

## Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)

---

### Minutes from the meeting of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 1pm – 4pm at Riverside House

---

#### In attendance:

Steve Ashley - Chair	Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Sonya Chambers - Minutes	Administrative Officer, 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
Richard Burton - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Gill Brooks – in attendance to present agenda item 4	Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Child Protection Conference Chair, Safeguarding Children Unit, Rotherham Council
Councillor Paul Lakin – participating observer	Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Sue Wilson – in attendance to present agenda item 7.4.1	Performance and Quality Manager, Rotherham Council
Marie Boswell – in attendance to present agenda item 3	Raising Participation Team/Elective Home Education, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Phil Morris - Advisor	Business Manager, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
John Radford - Member	Director of Public Health, Rotherham
Sue Cassin - Member	Executive Lead for Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Dawn Peet - Member	Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Tracey McErlain-Burns - Member	Chief Nurse, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Pete Horner - Member	Public Protection Unit Manager, South Yorkshire Police
Sherif El-Reftee - Advisor	Designated Doctor, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Sarah Bellamy – in attendance to present agenda item 5	Voice and Influence Team, Integrated Youth Support Service
Lisa Duvalle – in attendance to present agenda item 5	Voice and Influence Team, Integrated Youth Support Service
Deborah Wildgoose - Member	Interim Service Director, Children's and Community, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDASH)
Warren Carratt - Advisor	Service Manager for Strategy, Standards and Development, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council, and Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Shona McFarlane - Member	Director of Health and Wellbeing, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Rotherham Council
Joyce Thacker - Member	Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Catherine Hall - Advisor	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Anne Riley - Member	Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
Jason Harwin - Member	Chief Superintendent, District Commander for Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police
Tracy Holmes - Advisor	Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing, Environment and Development Services, Rotherham Council
Clair Pyper - Member	Interim Director of Safeguarding Children and Families, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Tracey Slater - Member	Patient Experience Manager, Nursing Directorate, NHS England (South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw)
Sarah Mainwaring - Member	Assistant Chief Officer for North East Division, National Probation Service
Sue Wynne - Member	Rotherham Women's Refuge, Voluntary Sector Consortium

#### Apologies:

Paul Grimwood - Member	Youth Offending Services Manager, Rotherham Council
Maryke Turvey - Member	Assistant Chief Officer, Rotherham/Doncaster Cluster, The South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company
Dorothy Smith - Member	Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Nick Whittaker - Member	Headteacher, Hilltop and Kelford Schools
Robin Williams – Advisor	Service Solicitor for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council

**Agenda  
item:**

**Action:**

1. Welcome / apologies and introductions

Introductions were made and apologies and attendance were recorded as above.

2. Previous RLSCB minutes from 06.03.2014 and matters / actions arising

As agreed at the previous meeting, any amendments to RLSCB minutes need to be submitted within one week of circulation of the draft copy. After this period, the minutes are uploaded to the RLSCB website.

Please refer to Appendix One for updates on action points.

3. Elective Home Education – Marie Boswell

Marie Boswell had been invited to today's meeting to present her report on elective home education and to explain the safeguarding concerns relating to this. She introduced herself and stated that she was happy to talk to organisations outside today's meeting if anyone required any further information.

Marie Boswell was particularly eager to know of any ways in which RLSCB member organisations could support the work of her team, and thereby establish useful links between relevant services.

A national paper was recently published stating that elective home education should no longer be part of the Education Welfare Service, therefore these two services are now separate in Rotherham but they still work together when necessary.

In Rotherham, the Elective Home Education Team comprises three staff members, including an administrative post which acts as a central contact – this arrangement is working well.

A new policy has been drawn up with regard to elective home education and this was recently taken to Rotherham Council's Directorate Leadership Team, so will hopefully be published soon.

Nationally, there has been a massive increase in home education. In Rotherham, the increase has been gradual compared to other local authorities, and the trend seems to be more predominant in those areas that have a larger travelling community.

The team is currently receiving calls from concerned parents of year six pupils, who are worried about their children coping at secondary school - particularly if their child is on the autistic spectrum but not severe enough for them to have a statement recommending special school education. Therefore these parents are considering home education as an option.

If a parent writes to a school to state that they wish to remove their child, then the school has to take the child off the school role. If the team can intervene prior to the parent contacting the school, this can be prevented.

Once a parent chooses to home educate their child, that child receives no

**Agenda  
item:**

**Action:**

funding for their education, they don't have to follow a curriculum or timetable, and the local authority doesn't have to visit the child at home – they have no duty or right to see these young people. In order to try and ensure the welfare of these children in Rotherham, the team puts together a list, once a term, of all young people for whom no response has been received, then a meeting is held with Joyce Thacker, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services and Dorothy Smith, Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning. Going back to her earlier point, Marie Boswell requested help from RLSCB member organisations to triangulate any information they may have to try and locate these young people and check their welfare.

