



PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY STRATEGIC BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2017, 13.30

SOLARIS CENTRE, BLACKPOOL

Present:

David Sanders, Independent Chair

Jane Bailey, Principal, South Shore Academy

Kate Barker, Early Years Improvement Officer, Blackpool Council

Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities, Blackpool Council

Jackie Couldridge, Service Manager, CAF/CASS

Terri Crossland, Named Nurse, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

Nicola Evans, Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary

Moya Foster, Senior Service Manager (Early Help), Blackpool Council

Jane Gray, Head of Access and Inclusion, Blackpool Council

Amanda Hatton, Deputy Director of People (Early Help and Children's Social Care), Blackpool Council

John Hawkin, Head of Leisure, Catering Services and Illuminations, Blackpool Council

Josephine Lee, Interim Principal Social Worker and Head of Safeguarding, Blackpool Council

Martin Murphy, Service Manager, NSPCC

David Rigby, Sector Manager, North West Ambulance Service

Rosie Sycamore, Head Teacher, Highfurlong School

Paul Threlfall, Business Development Manager, Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board

Cathie Turner, Designated Nurse and Head of Safeguarding, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group

Paul Turner, Schools' Safeguarding Adviser, Blackpool Council

Sonia Turner, Assistant Director, North West National Probation Service

Jed Sullivan, Director, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Service

Bridgett Welch, Assistant Director, Safeguarding, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust

Rob Wheatley, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

In Attendance:

Merle Davies, Director, Better Start, NSPCC

Nick Issitt, Analyst, Blackpool Safeguarding Boards

Sally Harris, Safeguarding Practitioner, North West Ambulance Service

Paul Longton, ICT Senior Officer, Blackpool Council (Item 1 only - Webex Demonstration)

Sandip Mahajan, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Blackpool Council

Apologies:

Wendy Casson, Head Teacher, Educational Diversity

Hazel Gregory, Head of Safeguarding, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health, Blackpool Council

Sally Shaw, Head of Corporate Delivery, Blackpool Council

Marie Thompson, Director of Nursing and Quality, Blackpool Teaching Hospital

Cara Vaughan, Deputy Head Teacher, Waterloo School

1 WEBEX DEMONSTRATION

Paul Longton, ICT Senior Officer, Blackpool Council gave a demonstration of the Cisco Webex ICT facility for hosting meetings with audio/visual capabilities and remote attendees. The facility would allow social workers and other professionals/managers involved with safeguarding to make better use of time to focus on supporting families. The facility was for business meetings but not suitable for core group meetings with families. It was compatible with laptops and smartphones etc. Other features included webcam capability, synchronization with Outlook calendars allowing invites to be made, the ability to share screens and documents, make electronic meeting notes. Up to 99 meeting 'attendees' could dial in to a relatively secure system. Blackpool Council held a licence costing around £500 and was the primary 'host' but could pass over 'hosting' to meeting chairs from other agencies.

Members discussed next steps for taking forward usage of Webex and practical considerations. Rob Wheatley, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals advised that the NHS mainly used desktop computers so would not be able to use all Webex features. Josephine Lee, Interim Principal Social Worker and Head of Safeguarding, Blackpool Council added that Webex should be used now allowing the opportunity to identify any initial problems. Members of a meeting would be able to dial in. The Chair agreed that usage should be piloted and further ideas for developing usage were welcome.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER, 30 NOVEMBER AND 15 DECEMBER 2016

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting and regular meeting held on 30 November 2016 were approved as a correct record of the meeting. The minutes (action points) of the Summit meeting held on 18 November 2016 and Development Day held on 15 December 2016 were noted. There were no matters arising.

3 ACTION TRACKER

The Action Tracker was reviewed.

Action 102: Recruit a Lay Member to the BSCB Strategic Board. Paul Threlfall, Business Development Manager, Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board advised that a former Local Authority employee who had recently retired had expressed an interest in becoming an independent lay member.

Action 106: Discuss with Pan-Lancashire colleagues the wording of the non-mobile injuries flow-chart in respect of the professional who would undertake the medical assessment of the injury. Paul Threlfall advised that it had been agreed not to use a flowchart but to use appropriate policy wording and content (significant harm criteria and guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence). The policy was being drafted by the Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Board's Business Manager.

Action 110: Inform the Board of any safeguarding information concerning Highfield School and South Shore Academy. Jane Bailey, Head Teacher, South Shore Academy reported that Ofsted had held a recent two day on-site inspection comprehensively reviewing lessons, protocols, safeguarding etc. Good continuing improvement was being

made. Ofsted used a simple 'pass or fail' rating and a further inspection in April 2017 would hopefully result in the school being taken out of 'special measures'.

Action 116: Receive regular (biannual) updates on progress with the Better Start programme. Merle Davies, Director, Better Start was providing an update at the meeting as a separate item. The action had been completed.

