

Report to: Overview & Scrutiny Children & Young People's Panel

Date: 9th February 2009 12th March 2009

Subject: Wigan Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) - minutes of the meeting held on 28th July, 22nd September and 24th November 2008

Report of: Director of Children & Young People's Services

Contact officer: Nick Hudson 01942 486000
e-mail: n.hudson@wigan.gov.uk

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 28th July, 22nd September and 24th November 2008.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision.

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? **No**

Has the Executive Director Business Support Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? **No**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

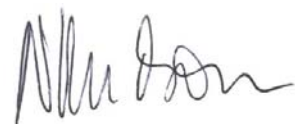
Categorisation of the report:			
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
12/03/09	09/02/09		

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

Proper Officer



Date

22nd January 2009



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

28 JULY 2008

Present:

Representatives of Wigan Council

Mrs K Nelson (Chair)	Assistant Director of Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)
Ms J Barton	Director of Housing Needs, Wigan and Leigh Housing
Ms S Bond	Youth Offending Team CYPS
Ms E Dann	Acting Strategy Manager, Connexions, CYPS
Mrs C Ellison	Business Manager Wigan Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)
Ms M McKenzie	Legal Adviser
Ms L Sutton	Assistant Director Adult Services
Mrs K Tonks	Clerk to the Board

Representatives of other agencies

Mrs A Burt	Designated Nurse Child Protection, Ashton Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (ALWPCT)
Mr K Giles	Deputy Head of Safeguards, Her Majesty's Prison Youth Offenders Institute (HMPYOI), Hindley
Ms H Fenton	Director, 5 Boroughs Partnership
Ms J Hyde	Chair Primary Heads, Ince Church of England Primary School
Ms F Master	Interim Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
Superintendent P G McIver	Greater Manchester Police
Ms A Mundy	Matron Community Midwifery, Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust (WWL)
Mr P Turner	Consultant in Public Health, ALWPCT
Ms R Walkden	Assistant Chief Officer, Wigan & Leigh Council for Voluntary Services

17 Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted from Doctor E Abbas, WWL, Ms A M Arnold, Head of Safeguards HMPYOI Hindley, Ms E Brighton, Wigan and Leigh Housing, Mr R Hill Governor, HMPYOI Hindley, Mr N Hudson, Chairman, Director of Children and Young People's Services, Ms H MacKenzie, (Shevington High School), Mr D Robert, (Legal Adviser), Ms S Woolmore, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

ACTION

18 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2008 were approved a correct record.

19 Matters arising:

Samaritans' Policy (Minute 141 of 2007/08): Mrs Nelson reported that the Chairman had contacted the Samaritans. They had confirmed that the Samaritans confidentiality policy was a national policy and that this was currently being reviewed. Mr Hudson was informed that he would be contacted during the review in order for the Board's concerns to be considered.

20 Subgroup meetings feedback:

(a) Child death overview subgroup: The minutes of the last meeting were not yet available. Mr Atkinson reported on the progress made by the new Bolton, Salford and Wigan Child Death Overview Panel.

(b) Evaluating Effectiveness subgroup: The Board considered the minutes of the Evaluating Effectiveness subgroup held on 21 July 2008 (circulated at the meeting). The Board considered proposals for the structure of the new sub groups, and discussed the naming and membership of the sub groups.

Resolved: The Board:-

- accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2008;
- nominated the Chairs of the new sub groups as follows:

Executive Chairs Group (Governance and Scrutiny)	Mrs K Nelson
Best Practice, Audit and Review	Joint Chairs: Ms S Bond/Mr A Roberts
3 bs (children on the edge of the child protection system)	Mrs K Nelson
Communication and Awareness Raising	Ms S Woolmore
Lessons Learned - Serious Case Reviews/CDOP	Mr S Atkinson
Safeguarding in health settings	Mr P Turner
Safeguarding in a secure setting	Ms A M Arnold
Safeguarding in schools	Mr D Greenhalgh or Mr N Hindley
Training	Ms A Burt

- Mrs Nelson agreed to convene a meeting of the Executive Group prior to the next Board meeting. This Group would consider terms of reference for the Sub Groups and present these for consideration at the next meeting.