Referring to the figures in her report, Marie Boswell reported that one young person who did go to college after being educated at home subsequently dropped out as they were struggling to cope with the college environment, and instead opted to continue their studies at home. This raises the issue of young people who self-nominate to be home educated and the question of how we can address this.

Steve Ashley exclaimed that this was a 'national time bomb' and thanked the local authority for funding this work, as a lot of areas don't have this valuable resource. He went on to say that schools provide a safeguarding environment and for the children outside of this environment, we cannot be sure about their welfare. However, he emphasised that parents who do educate their children at home are not breaking the law, but he argued that it was essential to keep the work of the Elective Home Education Team going given the lack of safeguarding for these children.

Referring to the recent proposal to close the school at the hospital, Richard Burton said that the public felt concerned about this and he asked whether parents whose children were in hospital would be supported to educate them if the current provision was no longer available. Joyce Thacker wanted to dispel the myths about this and pointed out that the vast majority of children are in hospital for no longer than a few days, and the time for teaching a child during their stay is miniscule – two hours a day, therefore it is questionable what real benefit this actually provides. For longer term illness, the option of home tutoring provided by the local authority is being looked at. Joyce Thacker clarified that the budget is not being taken away but is going to be used differently as it has been identified that the classroom at the hospital is not being used enough.

Phil Morris sought clarification on the following statement from the bottom of page two of the report: *'The time implications for addressing cases which may or may not become official EHE has been significant'*. He asked whether this included cases where parents were considering home education for a temporary period when their child might be out of school. Marie Boswell replied that many EHE cases are religious families who have been home educating for years and are happy to receive home visits and provide evidence. With regard to other cases, the number would have been higher had it not been for the work and intervention of the team.

Clair Pyper made the point that there is evidence from previous serious case reviews nationally (including Victoria Climbié) that home education is a risk factor, so this is not an unfounded worry.

**Agenda  
item:**

**Action:**

John Radford asked about the access of home educated children to the School Nursing Service, and Joyce Thacker replied that she had looked at the proposed policy but cannot approve this as it must be approved by councillors – the local authority will then implement the policy once agreed. However, she gave the assurance that parents will not be given the option to opt out of the School Nursing Service, and work is currently underway to ensure all children are being seen.

Jason Harwin asked for clarification on the timescales of when children educated at home were last seen by Health Services. Marie Boswell answered that the team was still trying to catch up on the backlog of this but in a recent case, a little boy was last seen in January of this year. As the numbers of home educated children in Rotherham are not particularly high, Jason Harwin and Pete Horner said that the Police would be happy to help with the team's work by asking to see children on a home visit and then undertaking subsequent checks to provide the team with any further information which may be of use.

Councillor Paul Lakin stated that what was ultimately required here was a change in legislation. He therefore asked that Steve Ashley write a formal letter to government ministers to this effect – this was agreed.

Action  
1

Marie Boswell reported that she had recently attended a meeting about elective home education in London with lots of representatives from other local authorities, at which local authorities were encouraged to work together to form strong networks. A Yorkshire and Humber network was subsequently set up and has already met – this provides the area with a voice to feed directly into government.

Councillor Paul Lakin said that he will also raise this issue at the Yorkshire and Humber Lead Members forum that he chairs, and Steve Ashley undertook to raise it at the Police and Crime Commissioner's Meeting as well.

Action  
2

John Radford emphasised that School Nursing is a universal service with a pastoral role. He argued that if children educated at home are regarded as an at risk group, then there is no reason why specific provision for them cannot be built into the School Nursing Programme.

Steve Ashley reiterated the need to ensure that children educated at home are being properly educated, cared for and are safe. He emphasised that it is not wrong to home educate but it is essential that appropriate safeguards are in place, e.g. that professionals such as School Nurses and Education Welfare Officers are allowed home visits.

Marie Boswell added that another duty missing from legislation is the appropriateness of the education provided at home – i.e. whether it is age appropriate and whether it adequately prepares the child for society.

Tracey Slater pointed out that there are other Health Services that children have access to in school as well as School Nursing, which could be tapped into with regard to home educated children, e.g., audiology. Marie Boswell and Joyce Thacker assured her that they had already considered other Health Services and had tried to cover everything.

**Agenda  
item:**

**Action:**

4. Management of Allegations against Professionals and Carers – Gill Brooks

Gill Brooks introduced herself and explained that she would be presenting this report on behalf of her manager, Linda Alcock, who was unable to attend today's meeting.

Gill Brooks informed the LSCB that she had been Rotherham's Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) since March 2013 under Linda Alcock's supervision, and that this report had been put together by both of them.

