

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)

Minutes from the meeting of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB), held on Friday 15th March 2013, 11:30am – 3:00pm at Riverside House

In attendance:

Alan Hazell - Chair	Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Sonya Chambers – Minute Taker	Administrative Officer, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Deborah Wildgoose - Member	Deputy Director of Nursing, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDASH)
Phil Morris - Advisor	Business Manager, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Kevin Stevens - Advisor	Safeguarding Quality Assurance Officer for Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board and Children and Young People's Services
Zafar Saleem - Advisor	Community Engagement Manager, Community Engagement Team, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Steve Pearson - Advisor	Communications and Media Manager, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Sue Wilson – Observer	Performance and Quality Manager, Resources Directorate, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Clair Pyper - Member	Interim Director of Safeguarding Children and Families, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Karen Potts - Advisor	Think Family Business Development Officer, Strategy, Standards and Development, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Joyce Thacker - Member	Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Kelly White – in attendance to present agenda item 5	Service Manager – Borough Wide, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Richard Burton - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Dorothy Smith - Member	Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Paul Lakin – Participating Observer	Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Shona McFarlane - Member	Director of Health and Wellbeing, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Warren Carratt - Advisor	Service Manager - Strategy, Standards and Development, Children and Young People's Services and Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Martin Kimber - Participating Observer	Chief Executive, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Claire Edgar - Participating Observer	Team Manager, Child Sexual Exploitation Team, Rotherham Public Protection Unit
Nick McPartlan – in attendance to present agenda item 2	Service Manager, Blackburn Engage
Mark Whelan – in attendance to present	Detective Superintendent, Lancashire Police

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Paul Grimwood - Member	Youth Offending Services Manager, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Maryann Barton - Member	Service Manager, Action for Children
Anne Riley - Member	Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
Sue Cassins - Member	Executive Lead for Safeguarding at the Clinical Commissioning Group, Rotherham
Catherine Hall - Advisor	Nurse Consultant for Safeguarding Children, Clinical Commissioning Group, Rotherham
Pete Horner - Member	Public Protection Unit Manager, South Yorkshire Police
Sherif El-Refee - Advisor	Designated Doctor, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
David Polkinghorn - Member	General Practitioner, Clinical Commissioning Group, Rotherham
Shaun Wright – in attendance to present agenda item 3	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Phil Etheridge – in attendance to present agenda item 4	Temporary Detective Superintendent, Major Investigation Team, South Yorkshire Police
Sue Gittins - Observer	Senior Manager and Strategic Lead for Universal Services and Services for Vulnerable Children and Young People
Sally Parker - Observer	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
Sarah Mainwaring - Member	Head of Probation – Rotherham, South Yorkshire Probation Trust
Dave Stopford - Member	Detective Chief Inspector, South Yorkshire Police

Apologies:

Yvonne Weakley – Deputy for Juliette Greenwood	Service Director, Integrated Children and Young People's Health services, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Dawn Peet – Deputy for Steve Green	Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Mark Monteiro – Deputy for Dave Stopford	Detective Inspector, Rotherham Public Protection Unit, South Yorkshire Police
John Radford - Member	Director of Public Health, Rotherham Public Health
Nick Whittaker - Member	Headteacher, Hilltop and Kelford Schools
Steve Green - Member	Group Manager, Emergency Response and Intervention, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Jane Skupien - Member	Headteacher, Sitwell Infants School
Juliette Greenwood	Chief Nurse, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

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1. Safeguarding Children Consultation from Voice and Influence Team - presentation

Sarah Bellamy, Showcat Ali and Lisa Duvalle from Rotherham Council's Voice and Influence Team introduced themselves along with Jess, one of the young people

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involved in the Safeguarding Children Consultation.

The team explained that Rotherham LSCB had commissioned a consultation with young people in Rotherham to find out what safeguarding concerns they have, and as part of this exercise, made a DVD to capture the views of the young people on film.