ACTION

Mrs K
Nelson

(c) Policy and procedures subgroup: Mrs Nelson reported that a final meeting of this group will proceed as scheduled in August.

(d) Training and communications subgroup: Ms Burt reported that the minutes of the last meeting were not yet available. The meeting had launched this year's training brochure, which she brought to the Board. Ms Burt showed an advertisement for the training pool which it was hoped would attract trainers as there was a shortage of capacity and some courses were currently fully booked.

21 Cases/Issues that meeting MAPPA criteria:

Resolved: The Board agrees to defer this item until the next meeting.

22 Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA): The Board viewed a DVD issued by the ISA and received information about the organisation. The ISA had been created to make it easier for statutory, voluntary and private organisations working with children and vulnerable groups to recruit suitable workers more safely. The new vetting service would begin to operate in Autumn 2008.

23 Review of the Prison Services: Mr Giles informed the Board that HMPYOI Hindley would become an all juvenile institution. Offenders would be aged 15-17 years and would move to another establishment at 18 years of age. It was envisaged that the changes would be completed within the next year.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

24 WSCB business plan: Mrs Nelson reported that a representative from the NSPCC had been commissioned to draft the new WSCB business plan for the next three years. This would include the new objectives identified on the WSCB Development Day.

Mrs K
Nelson

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

25 Proposal with respect to Business Manager/Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) roles: Mrs Nelson circulated a report, which included two draft job descriptions and person specifications. The report proposed that two full time posts be created: a WSCB Business Development Manager and a LADO. Mrs C Ellison was appointed to the joint post on 11 February 2008 and it had become apparent that the scope of the current post was too broad. CYPS would continue to fund the LADO post on a permanent full-time basis to enhance this role and improve awareness of relevant responsibilities in partner agencies.

Resolved: The Board:

- agrees in principle to the creation of a full time permanent WSCB Business Development Manager and a full time LADO; and
- agrees to fund the WSCB Business Development Manager post from the budget resources.
- Agrees that Mrs Ellison will continue to prioritise her LADO duties in the interim period.

26 Updates from Business Manager:

(a) Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Mrs Ellison reported on the first LADO steering group meeting. She informed the Board of two issues which had arisen relating to recruitment in schools. She updated the board on the Pan Manchester LADO joint training conferences where she would be giving presentations in October and November.

The Board discussed Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and the difficulties caused to individuals in clearing their names, when the screening process had falsely identified them as being unsuitable to work with children.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(b) Wigan Safeguarding Children Board budget:

Resolved: The Board agrees the budget now submitted subject to the provision of £7500 for the work currently commissioned from the AIM Project for a further 6 month period.

(c) Children involved in Thai (Kick) Boxing: Mrs Ellison circulated a report and informed the Board with respect to unaffiliated clubs. She advised partner agencies of a legal loophole in respect of clubs that were not affiliated to a governing body. It was not required by law that the owner or employee of an unaffiliated club have a CRB check. It would be possible for a known offender or alleged offender to work in or own an unaffiliated club.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted and agrees to advise children or young people who were known to CYPS staff or partner agencies from WSCB not to attend unaffiliated clubs due to the potential risk posed.

All

(e) E-safety strategy: Mrs Ellison reported that of the 134 schools contacted by the Chairman regarding the adoption of an appropriate forensic software product, 124 replies had been received. Of these, 86 had said yes and 38 were not buying back, however, of the 38 not buying back, 10 schools already had forensic software installed, 15 did not and 13 did not answer the question.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

27 Process of ratification of gambling license application forms:

Resolved: The Board agrees that this item be deferred until the first meeting of the Executive Chair Groups (Governance and Scrutiny).

ACTION

Mrs K
Nelson

28 Serious case review report and action plan: Mrs Nelson updated the Board on the serious case review which was recently completed. The full report, executive summary, and action plan had been sent to the Board as requested for information. She reported that work on the action plan was ongoing.