There has been a steady increase in the number of contacts to the LADO, but not all of these have resulted in a full investigation. This increase demonstrates good partnership working and an increased awareness of the LADO role. However there are some sources from whom there have been very few contacts, but the LSCB was assured that this is being addressed via training and awareness raising.

It was confirmed that a system is in place to ensure that those involved are kept up to date and are not left wondering about the progress of a LADO investigation, e.g. if staff have been off on long term sick, the case has gone to the Crown Prosecution Service, etc.

Gill Brooks reported that she had started to network with other regional LADOs and there is a national LADO network. This year she is hoping to benchmark against LADO data from other areas to see if Rotherham's figures are in line with expectations and to determine what further work is needed e.g. around thresholds.

By establishing a dedicated LADO position in Rotherham, this has helped to raise the profile of this area of work.

Steve Ashley thanked Gill Brooks for this report and said that Rotherham was very lucky to have a dedicated person in the LADO role. He was pleased to see the increase in contacts as this shows that confidence and awareness has increased across agencies in terms of making referrals.

5. Youth Cabinet Review of Access to support for issues relating to Self-Harm – Sarah Bellamy and Lisa Duvalle

Sarah Bellamy and Lisa Duvalle from Rotherham's Integrated Youth Support Service had been invited to today's meeting to share a presentation about self-harm, put together by Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

Rotherham Youth Cabinet is a group of young people who represent their peers across the borough. They meet six times a year at Rotherham Town Hall, and in between Cabinet meetings they hold sub groups and other activities.

The Youth Cabinet produces its own manifesto, which usually contains around four key aims - a review of self-harm being one of these. The Youth Cabinet wanted to look at what support services there are in Rotherham for self-harm.

During the course of their research, the young people discovered that the 1<sup>st</sup> of March is Self-Harm Awareness Day, therefore they proceeded to promote

**Agenda item:**

**Action:**

this and raise awareness.

Self-harm was chosen as the subject of this review as it is a growing issue amongst young people. Rotherham Youth Cabinet wanted to try and reduce the barriers to young people accessing services and also to break down the stigma associated with self-harm.

The Youth Cabinet has now set up a Self-Harm Awareness Sub Group, which has collected some real life case studies.

The young people from Rotherham Youth Cabinet took part in an awareness session with the mental health charity MIND and Rotherham Public Health to better inform themselves about self-harm.

The review resulted in ten recommendations (see copy of report for details). The Youth Cabinet put the report together with help from Scrutiny and it was subsequently submitted to Cabinet. The Youth Cabinet was also invited to present at the recent Suicide Prevention Conference.

Steve Ashley stated that this was a very impressive piece of work. Councillor Paul Lakin added that Cabinet will have to provide a response back to Scrutiny regarding the report within two months. Joyce Thacker clarified that the report will be considered at Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, then an action plan will be produced which Cabinet will request a progress update on.

With regard to pathways for self-harm and suicide, Clair Pyper reported that an existing process is in place and has been used to support young people affected by a recent suicide. Therefore this is a demonstration of what has been done in practice and is a good example of collective work undertaken to support young people.

Jason Harwin asked Steve Ashley to write back to Rotherham Youth Cabinet to thank them for this review – this was agreed. Steve Ashley added that he would very much like to meet with them personally as he is very impressed by their work, particularly as they do not shy away from difficult issues.

Action  
3

Richard Burton asked how obvious it was to people who they should ring if they have concerns that a young person may be hurting themselves. Steve Ashley answered that this would be medical services initially, who would then signpost to the appropriate support services.

6. Rotherham Domestic Abuse Action Plan – Joyce Thacker

Joyce Thacker chairs the Domestic Abuse Priority Group, which has done some good work over the past year, particularly in terms of agencies working much more collectively. Phil Morris sits on the group as well and most of the agencies on the LSCB are also represented at the Domestic Abuse Priority Group.

In addition, Jason Harwin jointly chairs meetings of the Safer Rotherham Partnership and RLSCB received minutes from these meetings, so appropriate links are in place.

It is important to protect children from the impact of domestic abuse, as this can have a significant effect on their lives.

**Agenda  
item:**

**Action:**

It was confirmed that a Domestic Abuse Hub will form part of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, soon to be established in Riverside House.

If a child is involved in a domestic abuse incident in the evening or at the weekend, a system is being planned to inform the child's school so that staff are aware and are able to anticipate changes in behaviour and offer appropriate support.

The Domestic Abuse Priority Group also looks at Domestic Homicide Reviews, and fortunately there have been no child victims.

The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis has an analysis of need in relation to domestic abuse in making sure that it features in all strategic frameworks.

Work has been done with perpetrators of domestic abuse – Probation and the Police have been involved with this. Outcomes have shown a significant drop in repeat offences.

