

MINUTES OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD MEETING HELD AT 10:00HRS ON THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2023, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE CASTLE

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

5.1 Welcome & Apologies

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

5.2 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

5.3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Safeguarding Board meeting held on Wednesday, 9 February 2023, were confirmed.

5.4 Matters Arising

Exploitation Feedback

The PD advised that with funding having been secured for the rebranding of the Exploitation Strategy, two colleagues would be visiting from the UKHSA shortly. The first of these visits would be conducted by Mr Peter Knowles during the period 20 May to 3 June '23, and would focus on the collation of data etc; whilst the second would be conducted by Ms Philippa Holmes during the period 24 June to 15 July '23. It was envisaged Ms Holmes would focus on the physical updating and rebranding of the Strategy, which would also include the delivery of training to various stakeholders on Island. The PD advised that it was hoped the analysis of data would be finalised with a view to being able to identify a problem profile, in advance of Ms Holmes' arrival. An overview of the work that would follow both visits, generated much discussion.

Action Plan Review (April '21)

It was noted the Action Plan was in place.

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

The Chairman confirmed having received no feedback in relation to either documents and in light of this, sought confirmation as to whether the Strategy could be published. Members agreed.

Action: Chairman

Review of ToR's (Safeguarding Board)

The PD gave an update on the feed received from Hampshire County Council (HCC). It was envisaged the updated ToR's would be received by the Board for ratification shortly.

Action: PP Sub-Group

HCC Desktop Review (Children's Services)

The Chairman advised that work in relation to the desktop review was now complete; and extended thanks to all who might have contributed to this.

Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)

The PD sought a volunteer to take on the role of Chairman of the CPB, moving forward. She advised that this had become necessary due to current work-streams, which meant she had become overly committed. Following much discussion, it was agreed the HoSO would assume this role in light of the HoSD having taken on membership of the Case Review sub-group. It was envisaged CP training would be delivered by the TM(CSC).

Action: TM(CSC)

Health Passport

See note at sub-section 5.8 below.

5.5 Annual Update Report 2022

Following an overview of the content of the Report, it was noted there did not exist an update section from Police. It was therefore agreed a submission from Police would be included prior to the document being published on the SHG website, ahead of the next Board meeting. The Chairman advised that overall the report had been positive and would potentially be more data driven, moving forward. The Board agreed with this approach.

5.6 Report (Educational Safeguarding Concerns)

The Chairman gave an overview of the background, having been the Investigation Officer for the case as referred to within the report. He advised that the report had come on conclusion of the investigation and highlighted the following:

- The outcome of the case had resulted in a dismissal.
- An appeal was then lodged and subsequently won.
- The author of the report had written to a number of people and received no feedback. He had therefore escalated his concerns to the Chairman (SB)/HoG (Health) and thereafter written to the Governor's office.

In discussing the overall content of the report, the PD commented on the advantages of having support around allegations and investigations to ensure an undiluted process, moving forward. She advised that this would mitigate some of concerns as raised within the report, hence the need for sustainability and funding to be able to ensure this. Suspension and the perception of this, was discussed at length and how this needs to be seen more as a safeguard as opposed punishment. The Board was conscious of the fact that in many areas policies and procedures were outdated and in need of attention, but alongside of this, considered the following important:

- The need to support Education with training, moving forward.
- Look at training for Investigating Officers in SHG.
- Look closely at 'who we use' to Chair Investigation Panels.
- Seek clarity from CHR on responsibilities, essentially what 'they will do' and what 'we will do'; and seek funding for a person designated to manage the process, moving forward.

Much discussion followed.

5.7 Safeguarding of Adults

The PD confirmed having requested this particular agenda item, following a discussion with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) regarding an incident that had occurred at the week-end; resulting in someone having sustained life threatening injuries. The injuries had been considered 'preventable' and in light of this, the CMO had felt it necessary for the circumstances to be looked at from a safeguarding perspective to see how this might be managed, moving forward. Duty of care was discussed at length.

The Board agreed that whilst there wasn't a single solution to the problem, there would be some merit in taking forward, the following:

- Concern regarding the safety of railings at the sea front. It was agreed this be escalated to the Health & Safety Sub-Committee via the Portfolio Director (Safety, Security & Home Affairs).
Action: CoP
- Review of liquor licencing already in place, to see whether a 'duty of care' element could be included as part of the licence agreement. In discussing this, the CoP confirmed having just recently had a conversation with the AG's Chambers regarding licensing conditions and how these could be added, moving forward.
Action: CoP
- The possibility of charitable work being undertaken in an effort to provide assistance with marshalling. The CoP agreed there would be scope for volunteers to be supported by training from Police. The Chairman undertook to look further at the feasibility of the concept on behalf of the Board.
Action: Chairman

5.8 Sub-Group Updates Training

Content of both the ToR's and Training Plan was noted and subsequently approved.