Action 118: Report progress on tackling exclusions and alternative education provision. See Action 145. Paul Turner, Schools' Safeguarding Adviser, Blackpool Council was reporting progress at the meeting as a separate item.

Action 119: Pilot technology to promote better attendance and input at core group meetings. Paul Longton, ICT Senior Officer, Blackpool Council had given a demonstration at the meeting. The action had been completed.

Action 135: Complete returns on the numbers of completed Early Help assessments as soon as possible following circulation of the relevant template. Amanda Hatton, Deputy Director of People (Early Help and Children's Social Care), Blackpool Council reported that the Early Help Sub-Group had reviewed progress. Early help required multi-agency work but some agencies had not provided any returns and Blackpool was the only local authority area in the north west that was unable to provide returns on the number of completed early help assessments. Paul Threlfall would pursue returns.

Action 139: Discuss at Schools' Twilight sessions, permissions guidance for schools wishing to discuss Protecting Vulnerable Persons reports, i.e. securing consent from parents. Paul Turner advised that guidance had been discussed at the Schools' Twilight meeting in November 2016 and would be done again at the next Twilight meeting in March 2017.

Action 140: Supporting the work of Children's Centres by raising awareness of development opportunities at school visits. Paul Threlfall advised that school visits were ongoing. The action had been completed.

Action 141: Progress report on Grange Park Health Centre's improvements following the Care Quality Commission re-inspection to the November 2016 meeting of the Board else February 2017. Cathie Turner, Designated Nurse and Head of Safeguarding, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group understood that the Care Quality Commission's re-inspection late 2016 had reported good progress. The action had been completed.

Action 142: A dedicated meeting would look at private fostering issues, report recommendations and potential solutions. The meeting would involve the BCCG; Cumbria and Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company; Early Years; Families in Need; health visitors; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, schools and the Transience Team. Paul Threlfall advised that Cindy Hunter, Senior Service Manager, Early Help, Blackpool Council was taking this work forward with a report to be brought back to a future meeting of the Board.

Action 144: Discuss the Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Childhood (SUDC) Rapid Response Service options with Pan-Lancashire Local SCB Chairs with feedback that the current service timing needs to be more effective with wider service coverage. The pan-Lancashire Chairs' meeting had taken place and is a separate item on the agenda. The

action had been completed.

Action 145: A dedicated meeting would look at education issues and opportunities concerning excluded children and 'new to area' children. See Action 118. Paul Turner, Schools' Safeguarding Adviser, Blackpool Council was reporting progress at the meeting as a separate item.

Action 181: Nicola Turner to add Paul Turner, as the schools representative, and Kate Barker, as an early years advisor, to the Transformation Plan Board. The action had been completed.

Action 182: Paul Turner to communicate with Cara Vaughan, Deputy Head Teacher, Waterloo School over Transformation Plan Board work and circulate details of work and support opportunities to schools. The Chair believed that the action had been completed but would be confirmed at the next meeting of the Board.

Action 183: Arif Rajpura, Donna Taylor and Rob Wheatley to discuss preventative work on cot deaths. Rob Wheatley reported that no meeting had been held. The Chair clarified that additional assurance was being sought concerning appropriate preventative work primarily increasing awareness of safer sleep messages.

Action 185: Circulate scoping paper for Domestic Abuse funding. The action had been completed.

Actions 186 and 187 were linked.

Action 186: Domestic Abuse - ensure continued involvement (all agencies) with Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG) work and meetings for mock inspections and actual Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs). See Action 187. Josephine Lee reported that the Multi-Agency Audit Group's domestic abuse audit had been completed, as had a neglect audit which was expected to be the next joint inspection theme.

Action 187: Domestic Abuse - progress report on Joint Targeted Area Inspections work to February 2017 meeting of the Board. See Action 186. Josephine Lee was reporting progress at the meeting as a separate item. The action had been completed.

Action 188: Health and Safeguarding Needs of Looked after Children - progress report on relevant aspects of the Lancashire Action Plan to February 2017 meeting of the Board. Bridgett Welch, Assistant Director, Safeguarding, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust reported that a meeting was due between relevant agencies to consider progress made with the Action Plan.

Action 189: Add trafficking to a meeting of the Business Management Group for detailed consideration. The Chair advised that work was ongoing.

4 BETTER START - PROGRESS UPDATE

Merle Davies provided an overview of the Better Start Programme and progress to date. Better Start was a ten year programme funded through the Big Lottery and had been running for eighteen months (since July 2015). The programme supported children aged 0-4 years old and their parents and focused on seven deprived ward areas. Better Start

was a partnership programme involving communities, health/voluntary sectors, police and the local authority and was co-ordinated ('hosted') by the NSPCC who had moved its staff from their Layton base into children's centres for a more integrated and accessible approach.