Joyce Thacker was pleased to report that the Domestic Abuse Action Plan has no 'red' actions, meaning everything is on track.

One of the children's centres in Rotherham has produced a DVD about domestic abuse and the intention is for this to be rolled out to college settings as well. Joyce Thacker commented that this was a really good piece of work.

Joyce Thacker finished by saying that there had been excellent support from Adult Services in tackling the issue of domestic abuse.

7. RLSCB Sub Group progress reports:

7.1 Serious Case Review Sub Group – Pete Horner

Pete Horner thanked Phil Morris for writing this report on his behalf as he had been away on annual leave.

Phil Morris pointed out that the terms of reference for the current serious case review had been attached to this report.

With regard to the serious case review, Phil Morris was pleased to report that the Police have now confirmed that he and the overview report author can meet with the family.

The individual management reviews (IMRs) from agencies are due in next week, and it has already been agreed that any issues / lessons to learn from these shall be acknowledged and dealt with as and when they arise, rather than waiting until the overview report has been published.

Richard Burton asked whether the serious case review will take into account any lessons learned from national serious case reviews. Steve Ashley commented that the issue at the moment is that serious case reviews are being pushed towards being an investigation, which they're not supposed to be.

**Agenda item:**

**Action:**

Pete Horner reported that an issue regarding the Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) had been raised in other areas, and this was the concern about case discussions taking place at the same time as the Police investigation. Steve Ashley acknowledged this point and said it was important that the Police are kept informed of any meetings that have been arranged and what is being discussed. He added that there needs to be an acceptance that key witnesses ought to be excluded from the SILP learning event if appropriate.

**7.2 Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group – Jason Harwin**

The Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group is currently compiling its annual report which will come back to the LSCB. Joyce Thacker asked if it was okay for the annual report to go to Cabinet in July, before the September RLSCB meeting, and Steve Ashley agreed this.

Action  
4

Joyce Thacker anticipated a potential increased demand following post abuse support work, in terms of new people coming forward. Jason Harwin added that this is a county wide issue and has already been discussed at the County Wide Forum.

Clair Pyper mentioned Rotherham had recently received interest from the BBC programme, Panorama. Jason Harwin said that he had been working with the Police's media contacts regarding this. Clair Pyper added that the media have been asking questions of staff therefore the LSCB needs to be aware that this is happening. Jason Harwin said that legal services are involved as well and they are looking to write to the BBC to outline what the implications will be if the media publishes a report before the Police investigation has concluded.

Clair Pyper informed the LSCB that the BBC has recently submitted a number of Freedom of Information requests.

Richard Burton questioned Jason Harwin about recent joint patrols between Police officers and social workers, saying that the public perceive this to be a sign that the issue of child sexual exploitation is getting worse. Jason Harwin gave the assurance that this is targeted support for specific areas – not general patrols.

**7.3 Quality Assurance Sub Group – Tracey McErlain-Burns**

Tracey McErlain-Burns reported that the Quality Assurance Sub Group had received its first case study at the start of the previous meeting. These case studies have been established to ensure that the sub group retains a child-centred focus. The next meeting will receive a case study from the Practice Review Group. This process will be evaluated as the sub group matures.

The sub group has done its work plan for the next eighteen months and this identifies certain topics for particular attention e.g. the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, Family Common Assessment Frameworks (Family CAFs), and child neglect.

The sub group has set itself a mission over the course of the next twelve months to resolve the lack of school engagement with the child protection conference process during school holidays.

**Agenda  
item:**

**Action:**

The issue was raised at the previous meeting of reports and presentations being duplicated at different forums, as the sub group received a report on the Children's Advocacy Service, with the intention for it to come to the LSCB as well. Tracey McErlain-Burns commented that this report demonstrated the hugely impressive work undertaken by the service, which has since been decommissioned with Barnardo's being appointed to continue the work. Concern was expressed that after the original service was decommissioned, children were left without any provision for a month until Barnardo's took over. Clair Pyper explained that this was because the decision making regarding commissioning was only finalised late in March and there had been IT problems with regard to information sharing. She added that whilst this has since been resolved, a lesson has been learned in that newly commissioned services need to be ready to start as soon as the previous provision has ceased, as it is not an effective use of money if there is a gap in service provision. However, it was clarified that it is the handover process that is the issue, not the commissioning process.

**7.4 Performance Sub Group – Steve Ashley**

Steve Ashley was disappointed that this sub group did not have a Police representative, but this has since been addressed in terms of future meetings.

Steve Ashley was pleased to report that the sub group will now receive performance data from the Police and from Health Services as well as Social Care.

