

**MINUTES OF BLACKPOOL LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (BLSCB)
TUESDAY 2nd JUNE 2009**

Present:

Dennis Charlton	Independent Chair
Sheila Sutherland	Assistant Director, Targeted Services, Children and Young People's Department
Ian Phillips	Assistant Chief & Area Director Blackpool, Lancashire Probation Service
Sue Harrison	Assistant Director Learning and Achievement, Children and Young People's Department
Dr Cathie Turner	Designated Nurse, Child Protection NHS Blackpool
Dr Robert Wheatley	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, Blackpool Hospital's Trust
Peter Jefferson	Chief Executive, Blackpool Coastal Housing
Efrem Jones	Vice Principal Sixth Form College
Jim Keefe	Deputy Head, Arnold School
Delyth Curtis	Assistant Director, Children's Health
Paula Swindlehurst	Quality Assurance Service Manager
Andrew Lowe	Head of Service, Youth Offending
Karen Smith	Assistant Director, Assessment, Prevention & Support, Adult Social Care & Housing
Sarah Price	Local Safeguarding Children Board Administrator

Guests:

Mary Aubrey	Representing Marie Thompson
Graham Coulston-Herrmann	Detective Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary – representing DCI Justin Srivastava
Colleen Murphy	Independent Social Worker, Author of Reconsidered SCR
Diane Pennington	Group Manager, Central Locality Social Work Teams, Lead person for Private Fostering
Carmen Conquer	Home-Start, Blackpool
Maria Everitt	Home-Start, Blackpool
Emma Baker	Home-Start, Blackpool
Susanne Williams	Home-Start, Blackpool
John Cronin	YMCA
Terri Sawkill	YMCA

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM:

Alison Long, Principal Solicitor, Legal Department, Blackpool Council
Dawn Lang, Assistant Director, NSPCC
Tess Tackett, LSCB Training Coordinator
Marie Thompson, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality Clinical Governance Directorate, Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Hospitals Trust
Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health
Justin Srivastava, DCI, Lancashire Constabulary
Susan Morley, Service Manager, Blackpool & Lancaster CAF/CASS
Dr Colin Scott, St Paul's Medical Centre
Liz Holt, Director of Children's Community Health Services, NHS Blackpool
Janet Hambly, Senior Service Manager Operations, Targeted Services
Dr K Vasudev, Faith Group Representative
Julie Smith, Pupil Welfare Manager
Lynne Worden, Headteacher, St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Action

2. Child B – Reconsidered SCR

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Overview Report writer for the reconsidered SCR was late. It was agreed to continue with the rest of the agenda items until she arrived.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM 27th JANUARY 2009

There was a discussion about listing the attendees by name and job title, as opposed to just by job title. It was agreed that the front sheet would include names and designations of all attendees and the minutes would refer to job titles only.

Minutes agreed as an accurate record.

Agenda Items 27.01.09

4. Budget

A budget meeting was held today. There may be a budget shortfall for the next projected year, which is mainly due to the post of the Business Development Manager, and in costs of completing Serious Case Reviews. The Independent Chair requested a commitment from all members to discuss contributions to the Board with their Chief Officers.

The Independent Chair has had discussions with the Media Department, who have drawn up a communications outline. The plan is good overall, but there are some costs involved. It was agreed that the Independent Chair would try and negotiate with the media department to reduce the costs.

Delyth Curtis will be invited to the next budget meeting.

5. Youth Offending Team Presentation

Blackpool Youth Offending Team Service Manager, presented information on the Youth Justice Board Serious Incident Reporting Procedures, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

6. Government Response to Laming Report (DCSF)

The key issues are:

- Working Together will be completely revised. This is currently on target for December 2009.
- Chapter 8 – SCR Guidance is to be issued at the end of July 2009 for discussion. This is again on target.

Nationally

A National Safeguarding Delivery Unit is to be established, and will be headed up by Sir Roger Singleton, Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children. The main aim of the Safeguarding Unit is to ensure that all agencies communicate efficiently and effectively. (refer to page 10 of report for NSDU core functions).

There is a new school inspection framework, with more focus on Safeguarding (refer to page 11 of the report).

All Agency
Reps

Chair

LSCB Admin

Locally

A change of membership on the LSCB is required. Directors of Children's Services and Children's Trusts are to have representation, and 2 lay people are to become members. This is to ensure that the voice and views of the children are considered during any decision making.

