



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

30 JULY 2007

Present:

Representatives of Wigan MBC

Mr N Jarman (Chair)	Director of Children and Young People Services
Mr S Atkinson	Children and Young People Services
Mrs K Nelson	Assistant Director, Children & Young People Services
Ms J Taylor (for Agenda item 4 only)	Strategic Manager, Finance and Information Technology
Mrs K Tonks	Democratic Services

Representatives of other agencies

Ms A Arnold	Head of Safeguards, Hindley HMYOI
Ms J Barton	Director of Housing Needs, Wigan and Leigh Housing
Ms C Boyd	District Manager, NOMS Probation
Mrs A Burt Superintendent	Designated Nurse Child Protection, ACW PCT Greater Manchester Police
P G McIver	
Mr P Turner	Ashton, Leigh & Wigan PCT
Ms R Walkden	Assistant Chief Officer, Wigan & Leigh CVS
Ms C Woodford	Associate General Manager, Named Nurse Child Protection, Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust
Mr P Turner	Consultant in Public Health, Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT

Observer

Councillor B Wilson	Cabinet Champion, Wigan Council
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ACTION

80 Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were submitted by Dr E Abbas (Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust), Ms T Culshaw (Democratic Services), Ms E Manion (5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust), Ms E McKenzie (Chair of Secondary Head, Shevington High School), Ms L Sutton (Assistant Director), Ms S Woolmore (NSPCC), and Mr D A Robert (Legal Department).

81 Minutes: 30 July 2007: The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2007 were approved as a correct record.

Ms A Arnold, Hindley HMYOI, requested the following amendment be made to Minute 67, paragraph 3, of the Safeguarding Children Board minutes held on 24 April 2007, as follows:

The current prison population was 480 and had no further vacancies. Overall the report had a positive key message despite having 50% of funding withdrawn from double cells to single cells. The PCT representation was 3 and should be 6.

82 Matters arising: There were none.

83 ContactPoint presentation: The Board received a briefing from Ms J Taylor, Finance and IT, regarding ContactPoint, a national database for England containing basic details on children and the services that they receive. Wigan was an early adopter local authority of ContactPoint. When introduced next year, information about children and young people who need services or where there are concerns about their welfare may be shared more easily. It was estimated that the system would make considerable cost savings. She distributed a report and an induction pack. Training would be provided from April 2008. Ms Taylor reported that CRB checks for potential ContactPoint users currently are being carried out in-house at Wigan Council to avoid a huge output of checks in the future.

There is a requirement to do a baseline assessment and Ms Taylor would be contacting Board Members with a view to setting up a shielding panel. Ms Taylor requested that Board Members contact her to attend meetings at their organisations.

Ms Taylor

The Board asked questions to which Ms Taylor responded. The two main points of concern were the quality of data stored and the security of the data.

Resolved: The Board notes the presentation.

84 Sub group meetings feedback:

Child death overview sub-group

Members were advised by Mr S Atkinson that he had attended a meeting with his counterparts in Bolton and Salford and discussed the following:

- Chair of the regional group
- Potential membership of the group
- Administration costs
- Database

The group had requested the Chair of the Board to contact Mrs Nelson and Mr Chandler to request that notifications of all child deaths should be given to the group.

Mr Jarman

Resolved: The Board accepts the report.

Evaluating Effectiveness

The Subgroup Chair updated Members on the last meeting.

Resolved: The Board (1) accepts the report; and

(2) agrees to consider a new dataset at the next meeting of the sub-group.

Mrs Nelson

Policy and Procedures

No meeting had taken place.

Training and Communications

Ms A Burt advised that a meeting had taken place on 19 July 2007 and distributed a copy of the minutes. The Board discussed the following:-

- The Training Manager post
- The signing of certificates and letters
- That all schools had received training

Resolved: The Board accepts the report.

85 Cases/Issues that meet MAPPA Criteria: Ms C Boyd reported on cases and issues from April 2007 as follows:

- 14 individuals at levels 2 and 3 had been managed.
- All agencies had co-operated fully and robust plans had been in place.
- There were currently 4 level 3 cases: one was in a probation hostel, one in hospital and two in prison.
- There were 8 level 2 cases: 6 sex offenders and 2 violent offenders. Of the 6 sex offenders, 5 had offended against children. There was considerable evidence of good joint working in all these cases.
- The main barrier which had been experienced related to the delay in obtaining information from Scotland.

Resolved: The Board notes the report.