The TM(CSC) confirmed implementation of the Training Programme but advised that there had been an extremely poor uptake of the training on offer, to date. In light of this, he had requested support from the HoSO, who had agreed to promote the programme via local radio. The HoSO advised that a radio talk had therefore been scheduled for the months of May, June and July '23; and whilst primarily to promote the training programme, would also include discussion around various safeguarding issues and public safety. It was envisaged a representative from Police would join this promotional effort, light of the latter.

The CC confirmed having circulated the Training Programme to Legislative Council and advised that it would be Members responsibility to register their interest for any of the training sessions on offer. In addition, the Chairman advised that Corporate HR was looking at the possibility of the training becoming mandatory. In light of this, he undertook to follow up with both the Head of HROD and CS.

Action: Chairman

Health Passport

It was noted that the updated version of the Health Passport had been uploaded to the Safeguarding Board file on B-Drive, as previously agreed. With the now improved template, the Board agreed the document be approved for use and the HP Sub-Group disbanded.

Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

The PD(ESE) advised that she was pleased to report that the Sub-Group had been meeting regularly and now had a draft EHCP. She explained that the document would need to be trialled and in light of this, it was envisaged this would be done with a student with severe disability. Following the trial, the Sub-Group would reconvene on Tuesday, 6 June '23 to determine whether any further editing of the document was required, prior to submission to the Board.

Action: PD(ESE)

Substance Misuse Strategy

In absence of the MHTL, the PD advised that taxation-related proposals had progressed well and were being taken forward. With the support of OHID, the draft Strategy was nearing completion and would be brought to the next Board meeting. ID cards and the 'prove it' scheme was discussed at length and the buy-in required in order to ensure a success.

Action: MHTL

Policy & Procedure

The Chairman commented on the Notes from the last Sub-Group meeting that had been circulated to the Board for information. He advised that the Group would be split into two parts (i.e. internal and external), moving forward, and would assist with Corporate Safeguarding Policy and Portfolio Policies and Procedures.

On the subject of external work streams, he advised that once a gold standard procedure has been created for charities, these would have to adopt and mandate Safeguarding Training, moving forward. It was noted that there were +/- 25 registered charities to date.

It was envisaged buy-in from other entities (i.e. sports association, island taxi companies etc.) would be incentivised with some form of endorsement/accreditation. Refresher training would be required on a yearly basis, in addition to checks associated with recruitment to ensure this is kept in line with Safeguarding Policies and Procedures etc. The Board considered this a good way forward and an aid in changing the mind-set prevalent at present.

ToR's for the Sub-Group were agreed.

Case Review

The PD confirmed having finalised the ToR's and reviewed the draft Procedure & Guidance Policy at the last Group meeting. She advised that despite the April '23 meeting having been cancelled, the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 18 May '23 and following this, both documents would be presented to the Board for feedback.

Support from HCC around delivery of training they'd like to offer, was noted.

5.9 Any Other Business

Hampshire County Council (HCC)

The PD advised that HCC had provided formal feedback following the review. Whilst the feedback would be reviewed in light of a number of factual inaccuracies and thereafter shared with the Safeguarding Board, there was a clear recommendation that the Board be chaired by the Governor's Office, moving forward.

Incident

The HoSD commented on a recent incident, which could be construed as modern day slavery. She advised that whilst Human Rights had raised the issue with Council, she had considered it prudent to bring this to the attention of the Board also, with a view to raising awareness. Much discussion followed.

Annual Report

The PD(ESE) commented on the Annual Report and the need for clarity from the Governor's office on the data being sought from Education, for the next reporting period.

Action: Chairman

Seat Belts

The HoSO confirmed having been contacted regarding seat-belts, the purpose they serve and the implications of not wearing these. Whilst it was noted that it was not compulsory for seat-belts to be worn on St Helena, the CoP gave an overview of discussions on the subject matter and the legislative changes necessary. It was agreed concerns relating to the matter of seat-belts would be directed to the CoP, moving forward.

Incident (Suite at Piccolo Hill)

The HoSO updated on an incident whereby a person had been taken to Piccolo Hill to be interviewed but upon arrival, the property had been deemed unsuitable for a person with additional needs/a physical disability. In discussing this, it was noted that whilst the suite was not perfect and indeed in the wrong location, there would be financial implications associated with sourcing an alternative.

Agenda Items

The Chairman commented on the importance of contributing to the agenda for future meetings and asked that due consideration be given to this.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 11:55hrs.

Signed: _____

Date: _____