



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

ACTION

- 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.

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.

(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.

All

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).

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