

Report to:	Overview & Scrutiny	Children & Young People's Panel	Cabinet
Date:	19th May 08	22nd May 08	29th May 08
Subject:	Wigan Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) - minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 07.		
Report of:	Director of Children & Young People's Services		
Contact officer:	Nick Hudson 01942 486000		

Purpose / summary: To bring to Members attention the minutes of the WSCB.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Not applicable

Recommendation / decision: That Members note the content of the minutes of the WSCB on 19th November 2007.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 9 June 2008

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	None
Staffing:	None
Policy:	None
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	
Wards affected:	All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution?

Has the Executive Director Business Support Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?

Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

No

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:			
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	X

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
22/05/08	19/05/08	29/05/08	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer _____

Date _____



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

19 NOVEMBER 2007

Present:

Representatives of Wigan MBC

Mr N Jarman (Chairman)	Director of Children and Young People Services
Ms S Astbury	Acting Assistant Director CYPS
Mr S Atkinson	Group Manager CYPS
Ms S Bond	Youth Offending Team Manager CYPS
Ms E Dann	Acting Strategic Manager, Connexions CYPS
Mrs K Tonks	Democratic Services

Representatives of other agencies

Chief Inspector A Baddeley Ms C Boyd	Greater Manchester Police District Manager, GM Probation Area
Mrs A Burt Ms H Fenton Ms J Hyde Ms H Mackenzie Ms R Walkden Ms S Woolmore	Designated Nurse Child Protection, ACW PCT Director 5 Boroughs Partnership Headteacher, Ince Church of England School Secondary Heads CYPS Assistant Chief Officer, Wigan & Leigh CVS NSPCC

Observer

Councillor B Wilson	Cabinet Champion Children and Young People's Services
---------------------	---

ACTION

111 Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were submitted by Ms A M Arnold, HMP YOI Hindley, Ms J Barton, Director of Housing Needs Wigan and Leigh Housing, Mr M Hubbard, Service Manager CAF/CASS, Superintendent P G McIver, Greater Manchester Police, Mrs K Nelson (Assistant Director CYPS), Mr D A Robert, Legal Representative, Ms L Sutton (Assistant Director CYPS), Mr P Turner, Consultant in Public Health, Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT.

112 Minutes: 24 September 2007: The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2007 were approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Ms S Woolmore's apologies for absence at Minute 99.

113 Matters arising: There were none.

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

Minute 83:

Mr S Atkinson reported that the setting up of a shielding panel for Contactpoint was being dealt with as a work in progress item with the working group.

Minute 84:

The subgroup had requested that Mr Chandler, Consultant Obstetrician, be contacted to request that notifications of all child deaths should be given to the subgroup. Sean Atkinson assumed this and agreed to check that this had been done.

SA

Minute 88 (refers):

This case had been considered by the Evaluating Effectiveness subgroup on 7 August 2007 (Minute 4 refers). The Board noted that this referred to a Red Bank secondment rather than the Prison Service.

Minute 91 (refers):

The Chairman advised that a letter had been sent from the Wigan Safeguarding Children Board to Greater Manchester Police expressing the Board's concerns.

115 Subgroup meetings feedback:

(a) Child death overview subgroup

Mr S Atkinson advised that as the last meeting had taken place on Friday, 16 November 2007, the minutes of the meeting were not yet available. He reported that discussion had taken place regarding arranging viewings by staff of a DVD entitled: 'Why Jason Died'. The DVD was intended to familiarise key professionals and their managers with the processes to be followed when a child dies.

Mr Atkinson reported on the progress which had been made in establishing a regional group.

Discussion took place regarding a recent cluster of child deaths. Ms A Burt informed the Board that research was being carried out to try to discern trends and that analysis would take place covering the last 12 months to investigate whether any delays were occurring in the social care assessment process.

AB

Resolved: The Board (1) accepts the report;

ACTION

(2) Encourages individual agencies to make arrangements for their staff to view the DVD 'Why Jason Died'. Additional copies of the DVD would be available from Mr S Atkinson; and

All/SA

(3) At a future meeting would consider whether there were any outcomes from the analysis of the data into the child deaths and whether any management action needed to be taken.

NJ/SA

(b) Evaluating effectiveness subgroup

Ms S Woolmore reported that agencies were taking their responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 very seriously and positive action plans and action was being taken. The Chairman reported that school governors had been briefed regarding how schools should audit their own safeguarding.

Resolved: The Board (1) accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2007; and

SW

(2) will consider the dataset – performance management trends information at the next meeting of the Board.

All

(c) Policy and procedures subgroup

Mr S Atkinson reported that invitations had been sent out to re-launch this group on 18 December 2007. The Board were asked to give consideration to their participation in this group and to contact Mrs K Nelson if anyone wanted to join the group.

Resolved: The Board notes the report.

(d) Training and communications subgroup

Ms A Burt advised that as the last meeting had taken place the previous week, the minutes of the meeting were not yet available. She reported that:

- next year's programme was being considered.
- the group had expressed concern regarding the quality of training and it had been decided not to re-commission but to consider alternatives.
- the Training Officer post had been advertised, short listing had taken place and interviews would take place in December. (I am not sure if this is the same post referred to in Minute 124).