Much of the work involved research, testing and developing new approaches to improve children's early development. The developmental approach for families had focused initially on social and emotional development and was now working on communication and language and also healthy diet and nutrition. There was a focused intervention strategy which looked at reducing 'stresses' causing problems such as substance misuse, domestic abuse, mental ill-health, isolation; and supporting people to build parenting capacity social/community cohesion.

Merle Davies gave examples of targeted work programmes involving interventions for parents with identified needs and universal support offers. Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) helped build parental skills through parents watching positive interactions that they had had with their children. Parents under Pressure (PUP) supported people struggling with substance misuse. SafeCare supported families at an early stage to tackle or reduce risks of children being neglected. 'Baby Steps' involved Family Nurse Partnership support, prior to birth, preparing for early development and 184 parents had been supported so far with more due to be supported.

She referred to the Review of Health Visitors (for 0-5 year olds) that had been undertaken with full implementation from 2018 and would offer tailored support with eight visits (previously five) at key stages following birth and during a child's early years. Developing the Health Visitors programme was a key area of work for Better Start.

Merle Davies referred to some other areas of development work. The South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Foundation Trust were developing a child health programme. The Mental Health Alliance was piloting mothers and babies work. Oxford University were undertaking depression research. Adverse childhood experiences were being considered and work would be piloted with the police. Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities, Blackpool Council referred to a recent conference and video on adverse childhood experiences and offered to send Members a web link. Merle Davies explained that the different strands of work would support parents to be more aware of issues and build resilience.

She added that developing staff's early help skills to better support parents was important. Training programmes were being developed with the Royal College of Nursing and local training advice from Blackpool Council. An audit of nurses' training had been undertaken and development support had been given to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities team. A range of training opportunities helped support volunteers.

Merle Davies explained that the overall aim was to transform the effectiveness of early start support across the seven wards for long-term sustainable improvement for families. A conference on early help had been well attended. She added that it was important to identify gaps where there were issues or support was needed, e.g. developing the best commissioning pathways, taking into account service users' perspectives.

She referred to emerging areas of work. These included tackling alcohol use during pregnancy, an oral health review promoting awareness of effective tooth-brushing and

how best to engage dentists. A wider health commissioning review had been in progress for several months. A speech and language development review (for 0-19 year olds) had been undertaken with outcomes now being implemented. Work included developing fathers' skills, e.g. mental health support. Fathers had indicated that they were the 'last in line' when it came to decision-making concerning children and families. 'Mellow' parenting work would be rolled out. A key piece of work would be developing 'peer parent' training. A quality standards mark was also being pursued for early years settings.

Merle Davies highlighted wider health and wellbeing work. Seven community 'connectors' (champions) had been appointed and a volunteer academy had been developed. Better Start had £1.6million available to invest in parks and open spaces within the seven wards. Three park rangers for early years were working with parents and businesses. Significant public consultation on developing local environments was currently underway for the Mereside and Claremont Wards. 'Fit to go' activities were being developed for families with good involvement and £64k had been spent on activities at children's centres such as literacy skills. Activities also took place at libraries.

She concluded that there were a range of events and talks for parents again with large numbers involved.

Terri Crossland, Named Nurse, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals enquired about progress with the Pause programme. This aimed to support women, who might often have children placed in care or at risk of being in care, to review options for developing skills and breaking the cycle of pregnancies and children in care. Merle Davies explained that the Pause programme scoping study had now been completed.

Councillor Graham Cain clarified that Pause was not directly a Better Start initiative but one that the Council wanted to support with funding. He referred to Hackney where the Pause initiative had secured significant success and was good value for money. He emphasised that supporting children and providing good care was paramount so sufficient funding would be available.

David Rigby, Sector Manager, North West Ambulance Service added that the Ambulance Service was supporting a range of work including integrated clinical pathways. He suggested that Sally Harris, Safeguarding Practitioner, North West Ambulance Service could liaise with Merle Davies on how the Better Start work could be supported.

Action: Councillor Graham Cain to send Members a web link for recent conference information and video on adverse childhood.

Action: Sally Harris to liaise with Merle Davies on how the Better Start work could be supported through North West Ambulance Service work on integrated clinical pathways.

5 CARE QUALITY COMMISSION INSPECTION OF LANCASHIRE CARE FOUNDATION TRUST

Bridgett Welch reported that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had undertaken an on-site re-inspection of a wide range of services provided by the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT). A previous inspection had resulted in a 'requires improvement' rating and the re-inspection sought to establish progress made.

She explained that the re-inspection had reviewed services for young people aged 0-19 years old as well as adults. It had taken place over a week during the middle of September 2016 and had involved comprehensive evidence collection. This had included observing numerous meetings, home visits, review of patient and staff records. The Commission had spoken to a good cross-section of patients, carers/relatives and staff as well as senior management and also observed patient care and treatment on all wards.

