

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)

Minutes from the meeting of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, held on Thursday 6th March 2014, 1pm – 4pm at Riverside House

In attendance:

Steve Ashley – Chair	Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Sonya Chambers – Minute Taker	Administrative Officer, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Richard Burton - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Debra Wadsworth - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Tracey McErlain-Burns - Member	Chief Nurse, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Pete Horner - Member	Public Protection Unit Manager, South Yorkshire Police
Sherif El-Refee - Advisor	Designated Doctor, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Deborah Wildgoose – Member and Vice Chair	Interim Service Director for Children and Communities, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDASH)
Sue Cassin - Member	Executive Lead for Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Catherine Hall - Advisor	Head of Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Warren Carratt – Advisor (representing Clair Pyper as well)	Service Manager for Strategy, Standards and Development, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council, and Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
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, Rotherham Council
Bev Pepperdine – in attendance to present item 3	Service Improvement Officer, Rotherham Council
Sue Wilson – in attendance to present item 2	Performance and Quality Manager, Rotherham Council
Tracey Slater - Member	Patient Experience Manager, Nursing Directorate, NHS England (South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw)
John Radford - Member	Director of Public Health, Rotherham
Zafar Saleem - Advisor	Community Engagement Manager, Community Engagement Team, Rotherham Council
Paul Grimwood - Member	Youth Offending Services Manager, Rotherham Council
Tracy Holmes - Advisor	Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing, Environment and Development Services, Rotherham Council
Shona McFarlane - Member	Director of Health and Wellbeing, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Rotherham Council
Sue Wynne - Member	Rotherham Women's Refuge, Voluntary Sector Consortium
Richard Butterworth (representing Jason Harwin)	Head of Rotherham Safer Neighbourhoods, South Yorkshire Police
Anne Riley - Member	Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
Joyce Thacker - Member	Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council

Apologies:

Cherryl Henry-Leach - Advisor	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Rotherham Council
Robin Williams - Advisor	Service Solicitor for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Sarah Mainwaring - Member	Head of Probation, Rotherham, South Yorkshire Probation Trust
Clair Pyper - Member	Interim Director of Safeguarding Children and Families, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Nick Whittaker - Member	Headteacher, Hilltop and Kelford Schools
Jane Skupien - Member	Headteacher, Sitwell Infants School
David Polkinghorn - Member	Lead GP for Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Dawn Peet – Deputy for Tony Carlin	Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Dorothy Smith - Member	Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Jason Harwin - Member	Chief Superintendent, District Commander for Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police

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1. Welcome / apologies and introductions

Attendance and apologies were recorded as above.

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

Sue Wilson explained that this was the quarterly performance report for quarter three, period ending December 2013, and it covers both national and local performance indicators.

Since the end of quarter two, (September 2013), there have been two key areas of performance improvement. These are:

1. Stability and length of placements for long term looked after children (National Indicator 63).
2. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time (National Indicator 65).

Both of these measures were rated as 'Red' (below local target and below national average) at the end of September and following improvement work undertaken these are both now rated as 'Green' (on/above local target and on/above national average).

A key area of performance concern is the timeliness of both core and initial assessments. Despite a lot of work having been undertaken to try and address this, both areas remain 'Red' and performance has in fact worsened, meaning that the out-turn will be negative compared to last year.

The situation has improved with regard to the number of children without a plan recorded and associated on systems so that by the end of quarter four, this should be even better provided that the work continues.

Phil Morris asked what impact delayed assessments was having on children, and what action ought to be taken. Warren Carratt answered that historically, Rotherham had suffered from 'drag', i.e. a backlog that impacted negatively upon the performance figures. Basically, if an assessment is not completed within 35 days, then it is classed as out of time. However, a detailed review found that there were previously insufficient resources in the Contact And Referral Team (CART) to ensure that assessments were completed within the timescale, therefore the equivalent of three additional full time posts have been created in CART to address the situation. Richard Burton challenged this, asking how come three new workers have been recruited when the council is currently needing to make significant financial savings, and Warren Carratt explained that the posts were filled by reallocating existing staff to the roles, not by recruiting new staff.

Further to the above, it was reported that there has been a significant increase of 30% in the number of core assessments being carried out. However, 33% of contacts that come through to CART result in no further action (this includes those that are stepped down to early help services) - this explains the 'drag' effect as this 33% creates an unnecessary workload, because each contact needs to be investigated fully, which is time consuming. The decision was made to shut down one of the Duty Teams that was carrying significant drag and to set up another team from existing staff to specifically address the drag cases.

Warren Carratt reassured the LSCB that there were no delays in undertaking Section 47 assessments in cases where it is felt that a family / children are at risk of immediate harm.

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Richard Burton asked what was the impact on services of new arrivals into Rotherham and Warren Carratt replied that a lot of positive work had been done e.g. recent work undertaken with the Roma Community.

Sherif El-Reftee asked why there had been such an increase in contacts and referrals to CART, and Warren Carratt replied that awareness of child protection and safeguarding had been heightened following the recent high profile serious case review of Daniel Pelka in the national press, which has led to a lot of schools raising issues. There are still issues to address e.g. domestic abuse referrals via the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – this will influence the ‘no further action’ rate but is an area that needs attention. The MASH will try and address some of the existing system issues. Going back to Sherif El-Reftee’s question, Phil Morris said that the success of training and awareness raising events was another reason for the increase in contacts and referrals. He clarified that child sexual exploitation is not necessarily more prevalent today than before, but that there is now increased awareness of the issue.

Warren Carratt reported that Rotherham was below the statistical average in terms of the number of children on child in need plans. He went on to say that it is unacceptable for a child not to have a plan in place where this is necessary, and that there are systems in place to ensure that looked after children receive the appropriate planning by way of a team of Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), as well as a team of Child Protection Conference Chairs to ensure that child protection plans are established as necessary. In addition, Kevin Stevens provides quality assurance of these systems in his role as Quality Assurance Officer for the LSCB. However, it was reiterated that all agencies have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate plans are in place for children – child protection planning may be Social Care led, but all agencies play a part in the planning process.