A new chair is required for this sub group as Steve Ashley only agreed to chair it on an interim basis to get it started, but it is not appropriate for him to continue to do so given that he is also LSCB chair, as this means that he is effectively holding himself to account. He therefore requested that all LSCB members consider putting themselves forward for the post.

Action  
5

**7.4.1 Safeguarding Children Performance Update Report – Sue Wilson**

Sue Wilson explained that the data within this report was provisional as her team was currently in the process of doing year end returns, therefore the information may change slightly.

This report had been written on an 'exception reporting' basis, meaning that only areas of under-performance (those rated 'red') have been highlighted for the LSCB's attention.

It was pointed out that the recent change to a single child assessment should address the under-performance relating to assessments and this is already having an impact with more positive performance being seen in the first two months of its use.

Performance relating to adoption is improving overall. However, the Department for Education has recently changed the performance measure for this therefore further improvement will need to be made for a further year. On a positive note, the Department for Education is pleased with Rotherham's progress so far.

**Agenda item:**

**Action:**

With regard to the performance indicator that measures those children who have been on a child protection plan for two years or longer, Steve Ashley was not concerned as long as this was in the best interests of the child and we have written up rationales as to why these children have been on a plan for as long as they have.

It was received as good news that the children's assessment performance has seen improvements and that the "drag" is being cleared and the expected progress has been made. However, Steve Ashley emphasised the need to keep on top of performance measuring during the changeover period to make sure that this is not used as an excuse for falling behind with the assessments

Clair Pyper confirmed that the new process will be rolled out on 9<sup>th</sup> June to other teams The Social Care Duty Teams that have already used the new assessments have been supporting other locality teams through the process. However, Clair Pyper said that unfortunately there were some IT system issues which were not helping matters, as this was hampering work.

**7.5 Learning and Improvement Sub Group – Clair Pyper**

The focus of this sub group has been the development and dissemination of training courses, including Early Help and Child Sexual Exploitation. Clair Pyper wished to thank Warren Carratt's team for all their work on this.

The sub group is looking to establish a process for looking at the outcomes of training and to this end has been looking at samples to try and assess the impact. However, the group has acknowledged that it needs to do more on outcomes and impact.

Phil Morris recently presented to the group two case studies from the Child Death Overview Panel, which highlighted some differences in the way that agencies had responded to two families from two different ethnic groups. Agencies took away individual actions from this.

The sub group has also looked at the recent Daniel Pelka serious case review published nationally and each agency has taken lessons back from this. This answers the question raised earlier by Richard Burton at item 7.1 regarding whether Rotherham seeks to learn lessons from reviews undertaken in other areas.

The sub group has identified that it has some gaps in its membership, as there is currently no representation from South Yorkshire Police, NHS England or GP services. The group has recognised that it would be useful to have some members who have regular, general contact with families, i.e. not just safeguarding specialists.

**7.6 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – John Radford**

John Radford reported that he had now completed the CDOP annual report which he will bring to the next LSCB meeting, although it will go to the Children's Board first.

Peter Macfarlane, Consultant Paediatrician and Designated Doctor for Child Death has announced his retirement, therefore a discussion is required on

Action  
6

**Agenda item:**

**Action:**

the way forward as regards the Rapid Response Protocol. John Radford voiced his support of the current model which he felt was very good, and he would like support to continue with this.

It is positive to note that there has been an apparent reduction in sudden infant death syndrome since the safe sleeping message was reiterated. Even in the case of a recent child death, mother was nevertheless clearly aware of the safe sleeping message, as she had been using a Moses basket.

There has been a recent child death from whooping cough, therefore there is a need to review take up of vaccinations.

The issue of congenital abnormalities resulting from consanguinity has also given rise to concerns, and this is very difficult to address given the cultural sensitivities.

In response to a query from Richard Burton, John Radford explained that the aim was to try and keep the safe sleeping message consistent across all services e.g. Social Care, Health Visiting, etc. The key point of the current advice is for parents and carers not to co-sleep with a child.

John Radford circulated hard copies of the CARE suicide pathways.

8. RLSCB Business Plan – Phil Morris

The RLSCB Business Plan had not been enclosed with today's meeting papers. Phil Morris reported that it had had a minor refresh and he reminded people that it is a dynamic document, which is refreshed quarterly.

In preparation for the LSCB Annual Report and for Ofsted's inspection of the LSCB, a self-assessment of the LSCB has been undertaken. By September this year, the LSCB Business Plan should be finalised and fit for purpose.

Action  
7

9. For information:

9.1 Budget update report – Karen Potts

This report was accepted and no issues were raised.

9.2 Minutes from meeting of RLSCB Sub Group Chairs

These minutes were accepted and no issues were raised.

9.3 Minutes from Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board – no meetings held since January 2014

Steve Ashley reported that he had spoken to Pat Cantrill, who chairs Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board, regarding the fact that no meetings had been held since January, and it was confirmed that this meeting would resume in due course.