A total of 525 young people took part in the consultation, which identified that the most important safeguarding concerns for the majority of young people in Rotherham came under the umbrella of personal safety whilst 'out and about'. Three key themes were identified under this umbrella – public transport, Rotherham parks and town centre stranger danger areas.

Different groups of young people were asked to look at the three key themes in more detail, with their views being captured for the DVD. A group from Dinnington looked at public transport, a group from Kiveton Park looked at Rotherham parks and a group from Eastwood looked at the town centre and stranger danger areas.

The film of the young people's findings was played to RLSCB, and key concerns included the following:

Public Transport

- 'Drunken' people using public transport – intimidating.
- Long waiting times – the young people felt especially vulnerable when waiting in the dark.
- Left stranded if they'd forgotten bus pass and didn't have sufficient money for full fare.

Rotherham Parks

- Intimidating behaviour from groups of other young people, e.g. alcohol and drugs.
- Not fair for mothers with young children who want to use park facilities.
- Broken glass from people drinking.
- People riding motorbikes through parks.
- The young people found parks to be especially intimidating at night, with reports of swearing, racist comments, shouting, etc.
- The young people questioned said that if they were parents themselves, they wouldn't let their children go to a park alone.

Town Centre and Stranger Danger Areas

- Clash of different cultures.
- Groups congregating on street corners and outside shops – intimidating.
- Attempts to steal mobile phones.

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- Lack of jobs and work experience opportunities.

After the film had been shown, Alan Hazell reminded RLSCB members and advisors that young people from Rotherham's Youth Cabinet had voiced very similar safeguarding concerns at a RLSCB Development Day held over two years ago on 12.11.2010. Therefore it was evident that young people were still worried about the same issues. Mr Hazell questioned what measures could be taken to address the three particular areas of concern covered in today's film (public transport, Rotherham parks, town centre stranger danger areas), suggesting that public transport would probably be the easiest to address, then parks, then the town centre less so.

There has been some follow up to the concerns regarding public transport. Sarah Bellamy reported that following the identification of this as an area of concern by Rotherham Youth Cabinet a couple of years ago, it was used by them as a theme for their Takeover Day. Ms Bellamy reported that she would be meeting with the manager of Rotherham interchange on 5th April to discuss safety at the interchange, CCTV, and what is being done / can be done to address concerns, bearing in mind that young people often have a different perspective of safety. Ms Bellamy added that a 'Young People's Transport Summit' was planned for 27th April in Sheffield, and that young people had been involved in organising workshops for this event. Ms Bellamy reported that the young people with whom she works feel that they are starting to be listened to, and would be happy to reconvene in about six months' time to see if young people had been reassured.

Richard Burton reported that young people had the same concerns about Rotherham interchange nearly a decade ago when he worked in a children's home.

With regard to young people's concerns about local parks, Pete Horner warned of the need to be mindful of perception versus reality, as someone's perception of a situation can be much worse than the reality. It may be that the focus needs to be on addressing what is behind the perception and providing more reassurance. Zafar Saleem agreed and said that crime is actually falling and positive work has been done, is therefore hopeful that the views captured within the next Lifestyle Survey will reflect this and show an improved perception.

Joyce Thacker pointed out that young people who witness crime / anti-social behaviour in parks will not necessarily report these incidents as they may not see the point or think they won't be listened to. Indeed, many young people are now so used to instances of anti-social behaviour that for

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many, it has become the norm and they have become somewhat desensitised to such behaviour.

Richard Burton said that the presence of park rangers can be an effective deterrent to anti-social behaviour. Paul Grimwood reported that there have been some joint patrols between the Police and Youth Offending Services to address this issue, but said that more needed to be done to break down barriers and connect troublesome young people with those who have raised concerns about their behaviour.

Picking up on Joyce Thacker's earlier point, Clair Pyper said that it was not just young people who would avoid reporting anti-social behaviour in parks, but also older people, e.g. parents with children, who may simply just stop using the parks. Alan Hazell said there was a need to encourage people to report anti-social behaviour by reassuring them that their concerns will be listened to and acted upon.