Ms Bond informed the Board of a serious incident which had been reported to the Youth Justice Board.

Resolved: The Board agrees to discuss both these cases at the next meeting.

Mrs K
Nelson/ Ms
S Bond

29 'Tell us' survey: Mrs Nelson reported on this year's annual survey which asked children two confidential questions: (1) how safe they felt at school; and (2) how safe they felt on the way to and from school. The Board discussed the problems encountered and the role of school based Police Constables.

Resolved: The Board requests the Chairman to write tailored responses to schools where more than one child had indicated they felt unsafe.

Chairman

30 Performance data set: Mrs Nelson circulated the draft WSCB performance data set for information.

31 Any other business:

(a) Shielding Panel/ContactPoint: Mr Atkinson circulated an urgent report on ContactPoint shielding issues which he had been asked to bring to the Board. ContactPoint was due to be in place by October 2008. It was considered that there was a lack of practitioner awareness regarding shielding people. Members of the Board expressed concern, for example, regarding domestic violence in the Borough and the need to shield families. He explained that the Department for Schools and Families had requested that consultation take place with all partners including Local Children Safeguarding Boards. The Board was asked to propose expected numbers by Wednesday 30 July. The Board discussed this deadline which was considered unrealistic in view of the amount of work involved.

Resolved: The Board requests Mr Atkinson contact all Board Members urgently regarding shielding and that the clerk to the Board collate replies by 15 August 2008.

Mr S
Atkinson/
Clerk

(b) Ms Bond briefed the board on new proposals for the joint commissioning of a direct intervention service for young people who exhibit sexually harmful behaviour in Greater Manchester.

32 Date of next meeting: 22 September 2008.

CHAIRMAN



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

22 SEPTEMBER 2008

Present:

Representatives of Wigan Council

Mrs K Nelson (Chair)	Assistant Director of Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)
Mr S Atkinson	Group Manager CYPS
Ms S Bond	Youth Offending Team CYPS
Mrs E Brighton	Director of Housing Needs, Wigan and Leigh Housing
Mrs C Ellison	Business Manager Wigan Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)
Ms L Sutton	Assistant Director Adult Services
Ms J Robinson	Senior Solicitor
Mrs K Tonks	Clerk to the Board

Representatives of other agencies

Dr E Abbas	Wigan Health NHS Trust (WHT)
Mrs A Burt	Designated Nurse Child Protection, Ashton Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (ALWPCT)
Detective Inspector G Hughes	Detective Inspector Public Protection Investigations Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
Ms J Hyde	Chair Primary Heads, Ince Church of England Primary School
Ms K Kaparde	Medical Student WHT
Ms H MacKenzie	Wigan Secondary Heads, Shevington High School
Mr S Oliver	Assistant Director, 5 Boroughs Partnership
Mr P Turner	Consultant in Public Health, ALWPCT
Ms E Thomas	Governor, Her Majesty's Prison Youth Offenders Institute (HMPYOI), Hindley
Dr F Watson	Spr Paediatrics, WHT
Ms R Walkden	Assistant Chief Officer, Wigan & Leigh Council for Voluntary Services
Ms S Woolmore	WSCB Adviser, NSPCC

Also present by invitation for agenda item 6: Dorothy Lewis, Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children Partnership

33 Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr N Hudson, Chairman of the WSCB and Director of Children and Young People's Services, Ms A M Arnold, Head of Safeguards HMPYOI Hindley, Chief Inspector A Baddeley GM Police, Ms K Bardgett, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Ms E Dann, Acting

ACTION

ACTION

Strategy Manager, Connexions, CYPS, Ms K Fallon, ALWPCT, Ms H MacKenzie, (Shevington High School), Superintendent P G McIver Greater Manchester Police, Mr D Robert, (Legal Adviser), Ms F Master CAFCASS, Ms H Fenton Director, 5 Boroughs Partnership, Ms F Master, Interim Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), and Mr A Roberts, Probation Service.

34 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2008 were approved a correct record.

35 Matters arising:

Minute 26(c): Children involved in Thai (Kick) Boxing: The Board was informed that it is not always possible for small clubs to be affiliated to a governing body. It was considered that there was a need to raise public awareness.