Richard Burton was worried that the public do not know the story behind the failing performance areas, but Phil Morris pointed out that these minutes are made available to the public on the LSCB website. Deborah Wildgoose asked whether all of the reports discussed at LSCB were also uploaded to the website and the answer was no, but that they can be requested at any time under the Freedom Of Information Act. Sue Wilson added though that some of the reports discussed here also go to Cabinet as well, and all non-exempt Cabinet papers are published on Rotherham Council’s website.

Phil Morris and Kevin Stevens undertook to look at the contact and referral rate to CART and the source of each contact and referral to see what percentage from each agency end up leading to no further action. This exercise will provide an important baseline analysis, and will be shared with the Performance Sub Group / Quality Assurance Sub Group / Learning and Improvement Sub Group as appropriate before coming back to the LSCB.

Steve Ashley added that Councillor Paul Lakin has been pushing hard to ensure that the ‘Red’ performance areas are being addressed.

Warren Carratt suggested that a performance improvement report is taken to the Performance Sub Group before being presented to the LSCB – Steve Ashley agreed.

3. Secondary Schools Lifestyle Survey 2013 – Bev Pepperdine

Bev Pepperdine explained that the Secondary Schools Lifestyle Survey had been

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ongoing since 2006, and it is a joint venture with health services to capture the views of children and young people across the borough. The results are then shared with a large number of agencies.

Although it is not compulsory for schools to complete the survey, there has been an excellent return this time for 2013 - it is the first time all secondary schools have participated, meaning the best result ever since the survey started. Bev Pepperdine explained that this increase in participation rates is due in part to the fact that all schools were contacted following the 2012 survey to explain how the results had been used and what had been put in place as a result. Also, the survey had been made easier to do online, the time required to complete it had been reduced and schools were allowed more time to return their completed surveys. The more pupils that respond, the more accurate the results are in terms of reflecting all children and young people across the borough. All schools have now agreed to participate in 2014, and other local areas such as Bassetlaw and Sheffield have expressed interest in the survey.

The key areas for attention highlighted by the survey in terms of safeguarding were:

- Young carers
- Town centre and public transport
- Bullying
- Feelings / self esteem

More young people now identify themselves as young carers. Work has been done with Barnardo's and health services to improve support for this particular target group, and a 'Young Carer's Card' is currently being trialled – this is a card for young carers to show to school staff as proof of their personal circumstances in the event that they are late or need to leave early. Work is also being done to raise awareness in schools as to what support is available for young carers.

Safety in Rotherham town centre is a recurring issue of concern amongst many young people; however, their perceptions of the town centre as an unsafe place are not backed up by the actual crime figures. Nevertheless, work needs to be done to look at why this is such a source of worry for young people and what can be done to allay their fears. The Youth Cabinet is currently doing some work in relation to safeguarding issues in the town centre and around the bus station.

Phil Morris asked how the survey question in relation to bullying was phrased, as this could affect the responses. Bev Pepperdine replied that young people were simply asked if they had been bullied, not 'have you been bullied at school'. Further questions then follow to ask how the young person has been bullied, etc. Phil Morris asked whether, in cases of racist bullying, the racist bullying incident process has been triggered, and also whether the Police Young Person's Police Officer (PYPPPO) was involved - this information would be useful to know. Warren Carratt undertook to look at PYPPPO involvement and report back.

Bev Pepperdine agreed to a suggestion from Phil Morris to look at adapting the bullying question to ask young people whether they were being bullied at school or out of school. Sue Wilson advised that the problem with changing questions year on year is that subsequent results will not compare like for like. However, Phil Morris argued that this is not a reason not to change the wording if there is the potential to improve the learning from the results.

Bev Pepperdine clarified that the published results of the survey do not compare schools against each other - the results are only shown as a borough wide summary,

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which is part of the agreement with schools. But individual feedback is provided separately to enable schools to address any issues specific to them.

The responsible retailer initiative has gone some way to address the purchase of cigarettes and alcohol by young people from supermarkets, but the problem is significantly worse in local shops.

The Youth Cabinet has been very supportive of the survey's work – e.g. by reviewing questions, taking forward issues raised and supporting young people in activities and initiatives. Some of the young people from the Youth Cabinet have fed back that Sheffield has better questions than Rotherham, so this is something to look at.

Further questions were added to the latest survey to try and gain some clarity regarding the perception of Rotherham town centre, e.g. to ask young people if they actually visited the town centre, and it was found that those who did had a more positive perception than those who didn't.

The positive results from the survey are being shared with Rotherham Council's Communications Team, and a communications plan is being developed, including the use of local media. Also, partner agencies are feeding back to report on what work they have been doing to ensure that the survey is not just about capturing the voice of child, but that there are outcomes in terms of targeted work being undertaken.

Richard Burton asked if the survey had a question about young people being groomed, and Bev Pepperdine replied no, but Sue Wilson explained that although the word 'grooming' was not used, young people were asked questions about if they had ever arranged to meet someone they had been in contact with online, so the issue of grooming was captured but just worded differently for the young people. Richard Burton then asked if the survey captured anything about young people's attitudes to porn, and Bev Pepperdine replied that they were asked if their Personal Social Education (PSE) sessions had covered certain issues. Joyce Thacker interjected, saying that the term 'porn' would not be used in the survey as it was not age appropriate, but she agreed with Richard Burton that consideration needed to be given to getting appropriate messages across to children without offending parents as well. Joyce Thacker undertook to speak to Kay Denton-Tarn regarding this point.

