

At a meeting of the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board held on Monday, 23 November 2015 at 3:00 pm at Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow.

Present:

Donald McPhail (Chair)
Jacqui McShannon (Vice Chair)

Kylee Brennan, DCI Mark Broom, Nicky Brownjohn, Tom Bruce, Permjit Chadha, Chris Domeney, Mary Harpley, Julie Hulls, DCI Dave Humphrey, James Jolly, Debra Kane, Monica King, Bhupinder Lakhanpaul, Steve Liddicott, Michael Marks, Margaret O'Connor, Dr Nimala Sellathurai and Roger Shortt.

Bowen and Ken Emerson

49. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Debra Kane, Lucy Connolly, Steve Davis, Joanna Parkinson, Margaret O'Connor, Linda Kim-Newby, Jonathan Webster

Ann-Marie Brosnan (specialist nurse – safeguarding children) attended with Kate Allen

50. YP Forum - Steve Hutchinson (Paper attached)

Steve Hutchinson presented the Young People's Forum Proposal attached to the Agenda and answered the following questions:

How would the Forum be set up? Steve Hutchinson responded that it would be established from existing groups for young people.

How many young people would be on the Forum? A maximum of 10.

When asked how the effectiveness of the forum would be decided Steve said that this would be up to the board to decide. The Board would also be able to make specific recommendations regarding the Agenda of the Forum and this could be decided following the planning meeting of the HSCB, with the Young People's Forum to be held before each HSCB meeting to allow information to be shared at the board. The Forum agenda would contain a combination of questions from the board and for the board from the young people.

Donald McPhail questioned what was needed to make the launch of the Young People's Forum effective. Steve Hutchinson responded that it would be helpful to have clear suggestions regarding questions for the first agenda.

Suggestions made by the board for the first Young People's Forum included Cyberbullying, knife crime, e-safety and specific questions to be put to the young people would be around what they feel schools are currently doing which they consider effective – a full programme would be needed to ensure the maximum engagement with Young People on a range of topics while also allowing some flexibility within the agenda to allow Young People to contribute according to current priorities.

It was agreed that a clear link should be created between the Youth Council and schools within the Young People's Forum.

The following actions were agreed:

Donald McPhail is to meet with Steve Hutchinson to plot a timeline for the delivery of the Young People's Forum against the dates of the HSCB annual meeting cycle.

Steve Liddicott is to provide input for the Agenda of the YP Forum

Steve Hutchinson is to be invited to the HSCB co-ordinator meeting prior to the board to take information back to the YP Forum.

Steve Hutchinson will establish a regular Young People's Forum scheduled to take place between the HSCB planning meeting and the actual board meeting.

51. Private Fostering - Amy Keane (Paper attached)

Amy Keane spoke to the attached report. The key messages were that the team had been very active this year, raising awareness of private fostering by meeting and talking to a range of different groups and engaging directly with private fosterers. They aim to increase referrals and be more active in identifying private fostering arrangements in the coming year. Work has been done with the intake team to review processes and ensure a more robust process is adopted. Currently most referrals come from Social Services, although there are some challenges being experienced in working with partner agencies were awareness of private fostering needs to be improved.

Amy Keane reported that identifying families unknown to social services remained a challenge.

Donald McPhail added that reporting was key to getting the word out and expressed concern that there had been no referrals from schools. He requested that this be placed on the agenda for the next school's forum.

Julie Hulls reported that work was currently being done with GP surgeries and requested support from Amy Keane to raise awareness.

Jacqui McShannon said that there was a need to identify a champion within each agency and asked that this be progressed.

Amy Keane reported that work being done with schools included questioning, by schools, when children were enrolled without parents, she said that links were now in place with schools which would be followed up further.

Steve Liddicott reported that schools should be seeking evidence of parental relationship at enrolment. This should also be happening when children are registered with GP surgeries. It was confirmed that schools do, currently take verification.

Michael Marks added that it would be possible to look at local school admissions to verify the procedures in place and requested a letter from Donald McPhail to go to the next meeting of Heads.

Jacqui McShannon requested that named champions from agencies have a meeting with fostering to discuss the issues and look at improving the identification of possible privately fostered children.

Mary Harpley expressed concern that there had been no difference evident after 3 years of work on this. She urged the board to pick an area where the most difference could be made from among school admissions (entry into system), GP registrations and Health Visitors. Amy Keane responded that other boroughs had full teams addressing the issue of Private Fostering while locally she was working on this on her own.