9.4 Minutes from Safer Rotherham Partnership

These minutes were accepted and no issues were raised.

**Agenda item:**

**Action:**

10. Ofsted scrutiny of the LSCB

A discussion took place and it was confirmed that work has already been done in preparation of this, which will be sent out for comment.

Joyce Thacker added that she would like to invite all agencies to the Ofsted set up meeting should we get the 'call' from Ofsted to facilitate a strong partnership response. Joyce Thacker will therefore email out the details in due course.

Action  
8

11. Any other business

11.1 Briefing regarding Peer Review – Clair Pyper

It has been decided that the Peer Review will focus on the issue of child neglect, and the terms of reference are currently being drawn up. The review will be led by people independent from Rotherham and is based on the neglect review that Kevin Stevens has already undertaken.

The 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September have been agreed as the dates of the review. Notification is currently being awaited of who will be in the review team and both Clair Pyper and Joyce Thacker said it was important to have representatives from school and early help.

Joyce Thacker explained that the review would look at how different agencies recognise neglect i.e. how do we enable non-safeguarding staff such as Housing Officers to recognise the signs of child neglect.

Joyce Thacker added that some guidance should be ready by 25<sup>th</sup> June for managers to roll out to staff.

Tracey McErlain-Burns pointed out that the Peer Review was a good opportunity to work with the Safeguarding Adults Board, given that there are current issues in relation to adult neglect as well.

11.2 Feedback from the general public – Richard Burton

Richard Burton provided the following feedback from the general public:

- On a personal note, he thanked Clair Pyper for all her work in Rotherham, as this was to be her last RLSCB meeting before she finishes in post.
- He asked if it was true that the Police are going to use lie detector tests for sex offenders and it was confirmed that this option is currently being considered. Richard Burton reported that the public was pleased about this.
- He asked about the ceasing of the Lifeline charity due to a lack of funds, as this charity help families therefore he questioned what the knock on effect would be for the council. Joyce Thacker understood that appropriate arrangements were in place to support these families.
- He drew the LSCB'S attention to recent newspaper reports about Roma girls being involved in child sexual exploitation. This is being tackled and Clair Pyper emphasised that the proportion of Roma girls affected is no greater than the proportion of white girls. Jason Harwin added that the challenge with Roma and any other ethnic group is that this often leads to a more complex investigation.

**Agenda item:**

**Action:**

- He reported that the public is still very concerned about the changes to Probation, in terms of the rumours about who will be doing what.
- He reported that the response to the recent teenage suicides in Rotherham had been very positively received, and he thanked John Radford for his work on this.
- He challenged a press release about the recruitment of foster carers, as the public felt that people may be more attracted to the money paid for this role and forget to appreciate what a demanding job it actually is.
- He asked what would happen with all of these comments, and Steve Ashley assured him that they would be followed up and a formal response can be fed back at each subsequent meeting to ensure this is recorded.

Action  
9

11.3 Clair Pyper

As today was Clair Pyper's last RLSCB meeting before she finishes in post, Steve Ashley formally thanked her on behalf of RLSCB for all her hard work in Rotherham and wished her well for the future.

11.4 RLSCB Annual Report

Steve Ashley confirmed that he was currently in the process of writing the RLSCB Annual Report, which he was trying to do in a more user friendly style. He put out a plea to all agencies to feed any good news stories to Phil Morris for inclusion, to ensure that positive news is promoted.

Action  
10

11.5 Joyce Thacker's charity appeal

Joyce Thacker will be walking across the Sahara desert to raise money for Safe @ Last, a local charity that provides support to young runaways. Any sponsors would be gratefully received for this worthwhile cause.

11.6 RLSCB Independent Chair – annual appraisal

Joyce Thacker mentioned that the time was approaching for the annual appraisal of the RLSCB Independent Chair. Further information will be sent out to RLSCB members in autumn.

12. Future agenda items

- Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group Annual Report
- Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report
- RLSCB Business Plan
- Neglect – standing item
- Process for children detained under the Mental Health Act