Regarding the issue of safety in Rotherham town centre, Steve Ashley accepted that the reality does not necessarily meet the perception of the young people, but he asked the police if they could provide any further information about this issue. Richard Butterworth answered that it is difficult to specify what the issues are, e.g. some feedback from young people is that they feel safe before 9pm but not afterwards – but what are they still doing out at this time? Steve Ashley argued that there will always be some young people out after 9pm and their concerns need to be addressed. Richard Butterworth replied that work is currently being done in the town centre to try and gain a better understanding of the concerns before perceptions can be addressed. Steve Ashley said that this situation is particularly worrying given budget cuts to those services where young people do feel safe. Richard Butterworth said that there is a need to understand why Rotherham town centre is such a cause for concern compared to other local areas, and he suggested that it would be worth looking at adding specific questions to the survey to try and get to the bottom of these worries. Richard Butterworth added that he had not been consulted on the Lifestyle Survey questions and that this would have been useful. Steve Ashley accepted that open questioning, e.g. 'do you like going into the town centre' could prove helpful, but there is still the issue of young people's perceptions that needs to be addressed. Richard Butterworth asked if there was a multi-agency action plan from this survey, and Sue Wilson answered yes –

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it was agreed that the action plan would be shared with these minutes. The action plan provides a 'litmus test' to see what has changed in a year's time.

Steve Ashley picked up on the earlier point that action was taken to address the underage buying of cigarettes and alcohol which saw positive results, and there is the need for similar action to be taken against each area of concern from the survey.

Steve Ashley commented that sexual health is another issue of concern as young people don't want to use sexual health facilities – instead there has been an increase in them obtaining information online. John Radford replied that teenage pregnancy rates in Rotherham were at the lowest ever – approaching lower than the national average, following a lot of positive work done in schools e.g. contraceptive outreach, empowering young women. In response to the popularity amongst young people of using the internet for information, John Radford said that there is always the option for health service to provide factual information online via the council website.

Steve Ashley thanked Bev Pepperdine for her presentation and said that the Lifestyle Survey was an excellent piece of work, and that consideration now needs to be given as to how this work can grow and move forward.

Steve Ashley undertook to look at the action plan and feed back via the LSCB to Bev Pepperdine about what actions have been done.

4. Previous RLSCB minutes from 13.12.2013 and matters / actions arising

The previous minutes were agreed and approved.

Steve Ashley proposed that from now on, the completed draft minutes will be circulated to all LSCB members and advisors allowing one week for any comments before they are uploaded to the LSCB website. This will avoid the current delay caused by waiting until the following meeting for the minutes to be formally approved. Tracey McErlain-Burns agreed with this proposal but requested that the minutes are circulated to everyone via the 'BCC' email option to avoid people receiving subsequent unnecessary emails by people using the 'reply all' option.

5. Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Review – Joyce Thacker

Joyce Thacker said that this had been a thorough review which highlighted good partnership working across all services..

In terms of the recommendations from this review, Joyce Thacker was able to confirm that the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) will be funded through public health, which is a positive outcome.

Items 3, 10 and 19 of the review focus specifically on children, and the importance of having appropriately trained staff to undertake age appropriate work. Shona McFarlane confirmed that a new member of staff would shortly be starting in post taking a lead on domestic abuse

Kay Denton has been developing domestic abuse training materials to link in with schools and colleges.

An alert system is proposed to put in place for schools so that they are notified within 72 hours if one of their pupils has been affected by domestic abuse, so that they are able to offer the appropriate support. This will be achieved once the Domestic Abuse

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Hub is set up later this year.

Work has been done with young people to raise awareness about coercive, abusive relationships, especially as some young people have such examples at home, and they need to be taught that this kind of relationship is not right or acceptable.

Joyce Thacker said that a progress update from this review will be reported back to Cabinet.

6. RLSCB Sub Group progress reports:

6.1 Serious Case Review Sub Group – Pete Horner

Pete Horner reported that the previous meeting of this Sub Group had been used to discuss a new referral against the serious case review criteria. The group had then recommended to Steve Ashley, Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, that a serious case review should not be undertaken, but Steve Ashley disagreed with this decision and recommended that a serious case review is undertaken on this case. Therefore the Serious Case Review Sub Group now needs to work to pull this together.

Pete Horner reported that this was an effective Sub Group, although it had not met for a while until recently as there had been no new cases for discussion.

The difficulty this Sub Group now has is deciding which of the different methodologies to use for undertaking a serious case review. There has been a recent move to a systems based approach, away from 'blaming' individuals. However, it is currently unclear as to what the difference is between a serious case review and learning lessons review. Steve Ashley responded to this by arguing that where there has been a system breakdown that could have resulted in the death of a child, then a serious case review should be undertaken. He added that it is important to select the right style of serious case review, but that the methodology does not necessarily need to be time consuming and bureaucratic as in the past, and that a learning lessons review is essentially what a serious case review is.

Pete Horner said that although the Sub Group had decided against a serious case review, all attendees had enough concerns to agree that a learning lessons review ought to be undertaken.

John Radford stated that the original purpose of serious case reviews was to protect children, therefore he suggested a multi-agency rapid response exercise to review the practice in this case. He recommended holding a multi-disciplinary meeting as used by the Child Death Overview Panel, as these have proved to be very effective. Phil Morris agreed but said that it had now been accepted that the serious case review process is about involving those practitioners who were directly involved with the family – i.e. not about senior managers producing Individual Management Reviews.

Steve Ashley commented that the SCIE methodology obtains excellent results but it is time consuming.

Steve Ashley said that to some extent, at a national level, the Department for Education (DfE) thinks that LSCBs are 'covering up' with regard to serious case reviews and that this suspicion probably stems from the lack of incidents that are reported in to them. But he argued that the answer is not to report every single incident to the DfE, and that there is a real national debate to be had about this situation. In

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terms of what is a serious case review versus what is a learning lessons review, the two have come much closer together now. But the importance of a serious case review will become diluted if it is overused.