Bridgett Welch summarised that thirteen core service areas had been reviewed as part of the Commission's five headline themes, resulting in an overall improved rating of 'good'. She clarified that, of the services 'requiring improvement', there were no relevant community health / mental health wards within Blackpool and that there was only one Blackpool sited community health in-patient ward. She added that the Commission had identified a wide range of good practice including learning lessons effectively, applying the 'duty of candour' appropriately and supporting young people's transition to adult services. The Trust had produced a summary table of the ratings.

She referred to specific safeguarding findings from the Commission.

The compliance rate for some mandatory safeguarding training was less than target and needed to be increased accordingly.

There needed to be more robust supervision arrangements (managers supervising staff with safeguarding responsibilities) within young people's community health wards. The Trust did support safeguarding 'champions' who were supervised by team leaders who received supervision training. Supervised cases were reviewed monthly to ensure good practice compliance. Terri Crossland, Named Nurse, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals advised that the Hospital Trust used a supervision template which she could make available.

Within young people's community health wards, safeguarding referrals made by staff to Children's Social Care were not always copied to the Trust's Safeguarding Team.

Bridgett Welch explained that actions were being developed to tackle the improvement areas including appropriate training. The Trust's commissioners were reviewing the proposed action plan. In some cases, actions were already being pursued. A 'Quality Summit' would be taking place on 21 February 2017 when stakeholders would be able to review the findings and question the Trust on its action plan.

The Chair commended the Trust in securing widespread improvement and the overall 'good' rating. However, he noted that 'requires improvement' appeared in the 'safe' and 'effective' themes. It was important for the Board to monitor progress.

Action: Terri Crossland to send the safeguarding supervision template used by the Hospital Trust to Bridgett Welch.

Action: Bridgett Welch to present the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust's formal response to the Care Quality Commission's re-inspection findings and the Trust's Action Plan to a future meeting of the Board.

6 YOUNG CARERS

Josephine Lee presented a paper outlining the range of support offered to young carers

aged 0-18 years old and associated work. The Council commissioned Blackpool Carers' Centre to manage support for young carers. Key objectives included identifying young carers, their needs, offering them appropriate levels of support/training and working with other agencies such as schools and Adult Services (to identify potential young people who might be unknown carers and also transition from being a young carer to an adult carer). Awareness raising of young carers, their needs and support available was an objective.

She added that various work and meetings were ongoing. Paul Turner was involved as the Schools' Safeguarding Advisor. She concluded that young carers were the responsibility of all people/agencies not just Children's Social Care.

John Hawkin, Head of Leisure, Catering Services and Illuminations, Blackpool Council noted that one of the planned areas of support for young carers was increasing access to leisure opportunities. He enquired whether Leisure Services had been contacted but Josephine Lee was not sure if Leisure had been contacted yet.

Terri Crossland referred to Child and Family Assessments (CAFA) and whether social workers were required, as part of assessments, to establish if there were young carers. Josephine Lee confirmed that identification of young carers formed part of assessments but was not a detailed requirement.

Paul Threlfall noted that young carers were included in the draft safeguarding thresholds of need document.

7 SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATHS IN CHILDREN - RAPID RESPONSE SERVICE

The Chair explained that the Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Childhood (SUDC) Rapid Response Service had been independently reviewed by a the Public Health Registrar based within Lancashire County Council, on behalf of the Child Death Overview Panel. The original purpose of the review had been to assess compliance with the requirements of Working Together 2015, however in the course of the review it was identified that approximately two thirds of deaths occurred during periods in which the service was not available.

Three options had therefore been presented to address this issue.

The first option was to maintain the current nurse-led service provision which operated during office hours Monday-Friday. He advised that the 'no change' option was not acceptable. An further option for a full paediatric service for 24hrs every day had been noted as too costly by the reviewer.

The recommended option would create better coverage over seven days ensuring that all cases would get a response within 24hrs. Bridgett Welch clarified that the option was for a flexible service covering seven days per week but not 24hrs every day. The eight Clinical Commissioning Groups, acting as the Pan-Lancashire Collaborative Commissioning Board, had to approve funding for the proposed option. Paul Threlfall reported that the Pan-Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Co-ordinator understood that most Commissioning Groups had so far indicated a preference for the recommended option. The Chair agreed that the recommended option presented the optimum service. Terri Crossland explained that Blackpool Teaching Hospitals had raised concerns with the Commissioning Groups and the Public Health Reviewer.

Subject to Clinical Commissioning Groups' approval, the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust would develop the new service.

8 JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION - PROGRESS

Josephine Lee reported that the second dry-run audit had taken place in preparation for the potential Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) on domestic abuse support. Significant progress had been made following the first dry-run and agencies had demonstrated effective audit processes. This should enable the partnership to meet the practical demands of an inspection. However, the issue remained of not being able to effectively evidence work that secured good outcomes for families. It was important to be able to capture outcomes achieved for children.