Until full guidance is received, it will be difficult to make any changes.

There are to be unannounced inspections, which will be reviewing Initial Assessment, and Social Workers will be invited to be available during these.

There will also be announced inspections, together with annual inspections. 10 days notice is given for annual inspections. Blackpool is in line to be inspected very soon.

The board is aware of all the issues and it was agreed to await detailed guidance. Once this has been received, the Board will review and put in place any new measures at this time.

Once the new school inspection framework is received, Assistant Director Learning and Achievement, CYPD will make a presentation to the Board, with a view to setting up a working group.

7. Setting up a Working Group for Safer Recruitment

All LSCB's are to ensure that there are safe recruitment policies in place. Large amounts of work have already been completed in setting up these policies. Would it be beneficial to set up meetings between the LADO, LSCB Training Coordinator and a lead HR representative from each agency? The Independent Chair is happy to broker a meeting(s) to ensure that agencies are sharing the relevant information.

All agencies, apart from police, are to send the names of an HR representative to the Independent Chair. The Independent Chair will ask Linda Dutton, Strategic HR Manager to share contact details to ensure best practice.

Deputy Head, Arnold School suggested that an area in need of investigation is supply agencies, to ensure that staff are fully CRB cleared and fit to work with children.

It was mentioned that Linda Dutton is setting up a Blackpool Supply Agency, and that schools could possibly consider contacting her for supply teachers.

8. Induction Booklet

A draft induction booklet has been produced, which includes:

- A role description for members of LSCB, and expectations of that role;
- Named documents with which the LSCB member should become familiar; and
- General information about safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

**All Agencies /
Chair**

It was suggested that 2 members of the Board (preferably new members) could test the booklet and help make any refinements. Team Manager, YOT and Assistant Chief & Area Director Blackpool, Lancashire Probation Service volunteered to assist with this.

Once feedback has been received from the volunteers, the document will be amended and brought back to the Board for approval. If any other member has any comments, please direct them at this stage to the LSCB Training Coordinator.

9. Sub Group Minutes

Operational & Quality Assurance Sub Group

The group are now more into actual business and looking into detailed information, but are still hampered by the Business Development Manager not being in post.

Operational based groups are to be set up in the 4 different localities, involving health and Social Workers.

Training Sub Group

The draft Annual report was supplied to all members. If there are any comments on this, please forward them to the LSCB Training Coordinator by 16/06/09.

Policy & Procedures Sub Group

The group has recently been concentrating on the safeguarding procedures. Kate Ryding is liaising with schools with regards to e-safety.

The Domestic Abuse strategy is now with the Catalyst Team. The Children's Services and Adult Mental Health protocol is currently having legislative amendments inserted and should be ready to present at the next Board.

Child Death Overview Panel

Procedures are near completion, and a meeting has been set for 17/06/09. The notification process has been agreed.

10. Child B – Reconsidered SCR

The Independent Chair introduced Colleen Murphy as the Independent Chair and Author of the reconsidered SCR on Child B. Ms Murphy apologised for the delay in attending the meeting.

As there are tight timescales for the submission of the reconsidered report, it is being presented today for the Board to approve.

All feedback in the letter of evaluation from Ofsted has been covered in the reconsidered report.

All work, whether fully reworked or amended has been completed. Sandcastle Care have fully rewritten their IMR and completed a new Action Plan. Although this was completed by the Director of Sandcastle Care, attempts were made for an independent person to complete these,

but this was not possible given the timescale.

Processes were reviewed with regards to Working Together. Were the existing processes sufficient, or could they be more robust? In this case, they were not sufficiently referenced.

A number of additional recommendations were made to the original SCR, 6 of these being for the LSCB. The first four LSCB recommendations focus on processes and new SCR procedures have already been put in place to address these. The next two focus on the procedures, and ensuring that they are used and referenced in any future SCR.

Targeted Services have 2 additional recommendations for YOT, as they were not included in the original SCR.

Education produced a more detailed IMR than was originally submitted. The recommendations replace those in the original as they were not clear as to what was required.

Health again provided a more detailed IMR and additional recommendations to the original.

The original recommendations from the police were replaced.

Sandcastle Care did not provide any recommendations in the original IMR; therefore all the recommendations were new.

Although the Executive Summary was judged as adequate, it has been amended to cover the findings made in the Reconsidered Overview Report.