David Polkinghorn raised the question of how to equip young people with confidence. Young people often say that they have nothing to do, yet as part of his community work in Wath upon Dearne, Dr Polkinghorn advises young people that there is actually plenty to do, e.g. libraries, sports facilities, etc. Joyce Thacker added that this is where the Family Information Service also comes in useful, and mentioned that they have their own website which has details of many local activities for children, young people and families.

Joyce Thacker commented that it was encouraging to see in the film that the young people had identified ways of keeping themselves safe, e.g. walking home in pairs. Ms Thacker added that it would be worth showing the film to the Safer Rotherham Partnership, and that it would also be helpful to seek a meeting with Rotherham park rangers to discuss the young people's perception of local parks.

As RLSCB had commissioned the DVD, Lisa Duvall asked for RLSCB's permission to use the DVD for educational purposes – this was agreed, and Alan Hazell offered to attend any educational sessions as a representative of RLSCB. Joyce Thacker suggested putting a link to the film on the RLSCB website as well.

Richard Burton mentioned that there is a Clifton Park interest group, and suggested that it would be worth making contact with them as well.

Alan Hazell proposed a review in one year's time to see if the young people's perception of the safeguarding issues they had identified had improved. Joyce Thacker said that this would be picked up via the Lifestyle Survey, and would

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make interesting reading. Mr Hazell said that the questions of the Lifestyle Survey could perhaps be amended as appropriate to accurately capture young people's perception of safeguarding issues.

Pete Horner emphasised the importance of agencies listening to what solutions young people would like to see to their concerns, as the agencies' own solutions may not go far enough to address the issues and provide reassurance.

Alan Hazell requested that an update on young people's safeguarding concerns is provided to RLSCB in twelve months' time, to assess what progress has been made.

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Voice and Influence Team / Lifestyle Survey

2. Safeguarding Children Performance - update report (standing item) – Sue Wilson

Sue Wilson explained that this safeguarding children performance report was written from the perspective of Rotherham Council, but that RLSCB's Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group is now starting to look at safeguarding performance from a multi-agency perspective.

This report covers the period up until the end of December 2012 – i.e. quarter three. Ms Wilson explained that the performance data tabled at Appendix A is produced on a monthly basis for Clair Pyper's management team, and that the management team receives further information and analysis to inform their decision making.

Clair Pyper reported that work is already underway to address particular problem areas, e.g. those performance indicators rated as 'red' (below local target and below national average). For example, with regard to the national indicator, NI63 – 'Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement', currently rated as red, it is ensured that it is recorded whenever children have moved placement twice or more, and that previous child protection planning is taken into consideration. Ms Pyper emphasised the importance of knowing what work is needed to address the needs of individual families, not just ensuring that performance targets are met.

Catherine Hall challenged the information relating to looked after children health assessments on page four of the report, stating that it was not correct. Alan Hazell asked Sue Wilson where this information had come from, and Ms Wilson explained that this was taken from the Social Care database, so had not therefore come directly from Health. The issue here is that if Social Care's records are not up to date, this then affects the information provided in the performance report.

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There was some confusion regarding 'year end' health assessments. Deborah Wildgoose explained that if health assessments were not due at the time of performance reporting, then this could have an adverse effect on the figures. However, reassurance was given that Health is monitoring this particular area of performance and ensuring that health assessments are happening as they should be.

Clair Pyper said that work is also being done to ensure the quality, as well as the quantity, of Personal Education Plans for looked after children, and that there has been an improvement since this report was written.

Phil Morris raised the issue that dental checks for looked after children were still low, despite a significant improvement in performance compared to the previous quarter. Maryann Barton questioned whether it could be the case that looked after children are receiving good dental care but that this just has not been captured and recorded.

Alan Hazell reiterated that RLSCB needs to receive safeguarding performance update reports based on what the government has stated are important indicators.