Amanda Hatton referred to likely themes for the next set of inspections following a recent regional Ofsted meeting. Single agency inspections also needed to be considered and prepared for, e.g. on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. These smaller inspections could result in wider joint inspections with a continuing focus on effectiveness of multi-agency working and 'front door' activity. The next joint inspections were expected to be on neglect and familial sexual abuse which would further opportunity for developing general inspection preparation. Inspectorates appeared to be focusing on the effectiveness of multi-agency working particularly at the 'front-door'.

She cautioned that work on domestic abuse inspection preparation had been supported by two additional officers but preparation for neglect and other themed inspections might have staff capacity issues. The Chair agreed that there needed to be sufficient staff resource. If the current resource level could not be maintained then the Board needed to consider funding additional resource.

Josephine Lee added that preparation had included following the Ofsted framework leading to the Multi-Agency Audit Group developing an effective audit template tool.

Amanda Hatton added that opportunities needed to be developed across Pan-Lancashire involving the Chairs of the Safeguarding Boards and the Directors of Children's Services. This would help share and develop best practice across the areas.

Nicola Evans, Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary pointed towards wider opportunities, beyond inspections, to develop shared and skilled resources, e.g. a centralised serious case review team. She added that the focus needed to be on securing the best outcomes to improve services. The Chair welcomed tripartite working to co-ordinate inspection preparation, share resources and improve services.

9 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE

The Chair presented the update of the Business Management Group meeting held on 23 January 2017.

A pilot of closer working arrangements between the Awaken team and St Mary's School had started to develop the school's ability to identify and respond to child sexual exploitation. Feedback from the pilot would be used to develop approaches with other schools.

The pilot on the new approach to Early Help thresholds and associated documentation had started involving a cross-section of schools, a children's centre and early years setting. Feedback from the pilot would be considered at the March 2017 meeting of the Board when any refinements would be agreed before wider roll-out of the final version of the thresholds.

A report by government inspectors on 'Use of Police Custody Suites in Lancashire' had been considered. The report had identified serious shortfalls so had been considered in detail. Progress was being made and an update would be provided to the March 2017 meeting of the Board. The inspectors had not provided a breakdown of issues by area, i.e. in Blackpool so the police had been asked to provide this in its progress update.

The Chair noted that there had been good interest in training offered through the Board. However, an over-subscription issue had arisen due to limited capacity of trainers. Streamlined training would help, e.g. training on neglect evaluation tools was originally over two days but was now available over four hours.

Amanda Hatton referred to work being developed through the Adults Safeguarding Board concerning financial abuse including scams. She advised that an academic from Bournemouth University had undertaken international research and was attending a local conference. The work mainly focused on vulnerable, older adults but financial abuse needed to be considered as an issue for children too.

The Chair concluded that the Business Management Group had highlighted the continuing pressure on all agencies of the numbers of children being directly safeguarded, e.g. the numbers of looked after children had briefly dropped to under 500 but was now at 517. Nicky Evans added that the pressures were apparent across Lancashire.

The Group had also discussed an outline draft Business Plan 2017-2019 with comments incorporated into a structured Plan (milestones and action leads) for Board consideration.

10 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2017-2019

Paul Threlfall presented the draft Business Plan 2017-2019. The draft followed on from recent Board work: the Early Help 'Summit' meeting and Joint Development Day with the Adults Board. The draft included some actions that were being carried forward from the current Plan 2015-2017.

There were five broad headings (priorities) which had also formed the basis for Development Day discussions: governance and statutory functions; understanding safeguarding needs; early help and thresholds of need; safeguarding children with specific needs; and addressing specific risk factors. The priority headings were underpinned by various objectives and specific actions.

Members' views were sought on proposed actions, any missing actions, whether proposed groups/services to lead on specific actions were correct and milestones for delivering actions. He added that the Plan covered a two-year period. The proposed headings and actions would be refined as appropriate following Members' feedback.

Paul Threlfall took Members through the Business Plan priorities, objectives and actions.

Comments were made on various aspects of the Plan.

Priority one - understanding safeguarding needs

Priority one on understanding safeguarding needs would develop through effective data collection and analysis leading to robust decision-making. Priority one data work would be aided by the new Analyst.

Action 1.1 - concerned completion of the Board's dataset (Part A had been done, Part B was outstanding).

Action 1.2 - data (performance) indicators needed to be benchmarked allowing all partners to be held account in relation to progress.

Action 1.6 - it was important to develop the Child Sexual Exploitation dataset, understand the issues and target appropriate action to help protect children.

