



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

20 NOVEMBER 2006

Present:

Representatives of Wigan MBC

Mr G Rowney (Chair)	Director of Children & Young People Services
Mr S Atkinson	Children and Young People Services
Mrs S Astbury	Connexions
Mrs M Banham	Children and Young People Services
Ms S Bond	Youth Offending Team
Ms T Culshaw	Democratic Services
Mr G Meehan	Deputy Director of CYP Services
Mr D Roberts	Legal Department

Representatives of Other Agencies

Dr E Abbas	Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust
Ms A Arnold	Hindley HMYOI
Mrs J Barton	Wigan & Leigh Housing
Ms C Boyd	Probation Service
Mrs A Burt	Designated Nurse Child Protection
Ms P Hamilton	5 Borough Partnerships
Ms E Mannion	5 Borough Partnerships
Superintendent McIver	Greater Manchester Police
Ms H MacKenzie	Shevington High School
Ms J Ramsbottom	Ince CE School
Mr P Turner	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Mrs J Skorupka	CAFCASS
Ms R Walkden	Wigan and Leigh CVS
Ms S Woolmore	NSPCC

ACTION

33. Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr J Blott (Deputy Director of Adult Services), Hilary Fenton (5 Borough Partnerships, Mr D Khan (Deputy Governor, Hindley HMYOI) and Mr J Tankard (Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT).

34. Minutes: 2 October 2006: The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2006 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Minute 21 (Refers): Sharon Bond is now the new member of the board representing the Youth Offending Team.

Minute 29 (Refers): The Change for Children – Common Assessment Framework Pilot in the West has commenced and is scheduled to role out in April 2007.

Minute 35 (Refers): Carla Davies is unable to become a member at this time.

Minute 37 (Refers): a formal draft has been issued this week and feedback is requested by Friday.

35. Manchester LSCB – Hindley Prison

A case was discussed.

36. Sub Group meeting feedback:

Death Overview Panel

A meeting was held on 8 November and minutes circulated. The next meeting will be held on 15 December at 10.00am at the Town Hall, Wigan. Agenda items for discussion at the next meeting will be membership and terms of reference. The panel is scheduled to meet every 2 months with administrative support will be provided by Louise Melling.

Ms J
Skorupka

Resolved: Members note the comments and recommendations.

Evaluating Effectiveness

Christine Boyd gave an update from their last meeting of 31 October 2006. An update was given on the self assessment tool which had been sent out to chief executive officers of agencies and clarification given regarding training and funding.

The subgroup proposed a biannual review of initiatives such as MARACS and IDAPS for evaluation regarding their effectiveness in reducing the harmful effects of domestic violence on children.

Mrs C Boyd

Resolved: Members note the comments and recommendations.

Policy and Procedure

The last meeting was held on 17 November 2006 and minutes to be forwarded.

Mr D Robert

Resolved: Members are to complete an action plan and advise a completion date.

Training & Communication

The last meeting was held on 13 November 2006. Minutes are to be forwarded.

Alison Burt informed members that training sessions were cancelled due to lack of trainers. A training induction DVD had been completed and requested people to join the training pool.

Resolved: Members note the comments and recommendations.

Mrs A Burt

37. Cases/Issues that meet MAPPA Criteria:

Sharon Bond informed members that there are different levels of MAPPA and YOT have protocols that were set up by ACPC and that it would be useful to bring these protocols back to this board to assess again and ratify.

Dr Abass informed members that she was currently aware of the lack of support and guidance for victims and of counselling being offered by General Practitioners. Alison Burt suggested that Justin Tankard's role of the PCT would be the route to investigate as a broader network is in existence but unsure of how accessible it is.

Resolved: Members accept the report.

38. Change for children and young people system pilot initial feedback:

Gerald Meehan informed members that the implementation group had been in operation since October and they had scheduled a meeting for the 12 December.

Helen MacKenzie highlighted some of the issues that she had been made aware of on completing the common assessment frameworks.