Resolved: The Board:

- agrees to publish an advertisement, or an article in the press, regarding children attending unaffiliated clubs. This will be considered by the Awareness Raising Sub Group.
- to reconsider children involved in Thai (Kick) Boxing at a future meeting.

CE/RW/SW

Minute 29: 'Tell us' survey: Mrs Nelson reported that letters had been sent to the specific schools in question and followed up by visits to the schools.

Minute 31(a): Shielding Panel/ContactPoint: Mr Atkinson reported that work was still ongoing.

(b) Ms Bond reported that work on the proposals for the joint commissioning of a direct intervention services for young people who exhibit sexually harmful behaviour in Greater Manchester was still ongoing.

36 Subgroup meetings feedback:

(a) Salford, Bolton and Wigan Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP): The Board considered the notes of the CDOP meeting held on 25 June 2008. Mr Atkinson informed the Board that the CDOP would report regularly to the WSCB.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(b) Executive Group Meeting: Mrs Nelson reported that no formal meeting had taken place; however, a meeting of the sub group chairs had taken place where Terms of Reference and key priorities for each group were discussed. These documents had been circulated to the Board for amendment and approval.

All
Chairs of
subgroups

ACTION

Resolved: The Board:

- notes the report now submitted; and
- agrees to submit any minor amendments to the Chairs of the relevant sub groups within a three week period. If no amendments are received the Chairs will consider the Terms of Reference and priorities to be approved.
- requests nominations for appropriate representatives for the subgroups.

All

(c) Policy and Procedures subgroup: A final meeting of this group had taken place.

(d) Training and Communications subgroup: The Board considered the minutes (circulated at the meeting) of the Training and Communications subgroup held on 10 June 2008. Ms Burt thanked the volunteers for attending the subgroup meetings.

Resolved: The Board accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2008.

37 Cases/Issues that meeting MAPPA criteria: No Member of the Board was present to report.

GMP reported on a case of a sexual nature.

Resolved: The Board requests a MAPPA overview be provided at the next meeting.

Andy
Roberts

38 Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children (GMSC)

Partnership: Dorothy Lewis attended the meeting representing the GMSC Partnership Steering Group. She reported on the progress that had been made to date in establishing the partnership. The Board were informed that the inaugural meeting of the GMSC Partnership would take place on 1 December 2008.

Resolved: The Board:

- thanks Ms Lewis for attending the WSCB meeting;
- notes the report now submitted;
- requests nominations for the GMSC Partnership be sent to Nick Hudson by 3 November 2008; and
- agrees to determine funding contributions at the next meeting.

All/Chairman

All

39 Preventing unintentional injury to children: Dr Abbas circulated an article from the British Medical Journal regarding unintentional injury to children. It was reported that injury surveillance in the UK lagged behind other European countries. The Board discussed the viability of one of the new subgroups investigating accidental injury.

Resolved: The Board:

- notes the report now submitted; and
- agrees to reconsider unintentional injury to children at a future meeting.

ACTION

40 WSCB business plan: Mrs Nelson reported that the draft business plan would be available in October and will be circulated to Board Members for amendment/approval at the next meeting.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

41 Update on Business Manager/LADO post: Mrs Nelson reported that the recruitment process had begun and it was hoped an appointment would be made as soon as possible.

42 Updates from Business Manager:

(a) Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)/Senior officer designated manager procedure for allegations of abuse: Mrs Ellison reported on the procedure for dealing with allegations of abuse against adults who work with children. She requested the Board consider adopting the CYPS policy on managing allegations.

Resolved: The Board agrees to adopt CYPS policy for dealing with allegations of abuse against adults who work with children and to publish the procedure on the internet.

(b) Managing allegations across the LSCB partnership: Mrs Ellison reported on the Managing Allegation steering group meeting held on 20 August 2008.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(c) Shadow Young Person's Board: Mrs Ellison reported that a meeting was planned to progress the Shadow Young Person's Board. It would provide a mechanism to enable young people to express views on behalf of themselves and others and had been introduced by the NSPCC.