Cathie Turner referred to needing a dataset which contained qualitative information as well as quantitative data. Amanda Hatton added that there needed to be an outcomes-focus and that inspectorates reviewed datasets as part of Joint Targeted Area Inspections. Paul Threlfall would re-word actions as appropriate.

Cathie Turner referred to Child Sexual Exploitation and noted that data/information on other key areas were needed particularly for neglect and familial sexual abuse. The Chair suggested a dataset for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Moya Foster, Senior Service Manager (Early Help), Blackpool Council added that data on children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities could be used from schools (100% data returns).

Merle Davies added that Better Start wanted to secure better data. She referred to a shared data 'warehouse' hosted by health sector partners (Hospital Trust and Public Health). However, data on other areas was needed such as Child Social Care.

David Rigby referred to comprehensive incident data on children with mental health issues held by North West Ambulance Service and offered to forward this.

Amanda Hatton referred to developing dataset information for looked after children by postcode area. David Rigby added that ambulance service data 'heat-maps' existed which were based on Clinical Commissioning Group boundaries and could be 'drilled' down for areas within Blackpool. Paul Threlfall suggested that a longer term action to develop postcode data analysis by the end of 2018.

Paul Threlfall would add in dataset requirements for neglect and familial sexual abuse and to the same timescale for developing Child Sexual Exploitation data reporting. Other potential enhanced datasets included children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and children with mental health issues. Potential use and development of the Better Start dataset could also be considered.

Priority two - early help and thresholds of need

Paul Threlfall referred to the priority on early help and thresholds of need which followed on from the wide range of ongoing work. Ongoing development areas included 'front-

door' advice resource, supporting parents at Children's Centres, an effective Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and training support. Opportunities to develop referral and other systems through technology needed to be considered.

Merle Davies queried how needs assessments would be updated, e.g. for health visitors. She added that assessment updates needed to be considered.

Amanda Hatton added that an Early Help Strategy needed to be developed which would need resourcing to complete. Paul Threlfall would add the Strategy as a Business Plan action although an author needed to be identified.

Action 2.1 (revised thresholds) and Action 2.2 (moving away from thresholds to a family support focus) - Cathie Turner noted that these two actions appeared to be contradictory. She added that the approach was supposed to move towards 'conversations' with families. She added that there needed to be consistency across Lancashire where four threshold levels were used rather than the Blackpool proposal for three levels. Kate Barker, Early Years Improvement Officer, Blackpool Council noted that Action 2.2 was applicable notwithstanding the number of levels involved, i.e. all agencies needed to provide single agency support for the first universal level and thereafter multi-agency support was required.

Paul Threlfall clarified that the two actions, along with Action 2.3 (audit of assessments and referrals) stemmed from the Early Help 'Summit'.

Members had various views on the proposed new Early Help thresholds approach. Moya Foster referred to the last strategic board meeting when health colleagues and herself had expressed concerns which had not been addressed but the pilot for the new approach was still going ahead. Merle Davies was concerned that staff might become confused with increased risks if the system they currently understood was changed. Nicky Evans referred to three threshold levels ('low', 'medium' and 'high') as being a simpler approach than the current version. The Chair clarified that the new approach was being piloted so enhancements could still be made.

Cathie Turner added that, within the Plan, there needed to be an early help working link with Health Visitors who could have a big impact on families.

Priority three - safeguarding children with specific needs

Paul Threlfall referred to one of the primary objectives, for the priority on safeguarding children with specific needs, was safeguarding children outside the school environment particularly those missing school. Paul Turner was leading on these actions.

Paul Threlfall added that the priority included a series of actions for safeguarding older children. There were a range of actions for safeguarding children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities which took into account the NSPCC's report on the area which highlighted actions that local safeguarding children's boards needed to implement. Other actions included safeguarding and supporting young carers and also children in care.

Cathie Turner suggested that financial abuse including scamming needed to be added as an action in view of vulnerable children being increasingly targeted. The Chair agreed that this area needed to be considered and could be combined with Adults Board work.

Cathie Turner suggested that there needed to be more focus on looked after children. There was currently no dedicated multi-agency meeting group. Amanda Hatton noted that the Corporate Parenting Panel was responsible overall for ensuring that Looked after Children in the Council's care received the best support and opportunities. The Panel was chaired by Councillor Cain who noted that a multi-agency approach was important.

Councillor Cain added that there was a lot of ongoing work but the numbers coming into the system exceeded children leaving care. He added that ideas were welcome and he was currently considering work undertaken in Leeds where children in care numbers had reduced by 25%.

Amanda Hatton noted that there was also a Multi-Agency Placement Panel. Creating another meeting group was not necessary but it was important to have effective reporting to the Board on significant safeguarding issues, e.g. 'out of area' children placed into care within Blackpool by other authority areas. She suggested that thematic reviews could take place on a quarterly basis for issues such as the Council's Looked after Children and 'out of area' placements. Nicky Evans suggested that themes could include reviewing processes and decision-making.