13. Dates of future meetings:

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014

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

Appendix One

**Actions Points Raised / On-Going as at 05.06.2014**

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
<b>Actions raised on 05.06.2014</b>			
1.	Steve Ashley	Councillor Paul Lakin stated that a change in legislation was required in relation to elective home education. He therefore asked that Steve Ashley write a formal letter to government ministers to this effect – this was agreed.	
2.	Paul Lakin & Steve Ashley	Councillor Paul Lakin undertook to raise concerns about a lack of safeguarding for children educated at home at the Yorkshire and Humber forum that he attends, and Steve Ashley undertook to raise it at the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Meeting as well.	
3.	Steve Ashley	Jason Harwin asked Steve Ashley to write back to Rotherham Youth Cabinet to thank them for their review of self-harm – this was agreed. Steve Ashley added that he would very much like to meet with them personally as he is very impressed by their work, particularly as they do not shy away from difficult issues.	
4.	Jason Harwin (Sonya Chambers to add to September’s RLSCB agenda)	The Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group is currently compiling its annual report which will come back to the LSCB.	
5.	All RLSCB members	A new chair is required for the Performance Sub Group - Steve Ashley therefore requested that all LSCB members consider putting themselves forward for the post.	
6.	John Radford (Sonya Chambers to add to September’s RLSCB agenda)	John Radford reported that he had now completed the CDOP annual report which he will bring to the next LSCB meeting, although it will go to the Children’s Board first.	
7.	Phil Morris (Sonya Chambers to	By September this year, the LSCB Business Plan should be finalised and fit for purpose.	

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
	add to September's RLSCB agenda)		
8.	Joyce Thacker	Joyce Thacker would like to invite all agencies to the set up meeting regarding Ofsted scrutiny of the LSCB. She will therefore email out the details in due course.	Sue Wilson emailed out to all Board Members giving details.
9.	Steve Ashley	Richard Burton asked what would happen with all of his comments, and Steve Ashley assured him that they would be followed up and a formal response can be fed back at each subsequent meeting to ensure this is recorded.	
10.	Everyone	Steve Ashley confirmed that he was currently in the process of writing the RLSCB Annual Report, which he was trying to do in a more user friendly style. He put out a plea to all agencies to feed any good news stories to Phil Morris for inclusion, to ensure that positive news is promoted.	
<b>Actions ongoing as at 05.06.2014</b>			
11.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to bring a proposal back to the next meeting regarding a multi-agency forum for the discussion of neglect.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> As there will now be a Peer Review on neglect, this will generate an action plan which means the LSCB will have a clearer idea on progress by September.</p> <p><b>New action:</b> Sonya Chambers to add this as a standing agenda item for the LSCB.</p>
12.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> There will be a discussion at next week's CSE Sub Ground about profiles. Joyce Thacker reported that Rotherham has offered to be part of some university research but no response has yet been received about this.</p> <p><b>New action:</b> Pete Horner therefore undertook to chase this up as it would be good to participate in this.</p>
13.	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	<p><b>05.06.14</b> Steve Ashley had considered this but concluded he was happy that Richard Burton's views were clearly minuted</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
		<p>until 'any other business' at the end of the meeting, when people start to leave. Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.</p>	<p>anyway, so there was no need for a separate section.</p> <p><b>New action:</b> Phil Morris will speak to Richard Burton outside the meeting about including a Lay Member section within the RLSCB Annual Report. Steve Ashley added that the LSCB will shortly be recruiting for another Lay Member.</p>
14.	Pete Horner	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>05.06.14</b></p> <p>Pete Horner confirmed that clear guidance was already in place, but he requested to postpone discussion of this until the next RLSCB meeting, as the Police have undergone a recent inspection and he would like to provide feedback from this.</p> <p><b>New action:</b> Sonya Chambers will add this to September's RLSCB agenda.</p> <p>John Radford stated that clarification is needed from NHS England regarding these arrangements. Clair Pyper answered that a meeting had already been pulled together between herself, Tracey McErlain-Burns and Margaret Kitching to discuss links between CAMHS, CAMHS 4 and the Police.</p> <p><b>New action:</b> Clair Pyper will speak to Pete Horner outside of the meeting regarding this.</p> <p>John Radford asked what telephone number to ring when out of hours CAMHS support is needed for a child – Clair Pyper replied that this was CAMHS 3, i.e. RDASH, so the gateway is via RDASH. But it was then clarified that this is not the correct route for calls about a distressed child therefore this still requires further clarification. Tracey McErlain-Burns agreed and said it's not helpful for these children to be referred to paediatrics as they would not then receive appropriate therapeutic support. Neither it is appropriate to hold these children in police cells. John Radford argued again that this is clearly NHS England's responsibility as they commissioned CAMHS 4.</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			<p><b>New action:</b> Steve Ashley undertook to write to NHS England for clarification. The first step is to clarify what the process is, then agencies can report if this is working in practice. Tracey Slater said that as NHS England's representative on the LSCB, she will take this back to Margaret Kitching. But she said that it would still be helpful for Steve Ashley to write as she will be on leave after today.</p> <p>Deborah Wildgoose commented that this is a national issue.</p> <p>John Radford stated that there needs to be a clear default mechanism in place for children in crisis. Deborah Wildgoose answered that there is no appropriate default system at the moment. She added that a regional event is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> July and it will be interesting to hear NHS England's response.</p> <p>Sherif El-Reftee expressed concern that there doesn't appear to be anyone bridging the gap in the interim. Clair Pyper replied that a current piece of work commissioned by Rotherham CCG was to look at this and she has fed into this. The Police should have the opportunity to feed into it as well.</p>
15.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b></p> <p>It was unclear whether or not this action had been completed.</p>