As the SCR Panel had met on 2 occasions, they had the chance to go through the draft report, and any amendments from those meetings had already been sent to the agencies for their approval, agreed, and action plans drawn up.

It was requested that the wording in 5.6 be reworded to state that SCR procedures be amended for the Board to sign up to.

The Board agreed to sign off the Overview Report, on the proviso that the above amendment was made.

Action plans from all agencies also require sign off by the Board.

The police have not completed the outcome and evidence sections of their action plan. Detective Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary agreed to complete these ASAP.

The Board agreed to sign off the action plans, on the proviso that the above action plan was completed.

11. Aspired – Home Start, Blackpool

6 members of the Aspired project presented to the Board a brief outline on the project, and what it offers to children in Blackpool.

Aspired was created to support children (aged 2-18) and families with complex needs. The children are taken out of their normal family life to

learn that life can be better than they may be experiencing.

'Happy Memories' is for 2-5 year old children. The aim is to develop social and emotional skills to enable children to move into nursery provision with ease. There are 4 play facilitators to a maximum of 10 children at each session. They are taught how to play, and eventually how to share.

'I've Got It' is for primary school children. Children are collected from school on a weekly basis, during term time only. Workers join in with all the activities; they do not just watch the children play. All staff are open to input from schools and happy to attend a CAF should the need arise.

'Beat It' is held at Beacon Hill High School every other Saturday. The children are collected at home and offered a healthy breakfast. Children are involved in all aspects of the food preparation through to the clearing of tables etc. Interactive games are provided (not computer games), as well as arts/crafts, sports, and music (drum/guitar) lessons. There is also an allotment which children can be involved in.

Children that attend any Aspired group are not interacting with their peers outside school. Some of them have mental health issues, some are autistic/borderline autistic, and some are excluded from school.

Aspired are lucky to have very high staff levels. Some of these are sessional, but most are voluntary, with a wide range of both expertise and age, from teens to 60+.

Aspired are primarily working with Home-Start children, as they do not currently have the capacity for external referrals.

12. Any Other Business

Parenting Handbooks

The parenting handbooks are now completed and all in attendance received copies. There are 5000 copies of each booklet. It was proposed that the Independent Chair write to the schools in Blackpool, targeting specific year groups. The schools will be asked to inform the Designated Nurse, Child Protection of the numbers they require. Delivery will be arranged at this point.

There are PDF versions of both booklets available, which will be sent to LSCB Administrator to upload onto the LSCB website.

PDF versions to be sent to all Board members.

Multi-Agency Audit Group

A multi-agency audit group has been set up, and have now met 3 times. The initial meeting was used to develop a tool to be used for the audits, which were agreed to be held quarterly. The attendance at the meetings is now slipping. The QA Service Manager requested that agencies commit fully to this group, as it will enable all agencies to have a better insight into CP processes.

13. Private Fostering

The Group Manager: Central Locality Social Works Teams is requesting

**Named Nurse,
Safeguarding**

LSCB Admin

that the Board approve and sign off the revised Private Fostering Procedure and the new Statement of Purpose.

New Private Fostering leaflets are currently being produced, and should be available for the next Board. The Group Manager will send them to the LSCB Administrator to distribute at the next Board.

There is currently no budget specifically for Private Fostering. Assistant Director Targeted Services to discuss with Group Manager.

The Group Manager was asked to clarify if a 16-18 year old disabled child, i.e. with mental health issues, was living with a friend, would this be classed as Private Fostering? Also, if a Blackpool child was being privately fostered over the border in Lancashire, which Local Authority would take responsibility?

As long as it was longer than 28 days, yes, it would be classed as Private Fostering. The location whilst being privately fostered decides which LA takes authority, not where the child is from.

**Group
Manager /
LSCB Admin**

**Group
Manager/AD
Targeted
Services**

Actions Arising from meeting 02/06/09

Budget

The Independent Chair requested a commitment from all members to discuss contributions to the Board with their Chief Officers.

**All Agency
representatives**

It was agreed that the Independent Chair would try and negotiate with the media department to reduce the costs.

Chair

Delyth Curtis will be invited to the next budget meeting.

LSCB Admin

Setting up a Working Group for Safer Recruitment

All agencies, apart from police, are to send the names of an HR representative to the Independent Chair. The Independent Chair will ask Linda Dutton, Strategic HR Manager to share contact details to ensure best practice.

**All Agencies /
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**Group Manager
/ LSCB Admin**

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**Group
Manager/AD
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