3. Previous RLSCB minutes from 07.12.2013 and matters / actions arising

As per an action from the previous minutes, Sue Wilson had analysed the data from the Children and Young People's Complaints Report 2011-12 to further break down the information relating to different ethnicities of the complainants. The ethnicity breakdown was as follows:

- 52% White British
- 33% Dual Heritage – White and Asian
- 6% Dual Heritage – Other White
- 3% Asian – Pakistani
- 3% Other

It was reported that the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group had made a start on collecting complaints data from other agencies (i.e. not just Children and Young People's Services) and the group is currently looking at putting together a multi-agency template for agencies to submit complaints data, to ensure that the group is able to compare 'like with like'.

One of the actions from the previous minutes was for Sue Wilson's team to look at capturing customer involvement from the perspective of the child and parent, and it was proposed that feedback on this would be provided to Rotherham LSCB via the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group – this information was indeed fed back when the Sub Group last met on 01.02.2013. Ms

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Wilson added that this was also a key action in terms of preparation for the multi-agency inspection of child protection services, and would mean some work for Clair Pyper's management team.

Joyce Thacker and Alan Hazell reported that they had met with Shaun Wright, the new Police and Crime Commissioner, and discussed the positive proposal for the setting up of a new group to meet and look at child sexual exploitation across South Yorkshire.

With regard to the request from Councillor Paul Lakin at the previous meeting for an update on private residential children's homes, Clair Pyper replied that there weren't any in the Rotherham area, but that if any new ones did open, they should be picked up by the local authority. However, there is no obligation for these establishments to inform the local authority when they open. Councillor Lakin said his concern was that, given the fall in property prices, the creation of private residential children's homes offers a potentially lucrative business opportunity, with the risk of attracting investors who are more interested in financial gain than in the welfare of the children.

Kevin Stevens reported that an audit had been undertaken on referrals where there had been no further action (NFA), and he was now working with Vanessa Naylor, Early Help Assessment Team Manager, to learn what actually happens in practice with cases referred to Early Help.

Agencies were reminded that they needed to send in their completed Section 11 audits and to book a slot for a Section 11 audit 'challenge meeting' on either the 24th or 25th of April. Deborah Wildgoose said that she was unable to attend on either date as she would be on annual leave all that week – Alan Hazell agreed that alternative arrangements would be made to accommodate anyone unable to attend on the 24th / 25th April.

Phil Morris reported that he had contacted the Department for Education (DfE) again to ask them to provide an update on the Child S Serious Case Review within 24 hours, for the purpose of feeding back to last week's Child Sexual Exploitation Conference. However, the DfE said that they could not yet provide a definitive answer on the redacted overview report. After what has already been such a lengthy delay in awaiting the DfE's response, Alan Hazell proposed writing back to the DfE soon stating that Rotherham LSCB intended to go ahead and publish the Child S overview report on a set date, unless it could be justified why this should not happen. Mr Hazell emphasised the need to publish for the family's sake. Speaking from the perspective of the general public, Richard Burton said that the DfE had

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delayed far too long, and that the issue of lost paperwork was unacceptable.

Joyce Thacker reported that Rotherham Council was in discussion with Rotherham Public Health regarding funding for a Sexual Health Worker to work as part of the Child Sexual Exploitation Team.

Dorothy Smith was pleased to report that exemplary work had been done with schools regarding child sexual exploitation, and that all schools, including faith schools, were now signed up to training.

With regard to the reporting of private fostering cases, Clair Pyper expressed concern that referrals were still not coming through to Children's Social Care from partner agencies. Staff in schools and health services are particularly well placed to spot possible cases of private fostering, and to identify if someone is a child's birth/legal parent. Ms Pyper said that many leaflets had already been distributed to schools and health services to try and raise awareness about private fostering, but Zafar Saleem argued that a lot of people don't pick leaflets up, and that it would therefore be worth adopting a more targeted approach.