The Chair agreed that thematic reviews would be a good approach for the children in care issues and could take place after July 2017 when the new governance structures would start to take effect.

Priority four - addressing specific risk factors

Paul Threlfall referred to the priority on addressing specific risk factors. This included ongoing work concerning Child Sexual Exploitation, children 'Missing from Home' and Neglect of children. There was a Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 2016-2018. Child Sexual Abuse had been included as a risk and would be reviewed following the results of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Other areas included children at risk of domestic abuse and substance abuse by parents.

Terri Crossland referred to Actions 4.3-4.5 on child and human trafficking. She noted that trafficking could involve modern day slavery and suggested that the suggestions needed to reflect this.

Priority five - governance and statutory functions

Paul Threlfall referred to the priority on governance and statutory functions. There were no particular comments.

Next steps

The Chair advised that a revised draft Business Plan would be presented for approval at the Board's next meeting on 30 March 2017. He invited all Members to send comments Plan to Paul Threlfall in time for the meeting (comments by 15 March 2017).

Action (priority one): Paul Threlfall to incorporate, in the Business Plan, reference to datasets needing to contain qualitative information as well as quantitative data and to be outcomes-focus.

Action (priority one): Paul Threlfall to add, to the Business Plan, dataset requirements for neglect and familial sexual abuse to the same timescale for developing Child Sexual Exploitation data reporting. Other potential dataset areas included children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, children with mental health issues and the Better Start dataset.

Action (priority one): Paul Threlfall to add, to the Business Plan, a target for developing postcode data analysis by the end of 2017.

Action (priority two): Paul Threlfall would add drafting the Early Help Strategy as a Business Plan action and an author needed to be identified.

Action (priority two): Paul Threlfall to add, to the Business Plan, developing an early help working link with Health Visitors.

Action (priority three): Paul Threlfall to add, to the Business Plan, a quality assurance workshop to take place in the second half of 2017 reviewing Looked after Children issues including processes and decision-making.

Action (priority four): Paul Threlfall to add, to the Business Plan, reference to Modern Day Slavery linking into the actions on Child Trafficking.

Action: All Members to send comments on the draft Business Plan to Paul Threlfall in time for the Board meeting on 30 March 2017 (comments by 15 March 2017).

11 GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Chair referred to the governance review of strategic partnerships that had taken place for streamlining and effective coordination of partnerships. The partnerships concerned were the Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards, Community Safety Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board. There would be meetings arranged involving presentations on shared themes as well as thematic workshops.

Quarterly meetings were proposed for each of the four partnership boards on a fixed annual cycle. Meetings would need to focus on essential items with other items circulated outside meetings for information. The Shadow Boards and most sub-groups would need to mirror the Boards' meeting pattern. Some sub-groups would need to maintain a higher frequency of meetings to reflect ongoing priority work.

He added that there would be joint meetings of the Safeguarding Boards with the morning session focusing on one of the Board's work, a common session in the middle of the day for shared themes and the afternoon session on the second Board's work. Members had no preference for which Board's work came first.

The Chair proposed leaving existing Board meeting dates for June / July 2017. He suggested that the new joint meeting format could take effect from September 2017.

RESOLVED – That joint meetings of the Safeguarding Boards would commence from September 2017.

12 SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

The Chair deferred this item to the Board's meeting in March 2017. The first step would be on the identifying the child population with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and their needs and support required. The second step would be establishing what actions the Board needed to pursue to deliver the necessary safeguarding support.

13 SCHOOLS' UPDATE

Paul Turner explained two secondary schools in Blackpool had been recently inspected by Ofsted and each school had 'required improvement'. He referred to a recent inspection concerning the Aspire Academy. The Academy had performed well in safeguarding and some other school aspects although improvements were required too. Only one school (South Shore) remained in 'special measures' although progress was being made. St George's, which was previously rated as good, was now categorised as requiring improvement.

He referred to the Devonshire Primary Academy where there had been an incident of a vulnerable pupil leaving the building. It appeared that the incident had been due to human error. The Academy had taken appropriate measures to tighten up systems and had effective safeguarding in place, i.e. this had been an isolated incident.

He referred to Ofsted's website and the most common complaints raised. Parents were particularly concerned about bullying which was a challenging area for teachers to manage. Consistent approaches were needed to tackle bullying with clearly defined roles for teachers. He added that parents struggled with children being out of school.

Paul Turner reported that permanent school exclusions had decreased but were still too high as were the number of children in the Pupil Referral Unit. The numbers (160) pursuing Elective Home Education were also too high (from a safeguarding assurance perspective). He emphasised that head-teachers needed to take proactive action to make real progress otherwise the issues would remain well into the future. Some schools took in lots of children with difficulties whilst others trying avoiding allowing in challenging children. He added that organisations from outside Blackpool might be able to present good opportunities, e.g. CAST North West specialised in alternative curriculum opportunities and would be in Blackpool later in February 2017.