CE

(d) Training officer post: Mrs Ellison reported on workload problems in the recently appointed part time training officer post.

Resolved: The Board agrees in principle to the training officer post becoming permanent and full time, subject to budget sustainability.

CE

(e) WSCB budget report: Mrs Ellison reported that business managers from Government Office North West (GONW) had made a request to see the WSCB budget.

CE

The Board discussed the possibility of appointing an Independent Chair for the Board.

Resolved: The Board:

- agrees that GONW receives a copy of the WSCB budget.

CE/KN

- requests the Chairman of the WSCB investigate the possibility of appointing an Independent Chair for the WSCB, subject to availability of funding.

ACTION

Chairman

(f) Regional training for members of the Board: Mrs Ellison informed the Board of the details of conferences and training events which would take place in the near future. Members of the Board would be offered opportunities to attend.

43 Private fostering: Mrs Nelson reported that Wigan CYPS had been very active in raising awareness and training in relation to private fostering and to date only three notifications of children being privately fostered had been received.

44 Serious case review report and action plan: Mrs Nelson updated the Board on the serious case review which was recently completed. She detailed the actions which had been taken on the Multi-Agency Action Plan as follows:-

Recommendation 1: Wigan is currently developing an inter agency protocol with regard to domestic violence, and it is recommended that this case review is used as an instructive case scenario.

KN

- The completed inter agency protocol was presented to the Domestic Violence Strategy Group (and endorsed?).
- The protocol would be sent to WSCB with reference to the serious case review, together with pro-active guidance. (Report could be e-mailed to WSCB?)
- Reference to the protocol would be made in safeguarding courses: a guide had been produced which clearly explained the levels of intervention relating to thresholds of need.
- Protocol will be included on WSCB website – ? I have no note of this but seem to recall it

KN

KN

?

Recommendation 2: That WSCB should ensure practice guidance is developed to assist practitioners in the management of cases where domestic violence is a feature.

- Practice guidance had been researched and developed for CYPS and partner agencies.
- Guidance was being cascaded via team meetings.

Recommendation 3: That a meeting which plans the discharge of a child from hospital about whom there are child protection concerns is chaired by a Group Manager or above.

- Group Managers had reported to the Assistant Director regarding outcomes of discharge meetings.
- Named child protection professionals were informed of this practice in local hospitals and those bordering the Borough boundary?

Recommendation 4: Wigan CYPS has recently arranged

training with regard to Core Groups, it is recommended that specific training is also in place for social workers who are case managers.

- Core group training would be offered on a workshop basis as soon as possible, but had not yet been delivered due to staffing problems.

Recommendation 5: Wigan has recently agreed a communication protocol between Independent Reviewing Officers and case work operational managers; it is recommended that this should be disseminated to all staff.

- Protocol between IRS/Social Care is disseminated to all relevant staff?

Recommendation 6: That Wigan Children's social care undertake an immediate review of children placed on the Child Protection Register to ensure that every child's plan is adequate to promote his/her protection.

- A Multi-agency Panel had been convened and reviewed the adequacy of all child protection plans. The Panel had checked every person on the child protection plan and recommendations had been sent to relevant professionals.

Resolved: The Board:

- notes the report now submitted; and
- agrees to re-issue the risk assessment tool/protocol on child protection and domestic violence.

45 Youth Offending Team serious incident review: Ms Bond circulated a letter which had been received from the Youth Justice Board and a summary of the local management report. She informed the Board in detail of the nature of this serious incident review.

46 The Children are Unbeatable Alliance: Resolved: The Board agrees to defer this item until the next meeting.

47 Survey on child safeguarding: Mr Atkinson gave prior notice of a survey on child safeguarding which had not yet been received.

48 WSCB – Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks: The Board discussed whether members of the Board had up to date CRB checks and whether administrative staff and agency staff should have CRB checks.

Resolved: The Board:

- agrees that members of the Board should be CRB checked; and
- agrees to identify both the substantial Board Member and named Deputy who will require a CRB check; and
- agrees to take this forward at the next meeting.