Jacqui McShannon requested that a working party be set up to look into private fostering. Donald McPhail will convene a group.

Actions:

Donald McPhail to take the issue of private fostering and the need for evidence of relationships at school admission to the School's Forum to discuss further.

Donald McPhail to write a letter outlining issue for the Schools Head meeting next week.

Donald McPhail and Amy Keane : The need for a strategy, including ID / relationship verification and a process to embed knowledge of private fostering within different agencies to be worked on.

Donald McPhail to convene a meeting of agencies on the board to work on this strategy.

Amy Keane: To provide Roger Shortt with information to be included in his weekly bulletin to Heads.

52. Minutes of the last meeting 14 September 2015 and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 were agreed with the following amendments and updates:

Page 10

Item 25 - Jacqui McShannon reported that guidance on children detained in police custody had been issued to staff. The Board requested a report back on this in 6 months.

Page 13

Item 29 – Steve Liddicott provided an update on action 2. He reported that an audit had shown that most agencies were attending case conferences. Key agencies do attend although there was a small group, invited to fewer case conferences, who did not attend. Nicky Brown-John added that now that provider for the service for school nursing had changed, attendance by school nurses would be looked at again.

3:40pm Cllr Tom Bruce arrived

Page 14

Item 30 - Roger Shortt reported that schools were doing all they could.

Item 32 – the names 'Neil Wenger and Visner Wright' be corrected to 'Leo Waenga and EliznaVisser'.

Page 15

Jacqui McShannon requested that the feedback on the CQC inspection be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

53. London Board Policy on FGM - Donald McPhail

Donald McPhail asked which agencies were aware that the responsibility for reporting of suspected FGM lay with individuals rather than with the agency. Health and Children's Social Care confirmed that this was known to them.

Steve Liddicott said it was important that designated professionals held those roles with mandatory reporting requirements. London wide child protection procedures were due to be updated to reflect this.

Donald McPhail questioned whether the mandatory reporting procedures had had any impact. Dave Humphrey responded that there were currently around 5 reported concerns across London on a weekly basis. Mark Broom added that family members appeared to be the main reporters.

Steve Liddicott questioned how many of these became confirmed cases.

Dave

Humphrey responded that the data available was still too recent to provide an accurate number.

Donald McPhail requested that the legal culpability of professionals be further clarified.

54. Fatal Stabbing - paper

The Case Review Sub-group reviewed the fatal stabbing (July 2014). Although it did not meet the criteria for a serious case review it was reported that there was some learning to be had. Questions were asked about whether the findings were right for Hounslow and whether it had had any impact on future cases in Hounslow. It was also questioned whether the current 'gangs' strategy in Hounslow was adequate.

Jacqui McShannon requested the support of the board for the further development of a local gangs strategy. Steve Liddicott said that a specific strategy was needed around young people in gangs, how they were recruited and how they could be supported to exit. Jacqui McShannon requested that a possible strategy be discussed with the Community Safety Partnership. Permjit Chadha and Chris Domeney are to meet to discuss a way forward.

Action: Permjit Chadha and Chris Domeney

55. Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation - Mark Broom (papers attached)

Mark Broom presented a report on Gangs. He said that Hounslow did not presently have a local gang problem and that existing issues were with gangs coming in across county lines. The board questioned whether this should be looked into further and Donald McPhail suggested writing a letter to capture the key issues to support the development of partnership work across county-lines. Chris Domeney added that Hounslow did not have a well-developed drugs market and that gang activity seemed to be directed through county-lines and Hounslow into London.

Vulnerable young people could become the victim of this activity. He said although there were no highly developed gangs locally there was a need for a clear strategy.

Donald McPhail questioned where these issues could be addressed. Steve Liddicott suggested asking the Youth Crime Management Board to have an input on any strategy development, with additional input from agencies active across the county line. Any strategy to be developed should include specifics regarding who should be informed of emerging issues.

Mark Broom informed the board that while gangs were not primarily a young person issue there were young people involved.

James Jolly reported that Probation would be happy to contribute to the development of a strategy.

Donald McPhail: to write a letter outlining key issues to develop joined up strategy across county lines and with different agencies involved in working with gang related crime.

Action: Donald McPhail to look into who should have responsibility for this work, either Community Safety team of HSCB and come back to board with a recommendation. Strategy is to include who should be informed.