## Actions Points Discharged on 05.06.2014

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
16.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> This report was taken to the Quality Assurance Sub Group and Tracey McErlain-Burns provided an update as part of the QA Sub Group update report at agenda item 7.3 of these minutes.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
17.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> There is an issue regarding representation from schools on the LSCB. Steve Ashley has discussed this with Joyce Thacker but they are unsure if there is a practical solution to this i.e. in terms of nominating one person to represent all schools. Therefore as an alternative way of creating a link between the LSCB and schools, Steve Ashley has arranged to be invited to the Cross Phase School meeting.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
18.	Sonya Chambers	Sonya Chambers to re-circulate the RLSCB constitution with a request for up to date signatures.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> This was re-circulated.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
19.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> Hard copies of this data were passed round. In terms of the headline facts, Kevin Stevens reported that 48% of all contacts into CART did not meet the Social Care threshold for referral. Of this 48%, 38% were for domestic abuse.</p> <p>Steve Ashley commented that just because not all contacts meet the threshold, this doesn't mean that good information is not coming through. But he questioned what we do with this information if the threshold has not been met – Phil Morris answered that it is recorded in a structured way to enable the history to be tracked when a perpetrator moves to a different family.</p> <p>Phil Morris explained that the figures are somewhat misleading as each</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			<p>referral / contact is copied across all siblings which makes it look like there are more.</p> <p>Jason Harwin emphasised the importance of providing the agency that made the contact / referral with feedback, as it is important that lessons are learned. Warren Carratt replied that efforts have been made to try and improve learning from contacts and referrals and he added that the development of the MASH should improve this process.</p> <p>John Radford asked whether all referrers receive feedback and the answer was no. He stated that professionals need support if they have made a referral which has been turned down, and they feel this is the wrong decision and wish to challenge this. Kevin Stevens pointed out that there is already an escalation process in the TriX procedures for this. Steve Ashley said there is a need to ensure that the escalation process forms part of the feedback to referrers so that the referrer is aware of what support is available should they wish to challenge the decision. Going back to John Radford's original question, Kevin Stevens said that it is difficult to provide feedback to all referrers given the volume that is received – not that this shouldn't happen ideally, but realistically, there is only a team of four to deal with this work. Pete Horner said that it is important to get the process right from the beginning to prevent unnecessary referrals, so fewer are received in the first instance – hopefully MASH should solve some of this problem.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
20.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> This process is now in place.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
21.	Warren Carratt	In relation to the results of the Lifestyle Survey, Phil Morris asked whether, in	<p><b>05.06.14</b> Steve Ashley confirmed that all of the</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
		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.	actions relating to the Lifestyle Survey are now in hand as the information is being fed into next year's survey.  DISCHARGED
22.	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.	<b>05.06.14</b>  DISCHARGED
23.	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.	<b>05.06.14</b>  DISCHARGED
24.	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 regarding this point.	<b>05.06.14</b>  DISCHARGED
25.	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.	<b>05.06.14</b> Sue Wilson apologised that this action plan had not yet been sent out and it will be circulated with these minutes. Sonya Chambers has now added Sue Wilson to the RLSCB circulation list to ensure she receives the minutes and actions.  DISCHARGED
26.	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.	<b>05.06.14</b> DISCHARGED
27.	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	<b>05.06.14</b> This process is now in place.  DISCHARGED

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
		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.	
28.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to discuss the format of LSCB meeting further with attendees outside of the meeting.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> Steve Ashley reported that this was discussed at the previous Sub Group Chairs' meeting, and it was proposed that items such policies and procedures that are brought to the LSCB for sign off could be signed off at the Sub Group Chairs' meeting instead to alleviate pressure on the LSCB agenda.</p> <p>A significant issue that has been identified is the duplication of work within the sub groups – the chairs need to be clear on what work is being undertaken across the sub groups and to liaise with each other. This especially applies to the CSE Sub Group (strategic) and the CSE Silver Group (operational). Jason Harwin assured the LSCB that the Silver Group has now grown, and the CSE Sub Group is now more strategy focused with the Silver Group retaining its tactical focus.</p> <p>Steve Ashley emphasised the need to ensure that work is going to the most appropriate forum to ensure that LSCB meetings are focused and efficient.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
29.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> This issue has now been resolved.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
30.	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.	<p><b>05.06.14</b> Jason Harwin was no longer sure that this needed to come to the LSCB as it is being looked at again nationally.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>