Steve Ashley emphasised that agencies should not await published serious case review / learning lessons review reports before taking action in a serious case.

In response to Steve Ashley's earlier point, Richard Burton said that he had seen no evidence of any cover up in Rotherham in relation to serious case reviews.

Phil Morris clarified that the agencies involved in the serious case review would be:

- Children's Social Care
- South Yorkshire Police
- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- Sheffield Children's Trust

6.2 Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group – Joyce Thacker, on behalf of Jason Harwin

Joyce Thacker provided an update on behalf of Jason Harwin, who was unable to attend today's meeting.

The Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group has considered the recommendations from the CSE diagnostic report and good progress is being made on these following a review meeting. The aim now is to focus the CSE action plan more on impact and outcomes, whilst still retaining the three Ps – Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

To demonstrate that training and awareness raising sessions really do make a difference, Joyce Thacker fed back from a recent case where the CSE training and awareness for hotels is paying off. This will be written into a good practice case study.

There is strong attendance at this Sub Group, a good culture of challenge, and it works well having Lay Member attendance at these meetings.

The group has produced a CSE victim profile and there are now plans to produce a perpetrator profile. Pete Horner responded that the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) was currently looking at a perpetrator profile so it might be worth contacting them – Joyce Thacker and Pete Horner agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting, as it will be useful to link in and triangulate with any existing work rather than duplicate anything unnecessarily.

Consideration also needs to be given to post abuse support, as this is currently quite scarce.

It was reiterated that agencies need to retain a sense of proportionality with regard to child sexual exploitation, as it only actually accounts for 2.3% of RMBC safeguarding work in Rotherham. Although it is a very important issue, – child neglect is a much more significant problem in the borough.

Tracy Holmes reported that she had taken along some CSE campaign materials to the last meeting of the LSCB for agencies to look at and to let her know if they want to borrow any of the material for events. Sample materials had also been placed on the LSCB website and Tracy Holmes could be contacted for more information. Pete Horner mentioned that there had recently been some national campaigns to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation, involving prominent sports personalities at sporting events.

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Joyce Thacker reported that she had been working with the Voluntary Sector Consortium to put in a bid for POCA funding to support community based CSE training – i.e. targeted work to reach the public at parents' evenings, etc. Train the trainer sessions will be held to equip people with the appropriate skills to deliver CSE training to the community.

Phil Morris informed the meeting that Assistant Chief Constable Byrne was to be interviewed live on BBC Radio Sheffield tomorrow to talk about the latest situation with regard to child sexual exploitation in South Yorkshire.

6.3 Quality Assurance Sub Group – Tracey McErlain-Burns

Tracey McErlain-Burns reported that the Quality Assurance Sub Group had recently updated its terms of reference to include South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and Education as members.

The Sub Group has agreed a more child centred approach by starting each meeting with a case study.

6.4 Performance Sub Group – Steve Ashley

The Performance Sub Group has looked at the new performance framework and the two tiered structure.

6.5 Learning and Improvement Sub Group – Clair Pyper

Warren Carratt provided an update on behalf of Clair Pyper, who was on annual leave.

Significant numbers of staff have now received training for safeguarding and early help.

There was a lot of positive feedback regarding the recent Roma event.

Warren Carratt reported that this Sub Group was a useful forum to draw out learning and development needs and respond to these accordingly.

The Learning and Improvement Sub Group has assumed responsibility for safeguarding policy and procedures following the cessation of the Policy and Procedures Sub Group. However, there have been no significant policy changes recently.

6.6 Child Death Overview Panel – John Radford

The previous meeting of the Child Death Overview Panel had focused on suicide.

John Radford was pleased to report that the infant mortality rate in Rotherham remains low, which is quite a significant achievement given that maternal health in the borough is relatively poor. It was confirmed that obstetricians and midwives are invited to meetings where baby deaths are discussed to provide their input.

Steve Ashley raised a point for all of the Sub Group Chairs that it is important that any positive impact of work done / action taken is reflected in the appropriate Sub Group minutes. One recent example from the Child Death Overview Panel is in relation to safe sleeping – some new mothers are unable to afford cots for their babies, so to

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avoid the risks associated with co-sleeping, these mothers are provided with a Moses basket. John Radford explained that the health visitor and midwife then undertake home assessments to reinforce the safe sleeping message. In a recent case, although a baby had tragically died, the mother had taken on board the safe sleeping advice as she was using a Moses basket. Steve Ashley said that the decision of the Quality Assurance Sub Group to begin each meeting with a case study is a particularly good idea as this provides a tracking system.

Richard Burton commented that there had been some recent stories in the news about baby deaths that had resulted from co-sleeping, and that this is a particular risk for new arrivals from other countries / cultures where it is not unusual for families to live in a crowded home. Warren Carratt replied that targeted work is being undertaken to address this issue, and Anna Clack from health services is involved in this work. John Radford added that the baby death he had previously referred to was actually referred to the Learning and Improvement Sub Group for some follow up targeted work.

7. 2014-2015 RLSCB budget proposals – discussion – Warren Carratt

This item links in to item 11.1.

A letter outlining the LSCB budget proposals for 2014-2015 was circulated to all LSCB members and advisors. It is proposed that the budget will be retained in its present format with just a marginal increase of 2.13%. Further detail can be found in the report by Karen Potts accompanying agenda item 11.1.

Steve Ashley expressed his gratitude to all agencies for maintaining the level of funding, especially when everyone is currently faced with difficult financial circumstances.

Pete Horner asked whether the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office was copied in to the letter and Warren Carratt replied that they had been contacted separately and were aware.

