet with others not listed as part of the current interview schedule, would be looking for focus groups and commissioning an island-wide survey for professionals and the public to enable the feedback of views.

Focus Groups was discussed at length and the following agreed:

- The HoG would liaise with the TM(CSC) and Children's Residential Home Manager (CRHM), to see whether it would be in the best interest for children to be part of a focus group.

Action: HoG

- Confirmation of focus group members for respective areas (i.e. Police, Health, Education etc) to be sent the assigned the Administrative Support Officer.

Action: All

- The TM(CSC) to coordinate feedback from Children's Social Care.

Action: TM(CSC)

The inclusion of New Horizons was considered a possibility and likewise School Council, in the absence of a Youth Parliament.

4.9 Sub-Group(s) Structure

The Safeguarding Board and sub-group structure, outlining how the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and each of the various sub-group forums would essentially feed into the overarching Safeguarding Board, was circulated for information purposes.

Serious Case Review

The Board was informed that as part of the work with HCC, the setting up of a Serious Case Review had been requested. The HoG advised that a sub-group would therefore be required. This body would be supported by HCC, engage in training, the development of policies and procedures and ensure upskilling is maintained amongst the various agencies. Much discussion followed. It was agreed the sub-group would consist of the following membership, be responsible for developing its own ToR's and therefore set its own thresholds:

- Mrs. Tracy Poole-Nandy Portfolio Director (H&SC)/Chairman
- Mr. Peter Found Detective Chief Inspector (Police)
- Mr. Ian Rummery Acting Mental Health Team Lead
- Mr. Paul Brown Team Manager (Children's Social Care)
- Mr. Mark Highfield Team Manager (Adults Social Care)
- Mr. Greg Gibson Head of Governor's Office (HoGO)
- Mrs. Pamela Ward-Pearce NGO Representative
- Mrs. Wendy Benjamin Portfolio Director (ESE)

Anonymity was discussed at length in terms of assigning cases given the small island community. The need to publish Minutes was likewise discussed and the importance of redacting in an effort to maintain confidentiality, moving forward.

Policy & Procedure

The HoG gave an overview of essentially what he felt this sub-group should look like and advised of the need for volunteers to pull together best practice policies and procedures. Membership was discussed at length and agreed as follows:

- Mr. Tim McDermott Head of Governance (Chairman)
- Mr. James Douglas Chief Allied Health Professional
- Mr. Mark Highfield Team Manager (Adults Social Care)
- Mr. Paul Brown Team Manager (Children's Social Care)
- Mrs. Catherine Turner Human Rights Representative
- Nomination from Corporate HR
- Nomination from Police

It was agreed the first order of business would be the compiling of ToR's for ratification at the next Board Meeting.

Action: HoG

4.10 Corporate Parenting Board

The HoG advised that all would have noted composition of both the Briefing Note and ToR's for the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) as circulated previously; and whilst there were a number of insignificant (i.e. typographical) errors, all had essentially been in a position to agree these. The need for an amendment to current legislation was noted, in light of the CPB not being a part of this already. Membership of the CPB was agreed as follows:

- Mrs. Tracy Poole-Nandy Portfolio Director (H&SC)/Chairman
- Mrs. Wendy Benjamin Portfolio Director (ESE)
- Ms. Rosemary Bargo Children's Champion (CC)
- Dr. Derek Burke Director of Health (DoH)
- Mr. Martin Henry Minister (H&SC)
- Mr. Greg Gibson Head of Governor's Office (HoGO)

With the new Ministerial Government now in place, the Board commented on the need for Corporate Parenting training to be updated and re-delivered. The Secretary was asked to schedule a suitable date/time for this.

Action: Secretary

4.11 Sub-Group Updates

Training

Having looked at what training package could be delivered over the next 12-month period, the PD commented on Children's Safeguarding, Adults Safeguarding, Sexual Exploitation and Cyber Security. She advised that it was important the Cyber Security Awareness Training Officer (CSATO) & IT Section Manager (Networks & Information Systems Administrator) be included as part of the programme, in an effort to ensure training is delivered cohesively, in a joined-up approach and not in silo's. An initial training package was anticipated within the 2-3 weeks ahead and a finished version in mid-March '23. Delivery of a mock-run to the Board, was considered advantageous.

Health Passport

The TM(CSC) advised that he understood that Health Passports were already being used at The Princess Royal CCC. In discussing this, the PD gave an overview of the rationale for the document which she explained, was essentially to articulate the needs of those with lifelong health issues. She advised that with a working document now in place, the updated version should be circulated and once agreed, the Sub-Group could potentially be disbanded. She undertook to forward a copy of the document for upload to the Safeguarding Board folder on B-Drive.

Action: PD

Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

In noting composition of the current EHCP template and upcoming meeting with HCC, the PD advised of the need to now 'catch-up' to ensure there is a plan in place that is also achievable. To this end, it

was agreed a Sub-Group comprising of the following membership, would be best placed to ensure this:

- Mrs. Wendy Benjamin Portfolio Director (ESE)
- Mrs. Pamela Ward-Pearce NGO Representative
- Mrs. Cheryl Bedwell School Nurse
- Ms. Vyonna (Lolly) Young Education Support Officer
- Mr. Paul Brown Team Manager (Children's Social Care)

Substance Misuse Strategy

The MHTL advised that whilst an initial sub-group meeting had not yet been convened, he had worked with the Health Promotion & Social Marketing Lead (HPSML) to pull together a draft Alcohol Control Strategy. He commented that whilst the document was both simple and required further work, he had considered it important to obtain the Board's approval in principle that the direction as outlined was the best way forward.

The MHTL talked through the content of the document in its entirety. The following comments were made:

- As part of the strategy it was hoped there would be help for both carers and families of alcoholics, moving forward.
- There would be a need for evidence to support the implementation of suggestions in Table 3 (*Possible St Helena Actions*).
- Implementation of the Strategy would result in the need for cultural changes to be made; and likewise the need for the right level of support and intervention to be able to make the cultural changes necessary.
- Taxation of locally produced alcohol and the need for this to be reviewed.
- The procurement of alcohol for a minor was not illegal on St Helena, due to the absence of legislation prohibiting this.

The Minister advised that from his point of view it was important to essentially 'drive with what we see in front of us as opposed from a cultural perspective'. The Board agreed this approach. The need for engagement was therefore considered necessary in the form of buy-in from both the community and Council, with the latter essentially being the first step in moving the Strategy forward.

Following much discussion the MHTL was thanked, on behalf of the Board, for the work he had done in pulling together a strategy thus far.

4.12 Any Other Business

There was no business for discussion under this classification.

There being no further business to discuss, the HoG thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 12:25hrs.

Signed: _____

Date: _____