Catherine Hall gave the reassurance that health services are carrying out checks with regard to private fostering. David Polkinghorn said that the awareness was there, but that lessons could be learned from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, as they seem to have a good understanding of the pathways that children go through and what loop holes there are.

Deborah Wildgoose said that it would be useful to have electronic versions of the private fostering leaflets for ease of circulation.

Kevin Stevens reported that he had previously done some research into private fostering and said that the point at which parents make contact with professionals is vital, in terms of the parents being asked the relevant and appropriate questions and effective follow up action being taken. The questioning is particularly important as private fostering is not always seen as a particular issue by some parents.

On page 12 of the previous minutes, it was recorded that Sarah Mainwaring would confirm the main points from the presentation she gave on the safeguarding findings from the Offender Management Inspection 2 and email these to Sonya Chambers for circulation to RLSCB members and advisors. Mrs Chambers reported that she had not received this information so undertook to remind Ms Mainwaring of

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Clair Pyper

Sonya Chambers
& Sarah
Mainwaring

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this action.

Warren Carratt clarified that NHS Rotherham's proposed contribution of £22,000 to the RLSCB learning and development budget was not an 'in kind' contribution as stated in the previous minutes, but a cash contribution. Mr Carratt also clarified that changes to school funding need to be reviewed but this is not as yet 'set to change' with schools to make their own contributions, as stated in the previous minutes.

With regard to the Disclosure Review discussed at the previous meeting, which is a joint review between the Police, Rotherham Council and RLSCB to look at the safe storage and sharing of sensitive information across different agencies, Joyce Thacker explained that due to a delay in interviewing people because of absence / annual leave, the timescale for this piece of work had been extended to the end of April.

At the previous meeting, Pete Horner had reported that the Criminal Investigation Department of South Yorkshire Police was undergoing a restructure, which would affect the Public Protection Unit. Mr Horner was to provide an update to today's meeting, but he explained that the proposals regarding the centralisation of the management team firstly need to go to the Senior Management Team on Monday. Once an agreement has been reached, Mr Horner will report back to RLSCB.

Pete Horner

In the previous minutes, it was recorded that Paul Grimwood would provide an update to today's meeting regarding criticisms from inspectors following a recent inspection of Youth Offending Services. Mr Grimwood explained that following the identification of these concerns, the service had put together an action plan which is being monitored by Rotherham Council's Improvement Panel. Mr Grimwood added that areas for improvement are also covered in the Section 11 self-audit for Youth Offending Services.

4. Multi Agency Child Protection Inspection (presentation) – Alan Hazell

Alan Hazell said that he would instead present this item at the RLSCB Development Day planned for 20.05.2013.

5. Multi-Agency Threshold Descriptors, Practice Resolution Protocol, Multi-Agency Referral Form – Warren Carratt

Clair Pyper presented this item on behalf of Warren Carratt, who had had to leave the meeting early. These three documents have already been out to agencies for consultation and have been brought to today's meeting for

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ratification from RLSCB, as it is important that they are implemented and in use as soon as possible.

Ms Pyper explained that for many years, different agencies have been working to different child protection thresholds. Therefore the Multi-Agency Threshold Descriptors have been developed with a view to adopting a more consistent approach.

The Multi-Agency Referral Form had also been sent out for consultation, and agency feedback was that the original version was too lengthy, and this had therefore been addressed. This form had to align with the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process, and was developed in response to problems being created by poor / sparse referrals being made to Children's Social Care.

The Practice Resolution Protocol was developed in response to the need for a systematic process for challenging professional practice.

It was clarified that these are not stand alone documents, but they are part of a RLSCB suite of documents available as guidance for professionals.

Alan Hazell asked why a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) would need to be completed if a CAF has already been done. Clair Pyper explained that in such instances, relevant information from the CAF could be transferred to the MARF, rather than starting the MARF from scratch. It was clarified that the CAF form is not for making referrals, hence the creation of the MARF to capture the relevant safeguarding information required for a referral. Kevin Stevens explained that the MARF allows for the analysis required in a referral which the CAF doesn't cover. Ms Pyper added, however, that if a CAF has been completed then it can be attached to the referral as additional information.