Sue Cassin challenged the proposal, feeding back that Chris Edwards, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Officer, had highlighted that there was an inaccuracy in the letter. The CCG has not agreed to coordinate the local NHS response, they have agreed to honour the financial contribution for funding the LSCB previously agreed with the Primary Care Trust (PCT). RDASH and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust will continue to provide resources in kind. This was accepted as a necessary correction by Steve Ashley.

8. Draft Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Proposals – Joyce Thacker

Joyce Thacker reported that a suitable location was still being sought for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Possibilities include Riverside House or the Walk In Health Centre. There has been a lot of discussion about this issue but it firstly needs to be established how many people will make up the MASH in order to work out the logistics of moving staff. So this process is currently still in the early stages.

Catherine Hall informed the LSCB that she had recently put in a bid for funding from Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group which had been successful, so £34,440 is now available to support remote working for health staff and publicity.

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9. LSCB self-assessment – Steve Ashley, Phil Morris & Warren Carratt

Phil Morris reported that this was currently a work in progress. It is an opportunity to provide a self-assessment process for the LSCB, which is something that has not been done recently. Undertaking self-assessments helps to assist with any external scrutiny.

The intention is to now share this with the Sub Groups with a view to obtaining the relevant evidence and details of what impact has been seen. The self-assessment will then influence the writing of the LSCB annual report and business plan.

Steve Ashley commented that doing the self-assessment does focus the mind on how well the LSCB works and whether it is an effective, worthwhile entity or a waste of agencies' time. He added that this also links back to his earlier point that Sub Group minutes need to reflect positive impact and outcomes. Also, the LSCB and its Sub Groups need to challenge agencies and ask about what difference their work has made to children and young people.

Tracey McErlain-Burns wondered whether it would be worth having an opportunity at these meetings under 'any other business' for attendees to share their reflections on the meeting. She challenged the existing format of LSCB meetings, saying that they need to be quicker paced with more of a focus on outcomes. Steve Ashley responded by saying that he would ideally like to limit the LSCB agenda to three key agenda items (apart from the standing items) as has been mentioned before, and he said that he was open to making this meeting more dynamic. However, he also argued that a certain amount of time does need to be devoted to specific items to allow the opportunity for all agencies to comment and to agree and sign off important points e.g. actions from performance concerns. Phil Morris agreed with Steve Ashley, saying that certain business does need to be discussed in some detail at LSCB level. He added that there will always be a balance between keeping a 'tight' LSCB agenda and having quality discussions.

Steve Ashley reported that other LSCBs have an Executive Board with the LSCB as a 'sub board', allowing the LSCB to look at matters of interest in more detail – this is an option that Rotherham could consider. Steve Ashley thanked Tracey McErlain-Burns for raising her concerns, and agreed that good work is not always fully considered at LSCB meetings.

Richard Burton asked whether the number of apologies for today's meeting ought to be a cause for concern, and Steve Ashley replied that there will inevitably be clashes for attendees and there is always the need to prioritise, but key agencies need to be represented at LSCB meetings, and members should nominate a deputy if they are unable to attend themselves.

Pete Horner suggested that it may be appropriate to put certain items on the LSCB agenda under the 'for information' section, and that any questions about these and about the Sub Group progress reports could be tabled in advance to enable the meeting to run more quickly and more smoothly. He argued that if attendees are given prior notice to raise any comments about an item and no comments are received, then it should be taken as read that there are no objections and the item is agreed, instead of going through the reports in detail at the meeting.

Zafar Saleem agreed with Phil Morris and Steve Ashley about the importance of certain items being signed off at LSCB meetings and felt strongly that reports need to be shared openly with the LSCB with the opportunity for appropriate challenge.

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Steve Ashley undertook to discuss the format of LSCB meeting further with attendees outside of the meeting.

10. RLSCB Business Plan (standing item) – for monitoring – Phil Morris

Phil Morris explained that this three year business plan was currently in the process of being rewritten to ensure it is more focused on those priorities that impact directly upon children.

Rotherham LSCB website is in need of a refresh in terms of its presentation and content. Rotherham Council continues to host the LSCB website, and the council website is currently undergoing its own update, which will allow more flexibility, giving LSCB staff administrative rights to put information on the LSCB website themselves.

11. For information:

11.1 RLSCB budget update report (standing item) – Karen Potts

Rotherham LSCB agreed to carry forward any over or underspend to the next financial year.

Confirmation has been received confirmation from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) that all LSCB members should be treated as 'office holders' for employment and tax purposes. They have asked for details of all members for the past five years and details of any payments made to those individuals. In the majority of cases this will have no impact as the only payments made are to the Chair. HMRC are assessing any tax liability the LSCB has in relation to payments made.

11.2 Minutes from extraordinary meeting of RLSCB held on 13.12.2013

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.3 Closed section of minutes from RLSCB meeting held on 13.12.2013

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.4 Recommendations from CSE reports, as discussed at extraordinary meeting of RLSCB held on 13.12.2013

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.5 Minutes from meeting of RLSCB Sub Group Chairs

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.6 Minutes from Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.7 Protocol between LSCB and Health and Wellbeing Board

This item was received but no comment was made.

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item:

11.8 Minutes from Safer Rotherham Partnership

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.9 Rotherham Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment

This item was received but no comment was made.

12. Any other business

12.1 Richard Burton requested that consideration be given to a standing agenda item for the Lay Members, arguing that he currently has to wait until 'any other business' at the end of the meeting, when people start to leave. Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.

12.2 Pete Horner reported that South Yorkshire Police had received a notification letter from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) announcing that they will be inspected with regard to various aspects of safeguarding children. Steve Ashley asked if trafficking would be covered by the inspection and Pete Horner replied no, that this would be looked at separately.

