



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

24 APRIL 2007

Present:

Representatives of Wigan MBC

Mr G Rowney (Chair)	Director of Children & Young People Services
Ms S Astbury	Connexions
Mr S Atkinson	Children and Young People Services
Ms S Bond	Youth Offending Team
Ms T Culshaw	Democratic Services
Ms S Goodall	Children and Young People Services
Ms K Nelson	Assistant Director, Children & Young People Services
Mr D Robert	Solicitor, Legal & Property Services

Representatives of Other Agencies

Dr E Abbas	Designated Doctor, Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust
Ms A Arnold	Hindley HMYOI
Mr A Baddeley	Chief Inspector, Greater Manchester Police
Mrs A Burt	Designated Nurse Child Protection
Ms J Ramsbottom	Chair of Primary Heads, Ince CE School
Mr P Turner	Ashton, Leigh & Wigan PCT
Ms R Walkden	Wigan & Leigh CVS
Ms S Woolmore	NSPCC
Ms C Woodford	Associate General Manager, Named Nurse Child Protection, Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust

Observer

Councillor B Wilson	Cabinet Member, Wigan Council
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62 Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were submitted by Ms J Barton (Wigan and Leigh Housing), Mr J Blott (Adult Services), Ms C Boyd (Probation Services), Mrs H Fenton (5 Borough Partnerships), Supt P McIver (GMP) and Mr A Roberts (Probation Services)

63 Minutes: 26 February 2007: The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

ACTION

Minute 49b (refers): Ms Woolmore reported that findings of the review on the protocol were useful for clarification. Mr Atkinson had been working on the findings and a meeting was to take place at the end of the week. The Daily Mirror had applied for information on children missing under the care of the local authority under the Freedom of Information Act to which Tim Turner, Data Protection Officer had responded. A similar request from the News of the World had also been requested on number of babies taken into care. The term “missing” needed clarification as such individuals are either late or come back the next day and could be perceived as still missing.

Minute 53 (refers): Mrs Burt reported that a Workshop Day was to be held on 11 May 2007 and people who work in sexual health could attend to discuss protection issues.

Minute 55 (refers): Ms Bond attended the Value Based Interviewing (VBI) pilot meeting for safer recruitment. Mrs Goodall reported on a national programme looking at head teachers and governor’s which would compliment the VBI.

Resolved: Ms Woolmore to follow up.

Ms S
Woolmore

Minute 56 (refers): Ms Arnold requested the word ‘staff’ to be removed from the minute.

Ms Nelson suggested that a panel should be convened to assess if a review was required for Case H and not carried out by the Evaluating and Effectiveness sub group as first discussed.

Resolved: Ms Nelson to convene a panel and recommend if a review is required for Case H.

Ms K Nelson

64 Sub Group Meeting Feedback:

Child Death Overview Panel

The Subgroup Chair requested that the Board adopt the revised draft terms of reference or suggest any further comments by Friday. The sub group’s next meeting will be Friday, 27 April 2007.

In relation to section 2 of the draft terms of reference, Mr Atkinson had already made contact with Bolton and Salford to discuss viability of sharing ideas with other authorities on cases and performance.

Resolved: The Board adopts the interim draft terms of reference subject to any further comments/feedback.

Evaluating Effectiveness

The Subgroup Chair advised that the group had met on 20 March 2007. The group had been looking at auditing casefiles but were deliberating a broader audit tool that schools could modify without too much effort.

Resolved: Ms Ramsbottom was to pilot one of the tools to give a schools perspective.

Ms G
Ramsbottom

Policy & Procedures

The Subgroup Chair reported a meeting had not taken place due to an extensive piece of work being undertaken with the NSPCC which was in its final draft for completion by 15 May 2007.

The Subgroup Chair informed members of a document report by the GMP on disclosures in serious case reviews. GMP requested:-

- An executive summary for each overview report
- Interested parties meet to discuss case merits of disclosure
- Meeting to be minuted

Mr Roberts advised that this was an issue for individual agencies to consider. Requests can be made under the Freedom of Information Act. The request by GMP had no legal issues but agencies to be aware that they cannot impose this request on individual agencies.

Resolved: Agencies to consider and feedback to the Board.

All Agencies

Training & Communication

The Subgroup Chair advised a meeting took place on 20 April 2007 and minutes would be made available.

A verbal report was given outlining:-

- Next years brochure available on the web
- Initial report evaluation sheets available at the next meeting
- Mr T Dann attended the meeting and discussed the future year for CAF

The Chairman wished to place on record his thanks to the group.

66. Equal Protection for Children

Ms Woolmore reported on the issue of 'smacking' and the need for attitudinal change and alternatives to discipline children and requested the Board sign up to support the Children are Unbeatable Alliance which was a coalition of organizations. With changes in the law there was a need for support for parents. Ms Woolmore suggested that this could be incorporated in the training package to educate and equip parents on areas of disciplining children.

Mrs Ramsbottom highlighted that there was a demand for parenting classes.

Mrs Burt suggested in order to promote the philosophy, a statement of positive parenting be made available on the website.

Resolved: Members to consider signing up to the Children are Unbeatable Alliance and discuss at the next meeting.

Ms T
Culshaw

66. Cases/Issues that meet MAPPA Criteria:

There were no cases for discussion.

67. HMYOI - Outcomes of Inspection:

Ms Arnold delivered a presentation on HMYOI Hindley and gave a summary highlighting good practice. The overall inspection gave a positive key message:-

- Hindley was unique in reduction for gang related residents
- Support plan for young people
- Mental health day unit commended
- Weaknesses identified in national strategies
- Reduction in violence

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

Hindley HMYOI wished to place on record their thanks to CYP for supporting them on their journey through the inspection.

Ms Bond raised the issue of the Social Work Post funding. Youth Justice Board had requested this be dealt with by the Safeguarding Children Board. The Chair advised that this was not funded by the Board.

Resolved: Members note the report of the inspection and recommend strategic partnering as the route for the Social Work post funding.

68. Allegations of Professional Abuse:

Mr Atkinson raised the issue of how to handle allegations of professional abuse and requested guidance from the Board.

The Chair reflected on the visit of Ms Hubbard, GONW and informed members that he had recently spoken with Lancashire, who were considering taking on the LADO role but had been given no resources in which to deliver.

Consideration was given to join with another authority but other authorities had different structures.

As this was required by September by the DFES the Chair was concerned that consideration had not been given to resources but recognized the need for this to be actioned and it was not appropriate for CYPS to continue to absorb additional requirements and defer staff from core tasks.

Mr Atkinson to discuss with Salford, Bolton and Oldham and report back to the Board.

Resolved: The Board note the report.

69. Any Other Business:

- Reminder for all members of the Development Day on 8 May 2007 in the Umbro Suite, JJB Stadium, Wigan

Mr S
Atkinson

Contact Point: the Chair informed members that frequently asked questions (FAQ's) were in circulation and that Wigan's had been completed.

Kooth: The Chair advised that online counselling had been introduced by Cheshire and Wigan was to engage on a year trial basis. A meeting to finalise the details was to take place in Stockport.

Cafcass Update: Ms Skorupka advised members on her relocation to Preston and her last meeting would be in June.

70. Dates and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 4 June 2007, in the Conference Room at Progress House at 2.00pm.

There were no further items.

CHAIR

Meeting started: 2.00 pm

Meeting ended: 4.25pm