David Hoyle and Tony Dann are involved in this group. Marlyn Banham explained that there is confusion around referrals on common assessment policy documents to agencies and some are struggling with levels 2 and 3.

Gerald Meehan recommended that such cases should be referred to David Hoyle.

Resolved: Members accept the report.

39. Priorities for staying safe:

Gerald Meehan informed members that Cath Boyd has now taken over the review of the Children and Young People Plan. There were a wide range of actions to be taken to the next stage and was now down to 3 critical areas and highlighted under key strategic priorities:

1. awareness raising / community engagement
2. prevention
3. intervention and care

A further sub group was to be added for "children of high level of threshold of vulnerability".

Cath Boyd with the sub group to have a separate meeting to bring proposals to the Board on:

- previous strategies

Ms C Boyd

- decommissioning and recommissioning
- identifying key priorities

Members of the group are confirmed as Cath Boyd, Marlyn Banham, Helen MacKenzie, Alison Burt, Cara Davies and Jill Ramsbottom.

Resolved: Members accept the report.

40. Wigan Safeguarding Children Board update on procedures rewrite

Sean Atkinson informed Members of a meeting with Tom Narducci to discuss the update and rewrite of procedures. Action points are as follows:

- Timescales for policy completion set for February
- Requests members feedback
- Funding provision to be determined
- Report back to board

Resolved: Members accept the report.

41. Draft of coroners SUDI protocol

Dr Abass updated members on this draft document which was produced 18 months ago and recently updated.

Alison Burt had attended a meeting on Friday in Stockport and had forwarded the draft to Sue Ball.

Dr Abass and Dr Downs had concerns around funding and some areas of the document had not been addressed. Commissioning elements and certain points needed to be readdressed but the generally was a good draft.

Patricia Hamilton raised the issue of mental health which needed to be mentioned.

Comments to Alison Burt by Friday.

Resolved: The Members accept the report.

42. Asylum seeking children

Matthew McNulty, Housing Strategy Association, has approached the board for support on the process regarding asylum seeker school children.

The Board gives support and shares the concerns.

Janice Barton explained that Housing is also concerned and will look to tightening up the process.

The Chairman recommends that an agency round table meeting should also take place.

Resolved: The Members accept the report.

43. Research Project Invitation

An invitation was received to take part in a research project which is being coordinated by DFES. Unfortunately this has arrived too late.

Resolved: The Members accept the report.

44. Any Other Business:

NSPCC Listening Services – sharing information

Sue Woolmore highlighted the issue for children making calls and the ability to identify.

A paper is to be circulated with the minutes.

Ms T
Culshaw

Plymouth SCR judgment

The information regarding Plymouth serious case review is available under the Freedom of Information Act but information regarding the journalist is believed to be fictitious.

Ms T
Culshaw

Abbreviation of judgment is to be circulated with the minutes.

CRB checks for Board members – update

It was the view of the Board that enhanced CRB checks should be completed on all members of the Board.

Legal advice is being sought and will be report back at the next meeting.

D Robert

Feedback from DFES review meeting

Sue Woolmore updated members from the DFES review meeting.

Issues raised:

- Funding
- Performance management
- Threshold definitions
- Relationship with other structures

Wigan survey closing date is 14 December 2006 although at this stage the survey has not yet been sent out.

Capital Bid

Congratulations to Alison Burt for securing £26k from Sefton Capital Bid.

Substance Misuse

There is no longer any cover representation from People's Representative Children Substance Misuse due to contract with Bolton, Salford and Trafford.

Members to think about this situation and feedback comments.

Research and Practice – short paper on overview on safeguarding boards

This item is deferred until next meeting.

Recall Allegations Regional (Sharon Hubbard)

This will be discussed as a group but the chairman will not be engaged. Sharon Hubbard has requested feedback on the issues from her meeting with the Board. Chair to keep members updated.

45. Dates and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 26 February 2006, in the Conference Room at Progress House at 2.00pm.

There were no further items.

CHAIR