Jed Sullivan, Director, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Service advised that voluntary sector organisations were supporting children from Lancashire with alternative curriculum opportunities but not children from Blackpool. Jane Gray, Head of Access and Inclusion, Blackpool Council explained that Mike Taplin, Early Help Service Manager, Blackpool Council was mapping opportunities available in the area. Rosie Sycamore, Head Teacher, Highfurlong School stated that opportunities were needed. Paul Turner explained that head teachers were keen to use any opportunity so he would look into this issue.

Paul Turner reported that the Blackpool School Improvement Board's Inclusion Group was reviewing alternative school curriculum options to help give opportunities to older children. There were twenty-seven students at the Alternative School facility, for varying reasons, with places paid for by their previous school. It had been set up quickly and generated a good rate of (income) return.

Paul Turner reported that schools had agreed to fund the Schools' Safeguarding Advisor on a permanent basis which demonstrated good commitment to safeguarding. The Council had reviewing safeguarding roles and made the Local Authority Designated Officer responsible for investigating safeguarding allegations against staff working with children and vulnerable adults.

He referred to a drama production 'Crash' that delivered safeguarding messages for children and had attracted interest from all schools. The cost was £7.8k which the Board could consider funding.

Schools needed more support to ensure that they better understood safeguarding and what concerns needed to be referred. Schools wanted to work more closely with Children's Social Care. Supporting schools through effective communications was important. The School Improvement Board had noted that schools had limited capacity to provide early help support to children. Capacity had also been reduced following staff cuts. The Safeguarding Board could support schools develop early help capacity.

Paul Turner referred to the benefits of all schools having one data recording system for safeguarding work. This would cost £20k per year and could be funded for five years. Funding might be secured from a New Opportunities Fund.

Paul Turner concluded that head teachers needed to start taking immediate proactive action. Schools, the Improvement Board and Safeguarding Board needed to work together and start investing in improvement actions.

Action: Paul Turner to start developing opportunities for schools, the Improvement Board and Safeguarding Board with a view to promote investment in improvement actions.

Action: Paul Turner to review opportunities offered by the voluntary sector for alternative education curriculum.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kate Barker explained that a process for sharing domestic abuse incidents with early years settings was being developed. Children's centres would be involved in the process. A copy of the proposed process paper had been given to Paul Threlfall. She added that the Early Years Service was being reviewed which related to Department for Education proposals concerning early years funding linked to high performance targets. There could be an impact on the level of staff available for early years support. A consultation exercise was expected and the consultation paper would be forwarded to Paul Threlfall.

Paul Threlfall referred to the Serious Case Review concerning Child BW. The report had been approved by the Board on 30 November 2016. Publication of the final report had been delayed in order to ensure feedback for the family which had been made now. The Council's Communications Team would develop a media strategy and contact partner agencies prior to publication on 14 February 2017.

Paul Threlfall referred to the Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Conference being held on 13 March 2017 and thanked agencies for helping secure strong interest.

The event had become over-subscribed so consideration would be given to prioritising attendees and ensuring balanced attendance from the range of agencies. Councillor Cain expressed concern that people were encouraged to attend training events but then the training might not be available or delayed; this was sending out the wrong message. He added that the Winter Gardens would have been a more suitable venue, and income generation for an agency partner, rather than the Village Hotel. The Chair advised that he would look into the venue arrangements.

Jed Sullivan advised that the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Service, as an authorised body, had previously provided Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) training to its members to undertake recruitment checks. Training was no longer offered due to costs and the local voluntary sector did not have the capacity to undertake checks. He enquired if the local authority or another agency could provide a checking service. An authorised body needed the capacity to offer the checking service to 250 voluntary sector organisations. The Chair advised that the Council did not provide a checking service. Moya Foster referred to Better Start which worked with the Volunteer Hub and Children's Centres and might be in a position to assist. Jed Sullivan would contact Merle Davies to discuss any support available for offering Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Paul Turner added that teacher supply agencies were not all fully complying with Disclosure and Barring Service recruitment checks. Agencies needed to be encouraged. The Chair and himself would look into the matter.

The Chair referred to the interim and longer-term arrangements for the Council's Senior Management Team within Children's Services which including safeguarding. Details had been sent to all members. On behalf of the Board, he thanked Amanda Hatton for her work and wished her well.

Action: Paul Turner and David Sanders to liaise with teacher supply agencies to ensure that they are undertaking Disclosure and Barring Service recruitment checks before supplying teachers to schools.

15 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 30 March 2017, 13.30-16.30
City Learning Centre, Blackpool

(The meeting ended at 16.30)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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