Ms A Burt informed the Board that an away day was being arranged for 3 September 2008 to review safeguarding procedures.

All

Resolved: The Board notes the report.

116 Cases/Issues that meet Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements criteria

Ms C Boyd reported that there had been no further barriers to risk management and all agencies were working well together. She

considered that there were some improvements which could be made to the eligible dataset.

Resolved: The Board notes the report.

117 Reports deferred from last meeting:

Ms H Fenton explained the three reports which had been included in the agenda at the 24 September 2007 meeting (Agenda item 10 - Policy on children visiting wards and other NHS Trust Premises; item 11- 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Policy on children and young people who may require admission to an adult ward when determined appropriate; and item 12 - Criminal Records Bureau Policy).

The Board would be kept informed of future policies which would be put in place to protect children both in hospital and visiting hospitals.

Resolved: The Board notes the report.

118 Funding for Wigan Safeguarding Children Board:

The Chairman stressed the need to ensure that the Wigan Safeguarding Children Board was fully funded in future years. He reminded the Board of their agencies' obligations under the Children Act 2004 to co-operate and that it was incumbent upon all organisations to contribute to the Wigan Safeguarding Children Board.

Members of the Board pointed out that several of the partnership agencies were funding more than one safeguarding children board within Greater Manchester.

Resolved: The Board gives consideration at its next meeting to a formula designed to ensure that agencies contribute an appropriate proportion to the 2008/09 budget for the Wigan Safeguarding Children Board.

119 Ofsted TELLUS2 Survey:

Mr S Atkinson reported that this survey had been a consultation questionnaire for young people and that colleagues had contacted him expressing their concern as some of the questions related to confidential issues of a child protection nature.

The Board also expressed dissatisfaction in respect of the level of confidentiality in protecting the identity of children in school and a deficit in the content of some of the questions.

Members of the Board considered that the survey was unsatisfactory.

Resolved: The Board contributes to a regional response to Ofsted regarding future consultations.

ACTION

NJ

NJ/SA

ACTION

**120 Working with child sexual exploitation – the 3 P's
Prevention; Protection; Prosecution Conference:**

Mr S Atkinson reported that there were still places available for this conference which would be held on 22 November 2007 at Haydock Park.

121 Child Protection Procedures

Copies of the new Wigan Safeguarding Children Board Child Protection Procedures were distributed at the meeting. The Board discussed ways of publicising the new procedures both within the childrens' workforce and promoting the procedures externally.

Resolved: (1) An e-mail be sent out to the workforce agency-wide containing a hyperlink to the new procedures; and

NJ/SA

(2) Contact be made with the local radio station and newspapers to inform the public of the new procedures.

NJ

122 Statement for Wigan Safeguarding Children Board website about positive parenting:

Ms S Woolmore presented a draft statement about the equal protection of children and supporting parents which was discussed by the Board.

Resolved: The Board place the following statement on its website, and other related pages on Wigan's wider website, to encourage parents to use positive parenting techniques:

SA

'Wigan Safeguarding Children Board believes that all forms of physical violence against children are wrong.

The Safeguarding Board encourages and supports parents and carers to use positive parenting techniques, without resorting to physical chastisement, such as smacking.

Discipline is a very important part of raising children well and the Wigan Safeguarding Board encourages parents to use positive discipline methods which help their children to become confident and respectful young people.

There is advice about bringing up your children in the Wigan Safe Parenting Handbook:

http://www.wigan.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8B84DCF0-CF34-4881-BD40-2CED41215C88/0/Safe_Parenting_Handbook.pdf

*There is lots more advice on the Parentline website:
www.parentlineplus.org.uk'*

123 The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) 'exchange' magazine:

Ms S Woolmore distributed copies of the NSPCC exchange magazine which was produced three times a year. The 'exchange'

was a platform for sharing information and experiences related to safeguarding children and to support the work of Area Child Protection Committee and Local Safeguarding Children Boards. She requested that Board Members contact her if they had any useful articles to be included in the magazine.

ACTION

All

124 NSPCC's 'Your family' magazine:

Ms S Woolmore distributed copies of the 'Your family' magazine to the Board. The bi-monthly free magazine provided positive ideas and advice for parents of young children and aimed to raise awareness of safeguarding. She informed the Board that the NSPCC presently distributed the magazine through Early Learning Centres and were endeavouring to significantly increase its distribution. Ms S Woolmore sought the support of the Board and

Resolved: The Board supports increasing the distribution of the magazine, for example, to children's centres and approves the format and content of the magazine.

All

125 Update on business manager's post:

Mr S Atkinson reported that the Wigan Safeguarding Children Board business manager's post had been advertised and short-listed and that interviews would be held in December.

126 Calendar of meetings

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

127 Any other business

MP Enquiry

The Chairman informed the Board that a Member of Parliament had made an enquiry regarding a child death which he was investigating.

NJ

128 Date and time of next meeting:

Monday, 25 February 2008, in the Conference Room at Progress House at 2.00pm.

There were no further items.

CHAIR

Meeting started: 2.00 pm

Meeting ended: 3.15 pm