Following ratification from RLSCB, these three documents need to be formally launched to publicise their availability to agencies. In addition, RLSCB members and advisors have a responsibility to ensure that front line staff in their agencies are aware of these documents and start to use them.

David Polkinghorn emphasised the importance of feedback being provided to those making referrals to Children's Social Care, and also the timeliness of this feedback. Clair Pyper said recent audits had shown that only 50% of referrers receive timely feedback. Pete Horner added that the referrer should be informed of the decision within 24 hours, and that the difference between a 'notification' and a 'referral' needs to be clarified to avoid unnecessary form filling. Deborah Wildgoose agreed and said that forms should also be

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available electronically to avoid the need to scan / fax documents, which can be quite time consuming.

Clair Pyper reiterated that these documents were subject to multi-agency consultation and were designed by a multi-agency group. Joyce Thacker added that the documents had already been agreed by the multi-agency working group and now just needed to be signed off by RLSCB.

Phil Morris clarified that the Multi-Agency Threshold Descriptors are not prescriptive and should be used as guidance. Each case is different and professionals should use their own judgement.

Anne Riley said that CAFCASS have their own referral template - Maryann Barton said that Action for Children do as well, but that they will simply cross reference information from their own form onto the MARF, adding any extra information as required. Ms Riley said that the CAFCASS form should provide all the information required by the MARF, but will discuss with Clair Pyper after the meeting.

Paul Grimwood reported that he found the Multi-Agency Threshold Descriptors very useful.

As one of the stages within the Practice Resolution Protocol is escalation to Director level, Shona McFarlane raised the issue of whistleblowing when the problem is in fact with the Director in question, and the awkwardness that this would create. Ms McFarlane appreciated that each agency would likely have their own policy on whistleblowing and did not wish for there to be any duplication on this, but just wanted to warn people to be mindful of any potential pitfalls. Phil Morris confirmed that the Practice Resolution Protocol was not intended to replace agencies' own policies and procedures – indeed, this is stated on the first page of the protocol. However, Mr Morris acknowledged that the Practice Resolution Protocol did not cover whistleblowing and this could therefore be added.

Taking on board the comments made at today's meeting, RLSCB agreed to formally sign off the Multi Agency Threshold Descriptors, Practice Resolution Protocol and Multi Agency Referral Form.

Clair Pyper proposed that usage of these three documents is audited. David Polkinghorn suggested that a random approach would be better in terms of quality assurance.

It was agreed that these documents would now be formally launched and uploaded to the RLSCB website for other agencies to be able to access.

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6. Children and Young People's Plan 2013 – 2016 - Update (standing item) – presentation – Sue Wilson

Sue Wilson requested that the papers accompanying this item (i.e. a copy of the presentation and the 'plan on a page') are sent out with these minutes.

Ms Wilson explained that the Rotherham Children and Young People's 'Plan on a Page' 2013 – 2016 was pulled together by the Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership. Production of a Children and Young People's Plan is no longer a requirement, so the idea behind having the plan on a page was to keep it simple.

The vision of the plan is still based on the 'Four Big Things' from the previous Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013, i.e.:

1. Keeping children and young people safe.
2. Prevention and early intervention.
3. Tackling inequality.
4. Transforming Rotherham learning.

One of the sections on the new plan on a page is the 'needs assessment'. This is a list of key issues of concern within Rotherham, highlighted in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Alan Hazell observed that the plan on a page was very 'health' focused, but acknowledged that as the plan became more evidence based, the Joint Safeguarding Needs Assessment (JSNA) would pick up other areas.

The next step will be the development of an action plan to underpin the plan on a page, along with a performance management framework to monitor progress against the action plan. Alan Hazell asked what the timescales were for this work, and Joyce Thacker replied that the aim is to have the action plan in place in six weeks' time. The action plan will be raised at other forums as appropriate.