ACTION

Chairman

SA

All

49 Date of next meeting: 24 November 2008.

CHAIRMAN



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

24 NOVEMBER 2008

Present:

Representatives of Wigan Council

Mr N Hudson (Chair)	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)
Mr S Atkinson	Group Manager CYPS
Ms M Banham	Head of Social Care CYPS
Ms S Bond	Service Manager Youth Offending Team, CYPS
Mrs E Brighton	Director of Housing Needs, Wigan and Leigh Housing
Ms E Dann	Service Manager Connexions, CYPS
Ms S Hughes	Service Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning, CYPS
Mrs K L Sutton	Service Director Personalisation and Community Services, Adult Services
Ms J Robinson	Senior Solicitor
Mrs K Tonks	Clerk to the Board

Representatives of other agencies

Dr E Abbas	Designated Doctor for Child Protection, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust
Ms A-M Arnold	Head of Safeguards, Her Majesty's Prison Youth Offenders Institute, Hindley (HMPYOI)
Ms K Bardgett	Executive Director Corporate Services, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Mrs A Burt	Designated Nurse Child Protection, Ashton Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (ALWPCT)
Dr K Fallon	Ashton Leigh and Wigan Community Healthcare
Detective Inspector G Hughes	Detective Inspector Public Protection Investigations, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
Ms J Hyde	Chair Primary Heads, Ince Church of England Primary School
Superintendent R Lomas	GMP
Mr S Oliver	Assistant Director, 5 Boroughs Partnership
Mr A Roberts	District Manager, Probation Service
Mr P Turner	Consultant in Public Health, ALWPCT
Ms R Walkden	Assistant Chief Officer, Wigan & Leigh Council for Voluntary Services
Ms D Waterworth	Acting Named Nurse Child Protection, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Ms S Woolmore	WSCB Adviser, NSPCC

By invitation for agenda item 2: Ms C Foster-Devine and Mr M Tilley, Environmental Services, Wigan Council

ACTION

50 Urgent item – Death of Baby P: The Chairman commenced the meeting with this additional item being taken as urgent due to its importance and the publicity which the Haringey case had received. Directors of Children’s Services had been requested to assure themselves of the robustness of the procedures for child protection measures, and he indicated that a ‘knee-jerk’ reaction to the situation was to be avoided. It was reported that there had been a sharp escalation in the number of calls being taken by the duty service. Partnership agencies were reminded that child protection is a shared responsibility and Members should ensure their staff were utilising the child protection co-ordinators within their own organisations to advise on the need to refer to social care. Professional referrals should be made in writing unless the child needed to be seen within 24 hours. Board Members reported an increase in the number of referrals being made to their organisations.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted and requests Board Members remind their staff of the guidance in the Wigan Safeguarding Board Child Protection Procedures.

All

51 Welcome to new Members of the Board: The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, extended a warm welcome to the new Members of the Board.

52 Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted from Ms H Fenton, 5 Boroughs Partnership; Mr R Hill, HMPYOI; Ms H MacKenzie, Head Teacher, Shevington High School; and E Thomas, HMPYOI.

53 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2008 were approved a correct record.

54 Matters arising:

Minute 44: Serious Case Review (SCR) and Action Plan – Recommendation 1: The Board were advised of a risk assessment document regarding domestic violence which had been issued by Barnados and was in use across London. A presentation on this would be made to the Board on one of the following dates: 16, 22 or 23 January 2009, or 16 or 17 February 2009.

