



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

25 FEBRUARY 2008

Present:

Representatives of Wigan MBC

Mr N Hudson (Chairman)	Director of Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)
Ms S Astbury	Acting Assistant Director, CYPS
Mr S Atkinson	Group Manager, Quality Assurance, CYPS
Ms S Bond	Youth Offending Team Manager, CYPS
Ms E Dann	Acting Strategic Manager, Connexions CYPS
Mrs C Ellison	Wigan Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager
Mrs K Nelson	Assistant Director, Social Care and Inclusion
Ms L Sutton	Assistant Director, Adult Services
Mrs K Tonks	Clerk to the Board

Representatives of other agencies

Dr E Abbas	Designated Doctor, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh National Health Service Trust (WWL)
Ms A M Arnold	Head of Safeguards, HM YOI Hindley
Ms J Ely	Group Manager, Wigan and Leigh Housing
Mr P Turner	Consultant in Public Health, ALW PCT
Ms J Hyde	Chair Primary Heads, Ince Church of England Primary School
Ms H Mackenzie	Secondary Head, Shevington High School
Superintendent P Mclver	Greater Manchester Police
Mr S Oliver	5 Boroughs Partnership
Mr W Piotrowski	Family Court Advisor, CAF/CASS, Bolton
Ms R Walkden	Assistant Chief Officer, Wigan & Leigh CVS
Ms D Waterworth	WWL, Acting Named Nurse Child Protection
Ms C Woodford	WWL, Named Nurse Child Protection
Ms S Woolmore	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Observer

Councillor B Wilson	Cabinet Champion, Children and Young People's Services
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129 Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were submitted by Ms A Burt, Designated Nurse, Child Protection and Vulnerable Children, ALW PCT, Mr M Hubbard, CAF/CASS, Mr A Roberts, Probation Service, Ms H Fenton, 5 Boroughs Partnership, Ms J Barton, Wigan and Leigh Housing, Mr D Roberts, Legal and Property Services Department Representative.

130 Minutes: 19 November 2007: The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2007 were approved as a correct record.

131 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2007:

Minute 84:

Mr Atkinson reported that new processes had been drafted regarding notification of all child deaths.

132 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2007:

Minute 115 (a) (3):

The Board was informed that no additional management action was required with regard to the analysis of data into child deaths.

Minute 115 (d):

The Board was informed that the new training officer had been appointed.

Minute 119:

Mr Atkinson reported that the response to Ofsted TELLUS2 Survey would be resolved in the near future.

Minute 121:

Mr Atkinson reported that there had been considerable demand for printed copies of the new Wigan Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) child protection procedures. He also reported that a letter had been sent out to the workforce agency-wide and that promotional materials had been designed for users of the website.

Minute 127:

Mrs Nelson reported that the enquiry from a Member of Parliament had been resolved.

132 Subgroup meetings feedback:

(a) Child death overview subgroup

Mr Atkinson reported on the last meeting of the subgroup which had been held on 28 January 2008 (the minutes were distributed at the meeting).

Mr Atkinson also reported on an options paper: 'Child Death Review Processes, Working together to Safeguard Children (2006) Rapid Response requirements'. The options paper considered the requirements of Chapter 7 and the position within Wigan regarding readiness to comply with the rapid response to unexpected deaths element of it. Four potential models for Greater Manchester were put forward for consideration.

Resolved: The Board:

- accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2008; and
- agrees to support model 4 as an interim measure and to reconsider this decision at a future meeting.

(b) Evaluating and effectiveness subgroup

Mrs Nelson reported favourably on the safeguarding children in education school audit video conference link with Wiltshire County Council which discussed the safeguarding audit that had been carried in schools in Wiltshire.

Resolved: The Board accepts the minutes of the meetings held on 5 December 2007 and 30 January 2008.

(c) Policy and procedures subgroup

Mrs Nelson reported that this subgroup had now been re-established and thanked the subgroup members for their considerable support.

Resolved: The Board accepts the minutes of the meetings held on 18 December 2007 and 15 January 2008.

(d) Training and communications subgroup

Mr Atkinson reported on further investigation on item 4 of the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2007 regarding commissioned trainers. The criticism had been considered as unfair and the providers had since been re-commissioned.