7. RLSCB Sub Group Interim / Annual Reports:

7.1 Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group Annual Report – Juliette Greenwood

Phil Morris presented this item on behalf of Juliette Greenwood, who was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr Morris said that in recognition of its increased workload, the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group had lengthened its meetings. However, there continues to be a very full agenda.

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Sonya Chambers

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This Sub Group is well attended by partner agencies. In terms of partner accountability with regard to quality assurance and audit work for Ofsted, any safeguarding findings by different agencies should be submitted to RLSCB via the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group. Likewise, any complaints data from other agencies should be looked at by the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group and any key themes identified. The Sub Group has already started to receive multi-agency complaints data, and a template is being developed to ensure that this information is in future reported in a consistent manner.

In terms of its quality assurance remit, the Sub Group has received written assurance from Health Services following the Jimmy Savile media coverage.

Another key piece of work undertaken by Kevin Stevens on behalf of the Sub Group was an audit of GPs' contributions to the Child Protection Conference process - i.e. not just whether or not a GP attended conference, but if they provided a report in the required format. Phil Morris explained that the audit also looked at how much notice GPs were given by the Safeguarding Children Unit that a conference would be taking place, and found that in some cases, sufficient notice was not provided, although it was very difficult to ascertain why.

The Sub Group has also been looking at the quality of agency referrals to the Contact And Referral Team (CART).

Other quality assurance work that the Sub Group has been involved with is the multi-agency review of Serious Neglect Cases, and the initial findings from this review have been reported to Rotherham Council's Improvement Panel. A summary report, pulling together key themes, has yet to be formulated.

The Sub Group was pleased to see that since 2010, there has been a continued improvement in the consistency of the chairing of Child Protection Conferences. Richard Burton asked whether the previous lack of consistency was because of a reliance on agency Conference Chairs – Clair Pyper agreed that this had had an impact, but was pleased to report that the service was now close to full capacity of permanent staff. Kevin Stevens added that the Safeguarding Children Unit is now looking to allocate cases directly to Conference Chairs to ensure consistency and continuity.

Phil Morris said that the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group needs to identify what its priorities are in terms of audits and overall workload, (e.g. child sexual exploitation) as capacity is limited. Richard Burton asked whether the

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Sub Group's limited resource was because there is no longer an Assistant LSCB Manager post, but Alan Hazell replied that quality assurance was not solely the responsibility of the LSCB Business Manager but of LSCB as a whole, and that the issue was more to do with allocation of time for this area of work. This should be addressed at the next Development Day.

Shona McFarlane asked about accountability in terms of ensuring that lessons have been learned by the LSCB – i.e. so what happens now in terms of 'closing the loop' on quality assurance? An audit is not enough in itself. Also, it needs to be ensure that the vast amount of good work done is not lost – Joyce Thacker agreed and said that this would be a good point for the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group to consider, particularly as it links in to Professor Eileen Munro's 'double loop' learning.

7.2 Policy and Procedures Sub Group Annual Report – Karen Hockley

Phil Morris presented this item on behalf of Karen Hockley, who was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr Morris drew everyone's attention to the bullet points at 7.3 of the report, which was a list of the policies and procedures already reviewed by the group, as some of these were brand new documents, e.g. Surrogacy, Safe Sleeping, Multi-Agency Threshold Descriptors, Practice Resolution Protocol, Family CAF, and Cross (International) Border Cooperation in Child Protection Cases.

7.3 Learning and Development Sub Group Annual Report – Clair Pyper

Clair Pyper was pleased to report that since 2011/12, almost double the amount of people had received RLSCB training.

The workshop that was held to learn lessons from the Child S Serious Case Review generated a lot of interest and was very well attended.

A key challenge for the Learning and Development Sub Group is how it will measure the impact that training has had on practice, as currently there is a lot of quantitative data but not much qualitative data. The Sub Group will therefore address this and report back to RLSCB.