Jacqui McShannon requested that the Youth Offending Service and Social Care be on next agenda for HSCB with the aim to improve connections between the two.

56. CP - IS - Steve Liddicott (papers attached)

Steve Liddicott spoke to the report provided.

The IS system is in the process of being implemented although the accuracy of NHS numbers for children still needed checking. Once the system is fully implemented health professional will be able to see any information available on young people.

57. Safeguarding Alerts - Julie Hulls (Paper attached)

Julie Hulls asked the Board to consider accepting the recommendations in the report by NHS England. The recommendations were that Board take responsibility for ensuring that there was good practice among all agencies involved with young people in regards to safeguarding alerts. Individual agencies are asked to provide feedback to the board regarding their individual agency's process in regard to safeguarding alerts.

Action: Donald McPhail to write to NHS England to clarify how agencies are expected to report alerts.

58. Health Agency Annual Safeguarding Reports

Monica King spoke to the attached report and requested Board approval of the report.

Monica King reported that plans included:

- Aims to improve safeguarding data capture
- The role out of prevent training with the aim to train 250 staff monthly.

Donald McPhail asked for confirmation that there were no Hounslow children held in adult wards.

Action: Monica King agreed to clarify who notifications should go to (Ward Safeguarding lead or host local authority) when children are admitted to adult mental health wards and why none have been received by the CCG in the last year.

59. Deep Dive Audit - Steve Liddicott

The deep dive audit is nearly complete.

60. Agreed protocol for complex education safeguarding cases - Michael Marks

Michael Marks presented the attached protocol and requested that the board note, question and sign off the report.

Mary Harpley questioned how many young people fall into this category. Michael Marks responded that there were currently 2 cases.

The Board agreed to the modifications suggested by Michael Marks.

Steve Liddicott requested that the title of the protocol be changed to ensure clarity.

61. Section 11 and Section 175 - Donald McPhail

Donald McPhail reported that the process would be completed by March 2016.

62. Audit of attendance at Child Protection Conferences - Steve Liddicott

Updates were provided under matters arising.

63. Standing Agenda Items

Jacqui McShannon reported that new management and staff were currently being appointed in the Intake Team. She reported that there had been an increase in referrals and demands on the services and that there had been an increase in the number of case conferences this year. Work was being done to recruit a permanent workforce.

Donald McPhail questioned what the timescale for recruitment was and what impact was being felt due to the low staff numbers.

Jacqui McShannon agreed that difficulty in recruiting was having an impact and that they were currently looking at recruitment and retention strategies to improve this.

64. Reports from Sub-Groups

Action: All members Agency Champions for training on 'neglect' to be forwarded to Janet Johnson.

65. Cases (paper)

Nicky Brown-John reported that she would be stepping down as the chair. Mark Broom was proposed and agreed as the new chair by the members of the board. No questions were raised.

66. Missing and Vulnerable

No questions were raised.

67. Monitoring and Evaluation

No questions were raised.

68. Training

Agencies were requested to offer champions to take forward the neglect agenda and asked to contact Janet Johnson with names. No questions were raised.

69. Child Death Overview Panel (paper)

Nicky Brown-John confirmed support for Hounslow to continue as a separate panel with its own administrative arrangements with learning shared annually across the tri-borough areas.

70. Child Sexual Exploitation (paper)

No questions were asked.

71. Female Genital Mutilation (paper)

Permjit Chadha reported that additional schools had now taken up the offer to show Chelsea's Choice.

72. Education Network

Michael Marks provided a brief update.

73. Health Network (paper)

No questions were raised.

74. Feltham Young Offenders Institute (paper)

No questions were raised.

75. AOB

James Jolly reported that the probation services were currently in the process of establishing themselves as a national organisation including the implementation of common policies and practices.

Nicky Brown-John reported that she would not be covering the Board in future. She said that NHS England's recent deep dive audit had included Hounslow.

Michael Marks reported that a recent inspection by Ofsted of a school had led to some confusion regarding the levels of training staff were expected to attain. He had a meeting planned with HMI from Ofsted to look at this issue.

Michael Marks reported that the report from the consultation, a Brighter Future for under Fives, was due to go to cabinet on 15 December 2015 to decide whether to go forward with the offer.

Donald McPhail reported that Melissa Neilson-Rai had left the Council.

76. Future Meeting Dates and future agenda Items

18 January 2016

The meeting finished at 4:50 pm.