86 WSCB procedures final draft: Mr Atkinson had circulated the final draft previously and 30 July 2007 was the deadline for comments from the Board. The reference group would meet again to work through the suggested amendments. He reported that the information sharing protocol had been endorsed by the partnership. Ms Arnold requested that Hindley HMYOI be included as a signatory before the document was published.

Mr Atkinson

ACTION

The Board discussed the issue of PDF electronic copies and printed

copies of the final document. Paper copies were requested and the cost implications for printing the document would be considered at a future meeting.

Resolved: The Board notes the report.

87 WSCB proposal for interim arrangements for Training

Manager post: The proposal was presented by Alison Burt and accepted by the Board. Ms Burt will take this forward.

Ms Burt

Mrs Nelson raised concerns with respect to the capacity of the Board to undertake its business effectively and to fulfill some of the statutory responsibilities, such as the investigations of allegations of abuse by professionals. The Board would benefit from a Business Manager/LADO but funding for such a post will be difficult with the current resources available.

The Director of CYPS stated that, in his view, the Board is under-funded; however, as an interim measure the CYPS was hoping to be able to contribute some monies to fund the above post. The funding would not be recurrent.

Resolved: The Board requested a benchmarking exercise to take place to inform a future discussion with respect of funding.

Mr Atkinson

88 Risk assessments for sex offenders linked to children on the child protection register: Ms Burt advised the Board of a situation that had arisen at a case conference where the sex offender had finished probation, the person concerned had no mental health issues, and it was an offending issue only. A further risk assessment was required and funding for this case did not fit into commissioning funded by the PCT.

Resolved: The Board agrees that the funding for this situation should be addressed urgently and a process for accessing assessments in similar situations will be considered at the next meeting of the Evaluating Effectiveness sub group.

Mrs Nelson

89 Child protection policy 2007 additional procedure: Protocol for undertaking a serious case review (Working together to safeguard children – chapter 8 – 2006): Ms Arnold recommended to the Board that a step by step guide which provides advice for orderly officers and governors out of hours and at weekends be agreed.

Resolved: The Board (1) agreed to the additions put forward by HMYOI Hindley; and

(2) that an audit check of action plans be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

ACTION

90 Serious case review panel:

Case H

Mrs Nelson reported that the Panel re-examined this case and was satisfied that information had been shared appropriately at the time. No serious case review is necessary.

Case K

Mrs Nelson reported that this referred to the death of a child due to an unusual medical condition.

Resolved: (1) an initial meeting of a serious case review had taken place but decided no further review was required for Case H, and

(2) that an overview report for Case K be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

91 Police attendance at reviews: Mr Atkinson reported that there had been some regional disquiet regarding the level of information and expertise of Police staff concerned with child protection matters. Superintendent Mclver referred to the letter sent by the Chair of Salford LSCB to Assistant Chief Constable Curren.

Resolved: The Board agreed that the level of service received in child protection reviews from Greater Manchester Police had been reduced. A letter would be sent from WSCB to express concerns.

Mr Atkinson/
Mr Jarman

92 Joint protocol: looked after children who are reported missing from care: Superintendent Mclvor stated that the report was at the point of 'fine-tuning' and would be discussed by his HQ on 8 August 2007. He offered to send out copies of the latest draft to the Board.

Resolved: The protocol was noted. A final version will be considered by the Board at a later date.

93 Performance monitoring: Mrs Nelson reported that to date the Board had spent little time on performance monitoring this year. Mrs Boyd considered that it may be useful to look at feedback to try to identify any gaps from serious case reviews.

Resolved: (1) that the Chairs of sub-groups re-visit tasks from the previous plan to ensure all generic key tasks were progressing and report back their findings to the next Board; and

(2) that Board consider the new dataset from the Evaluating and Effectiveness sub-group at the next meeting of the Board.

94 Local Safeguarding Children Boards: a review of progress:

Resolved: the Board notes the report.

95 Safeguarding children from abuse linked to a belief in spirit possession:

Resolved: the Board notes the report.

ACTION

96 Any other business:

- Mr Atkinson informed the Board of regional proposals for a multi agency interactive website.
- Ms Arnold informed the board that the Howard League had won an action regarding the provision of accommodation by the local authority for people leaving custody.

97 Date and time of next meeting:

Monday, 24 September 2007, in the Conference Room at Progress House at 2.00pm.

There were no further items.

CHAIR

Meeting started: 2.00 pm

Meeting ended: 3.50 pm