

MINUTES OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD MEETING HELD AT 10:00HRS ON THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2024, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT HEALTH

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| Present: | Mr. Tim McDermott | Head of Governance (Chairman) |
| | Mrs. Pamela Ward Pearce | NGO Representative (Deputy Chair) |
| | Mrs. Tracy Poole-Nandy | Portfolio Director (H&SC) |
| | Mr. Martin Henry | Minister (H&SC) |
| | Mr. Gavin Jack Thomas | Head of Service (Operations)/Public Guardian |
| | Mr. Ian Rummery | Mental Health Team Lead |
| | Mr. James Douglas | Head of Service (Clinical) |
| | Mr. Aldhelm Garner | Crown Council (AG's Chambers) |
| | Mr. Peter Found | Detective Chief Inspector (Police) |
| | Mr. Greg Gibson | Head of Governor's Office |
| | Mrs. Cheryl Bedwell | School Nurse |
| | Mrs. Rosalie Brown | Head of Service (Delivery) |
| | Ms. Angela Bevan | Team Manager (Adults Social Care) |
| | Miss. Laura Aston | Probation Officer |
| | Mrs. Peta M Henry | Portfolio Assistant (H&SC)/Secretary |
| Apologies: | Mrs. Wendy Benjamin | Portfolio Director (ESE) |
| | Mr. Paul Brown | Team Manager (Children's Social Care) |
| | Mr. David Price | Chief of Police |
| | Ms. Mercia Rinquist | Social Care Officer (SHAPE) |
| | Mrs. Catherine Turner | Human Rights Representative |
| | - | Youth Organisation Representative |
| | Ms. Rosemary Bargo | Children's Champion |

7.1 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present. Introductions were made and apologies extended on behalf of Board Members unable to attend. It was noted that representation from SHAPE, would be made by the Manager of the Organisation, moving forward.

7.2 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

7.3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Safeguarding Board meeting held on Thursday, 24 August 2024, were confirmed.

7.4 Matters Arising

Review of ToR's (Safeguarding Board)

It was noted that ToR's for the Safeguarding Board had now been agreed.

Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)

A meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board was yet to be arranged.

Safeguarding of Adults

The Chairman advised that the report had been compiled and submitted to SLT, as previously agreed. In discussing this, the DCI commented on work associated with trying to gain better control over licenced premises and the advantages of this.

Training Sub-Group

It was noted that attendance had been relatively good since discussion at the last Board meeting. The Chairman advised that there remained a commitment to make this training mandatory.

Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

There was nothing further to report, due to absence of the PD(ESE) from the meeting.

Risk Register

The need for safeguarding risks for the new Risk Register was noted.

Action: All

Documents for Approval - Missing from Home Protocol / SHG Missing & Child Exploitation Protocol / Exploitation Risk Identification Tool / MACE ToR's & Operating Principles

The Chairman advised that no comments had been received in relation to these documents and therefore considered them ready for implementation, subject to a final spell-check.

7.5 Information Sharing

In an overview of the reason for the agenda item, the DCI advised that there remained a concern regarding the lack of a framework that allowed for the sharing of information. He commented that whilst the matter had been raised with the AG previously, the Safeguarding Board had felt like the right forum to raise the matter, with a view to discussion around whether agencies were comfortable with what was already in place or whether there existed an appetite to push for a more clearly defined protocol around information sharing between agencies. Much discussion followed.

In favour of an Information Sharing protocol, the Board agreed the document be delegated to the Policy & Procedure sub-group for drafting. It was agreed that as the content of the document would be heavily Police driven, consideration would need to be given to Police representation on the sub-group.

Action: Chairman/DCI

7.6 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The PD commented on discussion regarding the subject matter at the Case Review sub-group and advised that it had been agreed the policy should include child death, moving forward. In discussing this, the DCI commented on a resource that could potentially be used to provide support in developing a CDOP if indeed necessary. The Board considered this a good suggestion and agreed an extraordinary meeting be arranged by way of an introduction.

Action: Secretary

7.7 ToR's for Case/Learning Review Sub-Group

Discussion around the ToR's, proportionality of investigations and ownership of the emanating report(s) (i.e. who owns the recommendations that come on the back of the report), was discussed at length. It was thereafter agreed that any such report, under the learning review mechanism would be owned by the Safeguarding Board as a general rule. The Chairman undertook to forward to the PD recommended additions for the Learning Review Pathway.