12.3 Richard Burton observed that the press had been very complimentary regarding the work done by South Yorkshire Police to support children who have to take to the witness box in court hearings.

12.4 John Radford asked whether we are clear on the process for CAMHS level four, relating to children detained under the mental health act, e.g. how long they are detained for, what they are detained for, etc. Joyce Thacker said that she didn't think a clear process was in place and she asked Pete Horner to check the situation, as there is a real need for clarity on this. Richard Butterworth confirmed that a triage process is already in place.

12.5 Richard Burton provided the following feedback from the general public:

- The public is shocked by the statistic that one in five children in Rotherham lives in poverty.
- The public is still talking about the recent case of a pop star arrested for sexually abusing children – this story caused widespread shock, particularly as some women had allowed their children to be abused by this man, including a mother / mothers from Rotherham.
- There are concerns that if probation services are taken over by a private company, this will pose a danger to the public. Steve Ashley confirmed that his predecessor had written to the Minister of Justice.
- There had been very positive feedback following the appointment of Steve Ashley as Independent Chair of Rotherham LSCB, with public perception being that the post has been filled by 'someone who knows what he is doing'.
- The public is worried about the closure of children's centres – Steve Ashley said that this will continue to be a concern. Richard Burton asked if the private sector was trying to buy and use them, and Joyce Thacker replied that consultations were currently being held and that some private companies were interested, but that this is not the only option. More consultation events are planned.
- The 'Say Something If You See Something' campaign to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation was very positively received. The case study mentioned earlier at 6.2 is a good example that training does work.
- There is a current case of child sexual exploitation involving a female perpetrator that has been through the court process and Joyce Thacker

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explained that this woman was exploited herself, so this links back to the earlier discussion about the importance of post abuse support for victims.

- Richard Burton reported that the public wants to know why so many reviews are being written on child sexual exploitation. It was clarified that there are now only two now reports outstanding within Rotherham – Alexis Jay’s independent inquiry into historic cases and Operation Clover, but Richard Burton argued that this had not been communicated to the public who are still under the impression that several reviews are underway.

12.6 Paul Grimwood fed back a potential risk identified from the recent HMIC inspection of Youth Offending Services, which Steve Ashley said would be worth Pete Horner raising at the Child Sexual Exploitation Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Therefore Paul Grimwood undertook to send Pete Horner the spreadsheet containing full details.

12.7 Tracey Slater had circulated a late paper entitled: ‘Additional Guidance on LSCB Information Sharing Agreement for Child Sexual Exploitation’, and she asked that any comments regarding this document are fed back to her as the plan is for this guidance to be taken to each of the different South Yorkshire areas for agreement. Sheriff El-Refee said that he would have expected the guidance to contain a reference to the General Medical Council (GMC) for information sharing as this would empower medical staff. John Radford added that genito-urinary medical staff are not allowed to share confidential patient information but that they are also bound by the GMC.

12.8 Steve Ashley proposed appointing a young person as an additional lay member for the LSCB. Tracey McErlain-Burns pointed out that this could influence the time of this meeting, in terms of what time of day a young person would be able to attend.

12.9 Steve Ashley fed back a request from Councillor Paul Lakin for the LSCB to consider licensing issues – Phil Morris will be the link for this.

13. Future agenda items

Richard Butterworth suggested a ten to fifteen minutes presentation at the next LSCB meeting on the ‘channel process’ – Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.

14. Dates of future meetings:

- Thursday 5th June 2014
- Thursday 4th September 2014
- Thursday 4th December 2014

All meetings will be held 1pm – 4pm in Meeting Rooms 5a and 5b combined, Wing B, 4th Floor, Riverside House

Appendix One

Actions Points Raised / On-Going as at 06.03.2014

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
1.	Warren Carratt	An update on the children's advocacy service to be brought to RLSCB on 05.06.2014, to evidence the good work that has been done.	
2.	Steve Ashley	Further to concerns raised about the lack of engagement of school staff with safeguarding services during school holidays (e.g. in relation to child protection conferences), Steve Ashley to look at obtaining another education representative for RLSCB.	
3.	Sonya Chambers	Sonya Chambers to re-circulate the RLSCB constitution with a request for up to date signatures.	
4.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to bring a proposal back to the next meeting regarding a multi-agency forum for the discussion of neglect.	
5.	Phil Morris & Kevin Stevens	Phil Morris and Kevin Stevens undertook to look at the contact and referral rate to CART and the source of each contact and referral to see what percentage from each agency end up leading to no further action. This exercise will provide an important baseline analysis, and will be shared with the Performance Sub Group / Quality Assurance Sub Group / Learning and Improvement Sub Group as appropriate before coming back to the LSCB.	
6.	Sue Wilson	Warren Carratt suggested that a performance improvement report is taken to the Performance Sub Group before being presented to the LSCB – Steve Ashley agreed.	
7.	Warren Carratt	In relation to the results of the Lifestyle Survey, Phil Morris asked whether, in cases of racist bullying, the racist bullying incident process has been triggered, and also whether the Police Young Person's Police Officer (PYPPO) was involved - this information would be useful to know. Warren Carratt undertook to look at PYPPO involvement and report back.	
8.	Bev Pepperdine	Bev Pepperdine agreed to a suggestion from Phil Morris to look at adapting the bullying question in the Lifestyle Survey to ask young people whether they were being bullied at school or out of school.	
9.	Bev Pepperdine	Some of the young people from the Youth Cabinet have fed back that Sheffield has better questions for their Lifestyle Survey than Rotherham, so this is something to look at.	
10.	Joyce Thacker	Richard Burton then asked if the Lifestyle Survey captured anything about young people's attitudes to porn. Joyce Thacker said that the term 'porn' would not be used in the survey as it was not age appropriate, but she agreed that consideration needed to be given to getting appropriate messages across to children without offending parents as well. Joyce Thacker undertook to speak to Kay Denton-Tarn regarding this point.	
11.	Sue Wilson to forward to Sonya Chambers for sharing with the group	Richard Butterworth asked if there was a multi-agency action plan from the Lifestyle Survey, and Sue Wilson answered yes – it was agreed that the action plan would be shared with these minutes. The action plan provides a 'litmus test' to see what has changed in a year's time.	