Resolved: The Board agrees to hold the presentation and would e-mail their preferred dates to Marlyn Banham by 8th December 2008 [mailto:m.banham@wigan.gov.uk?subject=Barnados presentation](mailto:m.banham@wigan.gov.uk?subject=Barnados%20presentation)

All

M Banham

ACTION

55 Subgroup meetings feedback:

(a) Salford, Bolton and Wigan Child Death Overview Panel

(CDOP): Mr Atkinson informed the Board that the minutes of the last meeting had not yet been produced. He reported that an information sharing protocol had been agreed which could be accessed on the Association of Greater Manchester website. New updated operational guidance would be produced.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(b) Executive subgroup: Mrs Banham reported the next meeting would take place on 2 December 2008. She informed the Board that this subgroup would monitor the SCR action plan and information from all the sub groups.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(c) Best practice, audit and review subgroup: Ms Bond reported that the subgroup had met on 30 October and 18 November 2008 and that the priorities had been identified. The SCR would need careful consideration in order to avoid duplication. Mr Atkinson reported that authority for rapid response to sudden unexpected deaths in childhood had been delegated to this subgroup. He circulated details of a rapid response training programme.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(d) 3 Bs (children on the edge of the child protection system) Subgroup: No report was made to the Board.

(e) Communication and awareness raising subgroup: Ms Woolmore reported that a meeting had taken place and she was very pleased to inform the Board that a young person had agreed to support the subgroup. A draft communications strategy was being prepared which would be submitted to the Board.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(f) Lessons learned subgroup: Mr Atkinson reported that although the first meeting had not been quorate, an audit of current practice would take place to compare procedures with regional common templates.

(g) Safeguarding in health settings: No report was made to the Board.

(h) Safeguarding in a secure setting subgroup: Ms Arnold, prior

ACTION

to the meeting, had distributed the agenda and minutes of the subgroup meeting held on 10 November 2008, the Terms of Reference, Strategic Objectives Summary and the Prison Service Order 'Care and Management of Young People'. She reported that the short term, medium term and long term priorities for the subgroup had been agreed, and that timescales had been proposed which included training.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted and accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2008.

(i) Safeguarding in schools: No report was made to the Board.

(j) Training subgroup: Ms Burt reported that the last meeting had been cancelled but that the next meeting was scheduled for 4 December 2008. All agencies were represented on the subgroup.

Resolved: The Board accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2008.

56 Cases/Issues that meet Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) criteria: Mr Roberts circulated a report giving performance data on MAPPA referrals. He reported that:

- MAPPA continued to work well with a commitment from all partnership agencies and that the Probation Service continued to refer significantly more cases than any other agency.
- the local Probation Office provided training for local partners and that this commitment would continue.
- the Greater Manchester Police Authority had introduced a new domestic abuse policy which dictated that in all such cases a MAPPA meeting must be convened.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

57 Road safety around schools: The Board considered a report and received a presentation on road safety around schools and road safety engineering, education, training and publicity that informed members of the work which was going on across the borough to improve road safety around schools.

The Board asked questions to which Ms C Foster-Devine and Mr M Tilley responded.

Resolved: The Board:

- notes the report now submitted and thanks Ms Foster-Devine and Mr Tilley for the presentation; and
- requests an updated presentation at a future meeting of the Board.

M Tilley

ACTION

58 Anti-bullying Strategy: This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting of the Board due to illness.

L-Jo Popland

59 Communication between agencies: The Chairman reported that this problem had been resolved.

60 Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children (GMSC)

Partnership – funding arrangements: Mrs Banham reported that following a request from Dorothy Lewis at the last meeting, no nominations for a representative for GMSC had been received from the Board. The inaugural meeting would take place on 1 December 2008.

Resolved: The Board agrees that Mrs Banham attend the inaugural meeting on behalf of the WSCB and that she had the authority to negotiate a contribution to GMSC funding.

M Banham

61 WSCB business plan: Mrs Banham reported that the Executive sub group considered that the draft business plan which had been commissioned and circulated previously required more detail and structure diagrams.

Resolved: The Board requests that a second draft of the business plan be produced for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

M Banham

62 Independent Chair for the WSCB: Minute 42(e) refers. The Chairman indicated that he was willing to relinquish the Chairmanship of the WSCB and advised the Board of the possible implications of this course of action.

Resolved: The Board:

- agrees to appoint an Independent Chair for the WSCB without delay; and
- agrees to devolve the recruitment process to a special subgroup of members of the Board.