Action: Chairman

7.8 Risk Register Development

See note at 7.4 above. The Chairman commented on discussion at the last Board meeting and advised that he had not received any feedback regarding Safeguarding risks for the new register, to date. He commented on the need to consider what these risks might be, the mitigations in place and whether adequate. Much discussion followed.

On-line child sexual exploitation was considered an escalation risk and potentially a significant concern. It was noted that whilst training had been delivered around on-line safety, this needed to be strengthened and context focused. By way of next steps, the Chairman advised that both funding and additional resources would be required for this. The Exploitation sub-group would therefore be tasked with forming a plan to outline requirements and essentially 'how we address on-line safety', moving forward. The DCI was content to support this piece of work and therefore nominated Chairman of the Exploitation sub-group. It was agreed a meeting of the sub-group would be arranged shortly.

Action: DCI

7.9 Annual Report

The Chairman advised that the upcoming report would essentially focus on 'what has been done'. Sub-group updates would need to detail what has been achieved and plans for the year ahead. He undertook to circulate a copy of the previous year's report by way of a guide, and advised that it was envisaged the new report would be finalised for submission to HE's office by end of April 24.

Action: Chairman/All

7.10 MACE: Training of Multi-Agency Partners

The PD advised that she had wanted to revisit this, given the training for multi-agencies and the need for refreshers due to staff turnover. Much discussion followed. Discussion around training in general, highlighted the upcoming training for Learning Reviews, the fact that calendar link(s) should already have reflected in e-calendars and could be forwarded on, where necessary.

The local safeguarding training already in place, was likewise discussed. The HoS(O) was of the view that this was relatively Social Care heavy and therefore needed to be reviewed, keeping in mind 'what we are trying to achieve around safeguarding as a whole'. He undertook to correspond directly with the TM(CSC) regarding this.

Action: HoS(O)

7.11 Sub-Group Updates

Training

There was nothing to report.

Education Health Care Plan

There was nothing further to report.

Substance Misuse Strategy

The MHTL advised that the departure of the HPSML had unfortunately resulted in a delay in being able to hold sub-group meetings on a regular basis. He advised, however, that work in relation to the Alcohol Reduction strategy remained ongoing, and included the following:

- Retail sales of alcohol and whether time limits (for sale of alcohol) could be imposed, moving forward.
- Alcohol warning signs/general awareness posters for retail premises.
- Dialogue around repeat offenders of alcohol abuse and the possibility of having to retake a driver's test. The legal implications associated with this, to be determined.

The MHTL commented on the Drug & Alcohol court and advised that this had worked extremely well. Logistics were discussed at length and the various outcomes seen to date.

Policy & Procedure

In an update on progress, the Chairman confirmed the following:

- All Safeguarding Policies for the various charities had been launched. It was therefore envisaged the Charities Commission would issue training dates shortly.
- The Safeguarding Procedure for Adult Services was nearing completion and currently with the TM(ASC).
- The Safeguarding Procedure for Housing had been completed.
- There would be a discussion around whether or not a Procedure would be necessary for Probation Services.

The Chairman advised that overall, the sub-group had been fairly busy and whilst a large proportion of time had been taken up with Charities, it was considered good practice for everyone to have their own Safeguarding policy, moving forward. Costs associated with obtaining vetting for Charities, was discussed at length and whether there might be scope for an exemption. The Chairman confirmed having raised this matter with both the FS and CoP, but advised that there had been no decision to date. The Minister undertook to take this forward.

Action: Minister

Case Review

There was nothing further to report by way of progress to date.

Audit

It was reported that ToRs had been drafted with a view to being ratified at the sub-group meeting to be held within the month ahead. Probation Officer, Laura Aston, would form part of the membership for this sub-group.

Early Help

It was agreed an update would be given at the next scheduled meeting.

Exploitation

It was agreed the DCI would undertake the role of Chairman for this sub-group.

7.12. Any Other Business

Membership

The Chairman advised that recommendations and formal appointments were yet to be finalised in an effort to fill the various gaps in membership.

Action: Chairman

It was agreed the HoS(C) would be the new representative for Health in place of the Director of Health, and designates would be required to attend meetings in the absence of Board Members, moving forward.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____