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
12.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to look at the Lifestyle Survey action plan and feed back via the LSCB to Bev Pepperdine about what actions have been done.	
13.	Sonya Chambers	Steve Ashley proposed that from now on, the completed draft minutes will be circulated to all LSCB members and advisors allowing one week for any comments before they are uploaded to the LSCB website. This will avoid the current delay caused by waiting until the following meeting for the minutes to be formally approved. Tracey McErlain-Burns agreed with this proposal but requested that the minutes are circulated to everyone via the 'BCC' email option to avoid people receiving subsequent unnecessary emails by people using the 'reply all' option.	
14.	Joyce Thacker & Pete Horner	The CSE Sub Group has produced a CSE victim profile and there are now plans to produce a perpetrator profile. Pete Horner responded that the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) was currently looking at a perpetrator profile so it might be worth contacting them – Joyce Thacker and Pete Horner agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting, as it will be useful to link in and triangulate with any existing work rather than duplicate anything unnecessarily.	
15.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to discuss the format of LSCB meeting further with attendees outside of the meeting.	
16.	Steve Ashley	Richard Burton requested that consideration be given to a standing agenda item for the Lay Members, arguing that he currently has to wait until 'any other business' at the end of the meeting, when people start to leave. Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.	
17.	Pete Horner	John Radford asked whether we are clear on the process for CAMHS level four, relating to children detained under the mental health act, e.g. how long they are detained for, what they are detained for, etc. Joyce Thacker said that she didn't think a clear process was in place and she asked Pete Horner to check the situation, as there is a real need for clarity on this. Richard Butterworth confirmed that a triage process is already in place.	
18.	Paul Grimwood & Pete Horner	Paul Grimwood fed back a potential risk identified from the recent HMIC inspection of Youth Offending Services, which Steve Ashley said would be worth Pete Horner raising at the Child Sexual Exploitation Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Therefore Paul Grimwood undertook to send Pete Horner the spreadsheet containing full details.	
19.	Phil Morris	Steve Ashley fed back a request from Councillor Paul Lakin for the LSCB to consider licensing issues – Phil Morris will be the link for this.	
20.	Steve Ashley	Richard Butterworth suggested a ten to fifteen minutes presentation at the next LSCB meeting on the 'channel process' – Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.	

Actions Points Discharged on 06.03.2014

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
21.	Sonya Chambers	<p>The Chair proposed that in future, the agenda of this meeting should cover the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The performance of the partnership. • Any emerging issues that can be raised on the day. • A thematic discussion item to iron out critical areas of work. <p>Sonya Chambers to update the agenda as appropriate.</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged.</p>
22.	Clair Pyper	<p>Clair Pyper apologised that the Safeguarding Children National Performance Indicators had not been distributed in advance of the 13.12.2013 RLSCB meeting and will send it out electronically afterwards.</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged as this information was received on time for the 06.03.14 RLSCB meeting.</p>
23.	Clair Pyper	<p>The Chair asked what the answer was to the problem of inappropriate referrals to Children's Social Care. Clair Pyper answered that she would take the responsibility of asking agencies to reinforce the Social Care thresholds to staff along with use of the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF).</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged.</p>
24.	Phil Morris & Kevin Stevens	<p>The Chair asked Phil Morris and Kevin Stevens to do a sample on the twenty children who have been subject to child protection planning for two years or longer to look more closely at the issues affecting them.</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Kevin Stevens had sampled 25 children from 9 families – 100% of these children had a plan in place, 80% in the category of neglect. The average age of these children was 7. The main reason given for the continuation of child protection planning was a lack of confidence that the parents would sustain improvements. Kevin Stevens was reassured that current plans are going in the right direction but he has escalated two cases to the relevant Team Manager and Service Manager and has also spoken to the Conference Chair as there are concerns that these cases are 'drifting'. These finding will be reported to the appropriate Sub Group. Steve Ashley said that this was an important piece of work, which probably needs to be done about twice a year.</p>
25.	Phil Morris	<p>Warren Carratt questioned how to report updates about the Independent Reviewing Officer service to the LSCB as</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - Phil Morris said that this had resulted in a draft protocol between</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
		reassurance, but without duplicating reports that go to the Corporate Parenting Board. Phil Morris undertook to arrange a meeting with the relevant people to clarify governance monitoring systems.	these two Boards, which has only gone out to a few key stakeholders at this point but by June it should be ready to share wider. Steve Ashley said that he had spoken to Councillor Paul Lakin who chairs the Corporate Parenting Board, and Councillor Lakin is happy for the Corporate Parenting Board to submit a regular update report to the LSCB for information. Phil Morris added that this would however be a two way relationship in terms of information sharing.
26.	John Radford	The Chair said that he liked the suggestion regarding active intervention on Google searches in Rotherham to check if anyone is accessing suicide websites, therefore John Radford will look into this.	<u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - John Radford explained that as young people do not necessarily access these websites via Google, this action is not necessarily the solution. The Suicide Prevention Group has proposed a mental health strategy to include children and young people. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are open to taking referrals directly from parents, teachers, and other adults who know the child / young person, so it is about getting the right framework in place to support this process.
27.	Joyce Thacker	Councillor Lakin asked whether it is possible to block suicide websites, and Joyce Thacker undertook to speak to the head of IT to see if such websites can be accessed from school computers and via the council's internet system.	<u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - Joyce Thacker said that an additional paper had been circulated with today's meeting papers for agenda item 4 (previous minutes) which provides a response to this action.
28.	Clair Pyper	An update on the children's advocacy service to be brought to RLSCB on 06.03.2013.	<u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Warren Carratt explained that this service was currently in the process of being re-tendered for. It was therefore suggested that an update is provided to June's RLSCB meeting as part of the RLSCB annual report. Steve Ashley expressed concern that consideration is being given to re-commissioning this service but RLSCB has not yet seen the results of what the service has achieved. Joyce Thacker reported that more than 20 volunteers are now working for the service and they are building up some case studies as evidence for RLSCB. Joyce Thacker was assured that the team are doing some really positive work but this now needs to