Resolved: The Board accepts the minutes of the meetings held on 8 November and 13 December 2007, and 23 January 2008.

133 Cases/issues that meet Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements criteria: No report was made to the Board.

ACTION

134 Introduction of business manager:

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman introduced and warmly welcomed Chris Ellison, the new WSCB Business Manager. Discussion took place regarding comparisons with arrangements made by other safeguarding boards locally.

135 WSCB business plan

Mrs Nelson put forward a recommendation to the Board that the WSCB business plan, which still had a year to run, be renewed in order to synchronise with CYPS plans. She explained the synergy leading to her recommendation and outlined the advantages to the WSCB.

Resolved: The Board:

- agrees in principle to bring forward the publication of the new business plan, and
- agrees to hold a development day on 21 April 2008 in place of the scheduled board meeting.

All

136 Funding for WSCB:

Discussion took place regarding insufficient funding for the WSCB.

Resolved: The Business Manager is requested to provide a financial report to the next meeting.

CE

137 Death in custody 2005:

Ms Arnold reported on the serious case review of Case H.

138 Safeguarding children who may be trafficked:

Superintendent Mclver reported on the guidance from HM Government regarding the safeguarding of children who may be trafficked. Mr Atkinson responded that this was being considered by the Pan Manchester Safeguarding Children Board.

139 Review of looked after children who are reported as going missing:

Superintendent Mclver reported that the Greater Manchester Police had carried out a review of looked after children who were reported as going missing and that a protocol had been drawn up. He thanked CYPS for their support.

140 Wigan Police and the five strands of Every Child Matters:

Superintendent Mclver reported that GM Police had formed a safeguarding children board led by the Assistant Chief Constable. GM Police would be sharing information on community safety with partners concerned with youth support services.

PMcl/SB

ACTION

141 Samaritans' policy:

Ms Arnold expressed the concerns that HMYOI Hindley had with regard to the Samaritans' policy on confidentiality in their communications with children at risk from harming themselves or others in prison. She outlined the actions which had been taken at HMYOI Hindley. General discussion took place and members of the Board unanimously shared the concerns of HMYOI Hindley.

Resolved: The Board requests the Chairman of the WSCB to contact the local Samaritans organisation to express the Board's serious concerns regarding their confidentiality policy.

NH

142 Pan Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children Board (PMSCB):

Mr Atkinson informed the Board on the PMSCB and its draft terms of reference. The purpose of the PMSCB was to ensure that, wherever possible, the delivery of safeguarding children across the ten local authority areas was consistent, continued the improvement of practices, and that all partner agencies benefitted from the commonality of approach and economies of scale.

143 WSCB website progress/promotion: Mr Atkinson reported on the website progress.

144 Children missing education: Mrs Nelson reported on the Children missing education policy and procedures which informed local authority officers, schools, governing bodies and other involved agencies about the policy and procedures to be followed in order to prevent children going missing from education. Discussion took place regarding pupils being entered and removed from school rolls.

Resolved: The Board endorses the report as now amended.

KN

145 The Children are Unbeatable Alliance: This item was deferred until the next meeting.

NH

146 Draft calendar of meetings 2008/09:

Resolved: The Board agrees the draft programme of dates and times of meetings for 2008/09 now submitted.

147 Any other business:

(a) Information item - Notification of person who has been identified as presenting a risk or potential risk to children:

Discussion took place regarding the sharing of information from other authorities and whether the WSCB was the appropriate body to deal with this issue.

Resolved: The Board requests that Ms Walkden share this information with the voluntary services and that the Business Manager investigate this issue with Government Office North West.

RW/CE

(b) Review of Prison Service and Criminal Justice Board:

Ms Arnold informed the Board of the review being undertaken by the Prison Service and Criminal Justice Board and its possible implications. The outcome would be known in April 2008.

(c) Information item - Improving parenting; the why and the how:

Dr Abbas distributed copies of a newspaper article from Arch Dis Child February 2008 Vol 93 No 2.

Serious case review:

Mrs Nelson informed the Board that a serious case review was being undertaken.

148 Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting would be a development day to be held on Monday 21 April 2008.

There were no further items.

CHAIR

Meeting started: 2.00 pm

Meeting ended: 4.15 pm