Learning and Development Sub Group

7.4 Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report – John Radford – deferred from 07.12.2012

John Radford had given apologies for today's meeting so was unavailable to present this item.

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Richard Burton fed back that these were very good, very professional and very constructive meetings, taking into account the upsetting subject matter.

8. RLSCB Budget - update report (standing item) – Karen Potts

Karen Potts explained that this was the first budget report to capture and report on the Munro monies for learning and development activity. Currently, there is a £1,904 balance still available within the learning and development budget. It was agreed that if this is still not spent by 31 March.2013, it will be carried forward separately to help fund the Early Help training that is currently being commissioned. It was clarified that Early Help learning and development activity has not previously been undertaken by RLSCB, but that this satisfies the 'additional' criteria of the grant – the grant criteria stipulate that at least 50% of the funding has to be used by LSCBs on additional training activity.

In December 2012, a meeting took place to discuss the funding arrangements for learning and development activity between NHS Rotherham and Children and Young People's Services. The current agreement is that NHS Rotherham contributes £22,000 and Children and Young People's Services matches this 'in kind'. At this meeting, it was agreed that the 2013/14 RLSCB budget would be raised at the Rotherham Partnership Chief Executive Officer Group (CEOG) on 10.01.2013. CEOG subsequently agreed for funding to be maintained at current levels with Health and Police colleagues to ensure that this is addressed within their new structures.

Pete Horner asked where the money would come from for Serious Case Reviews. Karen Potts replied that it was already agreed that Rotherham Council would provide two thirds of the funding, with Health to provide the remaining one third.

RLSCB agreed all of the recommendations in this report.

9. RLSCB Business Plan 2013-16 (standing item) and plan for Annual Report – Phil Morris

Phil Morris reported that the Business Plan had recently been refreshed against its objectives and actions, and a gap was identified in that there was no objective specifically regarding child sexual exploitation.

Section 1D of the Business Plan makes explicit RLSCB's duty to effectively monitor, scrutinise and challenge.

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With regard to action 1.6 of the Business Plan, Deborah Wildgoose asked what was to be audited – Phil Morris clarified that this was the DASH tool.

Mr Morris explained that the RLSCB Sub Group Work Plans are led by the RLSCB Business Plan.

An accompanying RLSCB Annual Report should be available by May 2013.

10. Any other business

- 10.1 Alan Hazell reported that he had met with Phil Morris and Richard Burton to discuss the Lay Member Protocol, given that there is now a need to appoint a new Lay Member following the resignation of Gary and Diane Smith. Changes were subsequently made to the protocol, which will now go out for comment. Once the document is finalised, the recruitment process can begin.
- 10.2 Pete Horner reported that South Yorkshire Police had been contacted by makers of the TV programme Panorama, with regard to taking part in a programme on missing children and looked after children. Mr Horner clarified that the programme would not be focused on South Yorkshire, but would be looking at the issues from a nationwide perspective – South Yorkshire have simply been invited to participate.
- 10.3 Richard Burton asked for a thank you to former RLSCB member Karen Hockley to be formally recorded, for the work that she contributed whilst in post, which including chairing the Policy and Procedures Sub Group for a period.
- 10.4 Richard Burton once again raised the issue of the problems that visitors to Riverside House experience when reporting to reception, which is repeatedly resulting in meetings not being able to start on time. This is very embarrassing for the meeting organisers and remains unresolved. Phil Morris / Sonya Chambers to follow this up.

Phil Morris /
Sonya Chambers

11. Future agenda items

- An update on young people's safeguarding concerns to the March 2014 meeting of RLSCB, to assess what progress has been made – Voice and Influence Team / Lifestyle Survey
- Multi-Agency Child Protection Inspection – presentation to RLSCB Development Day on 20.05.2013 – Alan Hazell
- RLSCB Annual Report – June 2013 meeting of

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13. Date of next meeting:

Friday 14th June 2013, 10am – 12.30pm in Meeting Room
5a and 5b combined, Wing B, 4th floor, Riverside House

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