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			be evidenced. Therefore some evidence will be circulated to RLSCB in advance of the next meeting – Warren Carratt undertook to take this as an action.
29.	Nick Whittaker & Dorothy Smith	Joyce Thacker mentioned that an important issue discussed at the previous meeting of the RLSCB Sub Group Chairs was the problem of obtaining information from schools for child protection conferences during school holidays. Nick Whittaker agreed to discuss this with Dorothy Smith outside of today's meeting.	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - Kevin Stevens provided an update – that he had liaised with Nick Whittaker and Sherran Finney and all schools will now be asked to identify key contact people during school holidays. Joyce Thacker reported that she will be attending the second part of school governor training at which she will reinforce the importance of schools continuing to engage with child protection services during school holidays.</p>
30.	Deborah Wildgoose & Clair Pyper	Rotherham, Drug and Alcohol Services, Adult Mental Health Services and Children's Social Care are working together effectively to address any safeguarding concerns. The required audits, as stated in the Ofsted recommendations to LSCBs, are underway in Rotherham and the results will be reported back to Rotherham LSCB.	<p>On-going. Deborah Wildgoose to meet with Clair Pyper to clarify exactly what is required.</p> <p><u>13.12.2013</u> Clair Pyper is meeting with Deborah Wildgoose in the New Year to discuss what will be audited and which audit tool will be used.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Deborah Wildgoose explained that this action referred to the 'What About The Children' report. She said that this action had since moved on, and was not about audits per se. Deborah Wildgoose and Clair Pyper met to conduct a stock take benchmarking exercise. Chris Prewett has since taken this work up with Clair Pyper but it is not ready yet – it should feature in the RDASH annual report as a joint piece of work.</p>
31.	Phil Morris	Notify Liz Thackray of the point of contact for feeding back updates on the Childline project.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> Liz Thackray is to keep in contact with Phil Morris and an update will be provided to RLSCB on 05.06.2013.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Phil Morris explained that the NSPCC Childline service is offered to primary schools and is an age appropriate programme for schools to educate year 6 pupils about feeling safe. It is not compulsory for schools to use the service. The CSE victim profile clearly shows the</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			geographical areas of Rotherham where CSE is concentrated, so the Childline project is an ideal opportunity to target these high risk areas. Therefore work is underway to try and encourage uptake of the service in these areas.
32.	Sue Wilson	Send performance reports to Sonya Chambers for distribution to Board Members, allowing them to review current performance.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> Sonya Chambers to chase this up.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Steve Ashley said that the safeguarding national indicators had recently been examined at sub group level. A ‘honed down’ version will be brought here to the LSCB, the idea being that it is looked at in more detail at sub group level, with any key issues of concern being reported to the LSCB. The Performance Sub Group is still awaiting performance data from health and the police – Pete Horner said that the police data was already available, but they were looking at making it more meaningful and will send it through once ready. This also links in to the action below.</p>
33.	Steve Ashley	Discuss with Clair Pyper how the Performance sub group are going to review information and ensure that key points are translated into meaningful information for the RLSCB.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> Steve Ashley said that in the New Year, key performance indicators will be produced for RLSCB to focus on.</p> <p>Steve Ashley will chair the Performance Sub Group in first instance until it is up and running, but a new Chair will be sought to take over mid-2014.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged.</p>
34.	Phil Morris	Arrange a meeting for Steve Ashley to meet LADO, Jill Brookes, to allow an understanding of her role and how things are progressing.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> This meeting has not yet taken place.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – done.</p>
35.	Steve Ashley	Discuss potential chairs for the performance sub group with Phil Morris	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> This will be Steve Ashley in the short term.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Steve Ashley said he was happy to chair the Performance Sub Group in the interim but that was not an appropriate long term arrangement, as he is effectively reporting to himself as</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			LSCB chair. Anyone interested in taking over as chair should let Steve Ashley know.
36.	Sonya Chambers	Update signatures on RLSCB Constitution.	<p data-bbox="935 309 1457 376"><u>13.12.2013</u> Ongoing as not all received yet.</p> <p data-bbox="935 409 1457 510"><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Sonya Chambers to recirculate.</p>
37.	Steve Ashley	Meet with Kevin Stevens to discuss the Multi Agency Review of Serious Child Neglect report further and establish how it fits into the RLSCB. Table for the December RLSCB meeting.	<p data-bbox="935 521 1457 656"><u>13.12.2013</u> Steve Ashley suggested that an extraordinary RLSCB meeting is convened to look at this.</p> <p data-bbox="935 701 1457 1294"><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – there are forums for CSE, domestic abuse, child death, etc. but there is a lack of such a focus on neglect, which is a significant issue Rotherham. It needs to be ensured that neglect is discussed at a multi-agency forum, but Steve Ashley said that he was loathe to set anything up until Clair Pyper’s post is appointed to. John Radford agreed that there needs to be more of a focus on the issue of neglect but that it needs to also cover lower levels of neglect and poverty, as these factors can lead to educational, social and psychological problems later on. Steve Ashley undertook to bring a proposal back to the next mtg.</p>