SH/SW/RW/
ED/AB

63 Updates from the Service Manager Safeguarding and

Commissioning: Mrs Hughes explained the new structures of CYPS to the Board.

(a) Shadow Safeguarding Children’s Board: A paper proposing further developments involving children and young people in the activities of services provided and regulated by statutory authorities was circulated at the meeting. The ‘Hear by right’ assessment tool would be passed to young people in the borough to assess the performance of the Council and partners in the context of a wide number of indicators which would evaluate the extent of young people’s participation in the delivery of services.

ACTION

Resolved: The Board:

- requests comments on the proposals from members of the Board;

S Hughes

and

- agrees to reconsider this at the next meeting of the Board.

(b) WSCB budget report: Mrs Hughes distributed a copy of the budget at the meeting. It was requested that partnership organisations increase their contributions to the WSCB. The Board discussed the history of the levels of contributions made by their organisations. Concern was expressed by members as the budget-setting arrangements for the next financial year would have taken place in their agencies before the next meeting of the WSCB. It was considered that there were other items which also needed to be factored into the budget.

Resolved: The Board requests that :-

- the budget be updated to factor in future arrangements; and
- the Chairman write to all partnership agencies following the next meeting of the Board.

Chairman

(c) Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Mrs Hughes informed the Board that Mrs Ellison's post had now been split and that she was now prioritising the LADO post. A report was circulated at the meeting which indicated there had been approximately a 100% increase in the workload of the LADO during the last year and identified four main priorities for the LADO. A member questioned the procedures regarding allegations of professional misconduct.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now received.

(d) WSCB training/Safeguarding unit: Mrs Hughes reported on the new structures in the Council with regard to training.

Resolved: The Board agrees to consider the new structures at the next meeting of the Board.

S Hughes

(e) Sexual exploitation/child protection procedures: Mrs Hughes updated the Board on the developments which were taking place.

64 Private fostering: Mrs Hughes circulated a report on the numbers of children being privately fostered in Wigan. She agreed to send the private fostering communications strategy and a presentation entitled 'Private fostering awareness raising information for professionals' to the Board for their information.

S Hughes

65 Serious case review (SCR) report and action plan: The Chairman updated the Board on the SCR which was recently completed. He referred to a letter which had been received from Ofsted evaluating the SCR. Overall the SCR had been well-focused with a good overview report which had been evaluated as adequate. The Chairman had discussed the findings with the Ofsted Inspector.

ACTION

The Chairman and members of the Board discussed the key points of the SCR.

Resolved: The Board requests that :-

- the Executive subgroup monitor the action plan and report back to the next meeting of the Board; M Banham
- the Lessons Learned subgroup consider the SCR at their next meeting; and S Atkinson
- the lessons learned be cascaded through all partnership organisations. All

66 Survey on child safeguarding/Children's Service Advisory Network (CIPFA): Mr Atkinson reported on the comprehensive area assessment proposals for assessing local authority services for children and young people. These would include Ofsted undertaking an unannounced one day visit to local authorities as part of their annual inspection in respect to Safeguarding.

67 WSCB – Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks: The Board discussed CRB checks for the WSCB. The Board were advised that CRB checks were not legally required. It was considered that it would be good practice to ensure that all members of the Board and their nominated deputies had had an enhanced CRB check.

Resolved: The Board agrees that contact be made with partnership agencies to ensure that members of the WSCB had undergone a current enhanced CRB check. S Hughes

68 The Children are Unbeatable Alliance: The Chairman informed the Board that the WSCB and CYPS had joined the alliance.

69 Procedure for ContactPoint – shielding of records: The Board considered the procedure for ContactPoint – shielding of records.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

70 Any other business:

E-safety: Mr Atkinson reported that he had been identified as the e-safety link person for the WSCB and that he had attended a regional practice day.

Resolved: The Board agrees to consider e-safety at a future meeting of the Board.

Slovakian Roma families: Mrs Burt reported on problems of the transient population of Slovakian Roma families which the ALWPCT had encountered in the borough

71 Date of next meeting: 23 February 2009.

ACTION

CHAIRMAN