



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

2 JUNE 2008

Present:

Representatives of Wigan MBC

Mr N Hudson (Chairman)	Director of Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)
Ms S Astbury	Assistant Director, Connexions, 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 K Haskayne	Youth Offending Team CYPS
Mrs K Nelson	Assistant Director CYPS
Mrs K Tonks	Clerk to the Board

Representatives of other agencies

Ms F Allen	Senior Probation Officer, Greater Manchester Police Authority
Dr E Abbas	Designated Doctor, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh National Health Service Trust (WWL)
Ms A M Arnold	Head of Safeguards, Her Majesty's Prison Youth Offenders Institute (HYPYOI), Hindley
Chief Inspector A Baddeley	Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
Mrs A Burt	Designated Nurse Child Protection, Ashton Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (ALWPCT)
Ms H Fenton	Director, 5 Boroughs Partnership
Mr R Hill	Governor, HMPYOI Hindley
Ms J Hyde	Chair Primary Heads, Ince Church of England Primary School
Mr P Turner	Consultant in Public Health, ALWPCT
Ms R Walkden	Assistant Chief Officer, Wigan & Leigh Council for Voluntary Services
Ms S Woolmore	Local Safeguarding Children Board Adviser, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

1 Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr S Atkinson, (Group Manager, Quality Assurance, CYPS), Ms L Sutton (Assistant Director, Adult Services), Ms M O'Farrell (CAFCASS), Superintendent P McIver (GMP), Ms H MacKenzie (Shevington High School), Mr D Robert, (Legal Representative),

ACTION

ACTION

and Mr A Roberts (National Probation Service).

2 Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on 25 February and 21 April 2008 were approved as correct records.

3 Matters arising:

Samaritans' policy (Minute 141):

Resolved: The Board agrees to consider the Samaritans' policy at the next meeting of the Board.

Chairman

4 Presentation on the child death process: The Board received a presentation from Dr Abbas on the child death process and sudden unexpected deaths in childhood. Dr Abbas distributed an information sheet from the Department for Children, Schools and Families on 'Taking action to prevent childhood deaths'. Discussion took place regarding joint training courses with Salford, Bolton and Wigan.

Resolved: The Board:

- notes the presentation now submitted and thanks Dr Abbas for the presentation;
- agrees to consider the presentation, the documents provided by Dr Abbas and to give feedback to Mrs Nelson on whether to re-consider the child death process at a future meeting; and
- agrees that the Business Manager updates the Board on joint training courses at the next meeting.

All

C Ellison

5 Subgroup meetings feedback:

(a) Child death overview subgroup: No minutes were available.

S Atkinson

(b) Evaluating effectiveness subgroup: The Board considered the minutes of the Evaluating effectiveness subgroups held on 30 January and 29 April 2008. Mrs Nelson reported on proposals for the new structure of the Board following priorities identified at the development day on 21 April 2008. A diagram of the proposed structure was included in the minutes of the meeting dated 29 April and Members of the Board were invited to express their views if they so wished. Discussion took place regarding the proposed new subgroups.

Resolved: The Board accepts the minutes of the meetings held on 30 January and 29 April 2008.

(c) Policy and procedures subgroup: The Board considered the minutes of the Policy and procedures subgroups held on 15 January, 12 March and 9 April 2008. Mrs Nelson reported on item 4 of the subgroup minutes dated 12 March with regard to the ratification of gambling licence application forms on behalf of the WSCB.

ACTION

Mrs Nelson reported that the subgroup meeting scheduled for 7 May had not taken place and that no comments had been received from Board Members on the minutes of 29 April which detailed the recommendations from the development day held on 21 April 2008.

Resolved: The Board:

- accepts the minutes of the meetings held on 15 January, 12 March and 9 April 2008;
- agrees that a formal process for the ratification of licensing applications be introduced; and
- endorses and supports the Interim Rapid Response Procedure.

K Nelson/
C Ellison

(d) Training and communications subgroup: The Board considered the minutes of the Training and communications subgroups held on 4 March and 24 April 2008. Ms Burt reported on her concern regarding the lack of safeguarding training staff and requested urgent support from Board Members for members of their staff to join the training pool.

All

Resolved: The Board accepts the minutes of the meetings of the held on 4 March and 24 April 2008.

6 Cases/Issues that meeting MAPPA criteria: Ms Allen reported that currently there were 6 level 3 cases and 6 level 2 cases and of these 4 presented a risk of harm to children.

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

7 WSCB business plan: Mrs Nelson reported that no meeting had yet been held to discuss the new business plan for the next three years. The meeting had been scheduled and progress would be reported to the Board in July.

K Nelson

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

8 Updates from Business Manager:

(a) Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Mrs Ellison reported that she was currently managing 28 cases although 4 of these were historical. She had been raising awareness and people were now beginning to contact her. An administrative officer had been recruited and would start work on 3 June. Mrs Ellison requested that the Board identify senior officers for the virtual team.

All

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

(b) 'Children and young people have their say': Mrs Ellison informed the Board that young people would be actively involved in speaking to other young people, using the questionnaire compiled by consultants, to obtain their views on how safe they feel in Wigan and Leigh. The interviews would take place on the streets.

ACTION

Resolved: The Board endorses the business plan 'Children and young people have their say' and the questionnaire, as now amended.

(c) E-safety strategy: Mrs Ellison reported on the forensic software pilot scheme project being used in schools. The working group had recommended that schools install forensic software to fulfill their safeguarding responsibilities.

Resolved: The Board endorses the forensic software pilot and requests the Chairman to write to individual schools that have not yet adopted an appropriate software product. Chairman

(d) WSCB budget: Mrs Ellison reported that the budget was not yet available.

Resolved: The Board agrees to consider the budget at the next meeting.

9 Children involved in Thai (Kick) boxing: This item had been sent to the Board for information. Mrs Nelson informed the Board of a recent documentary highlighting the involvement of young children in this activity. The Board expressed concern.

Resolved: The Board agrees to investigate Thai boxing in Wigan and to reconsider it at a future meeting. C Ellison/
R Walkden

10 Serious case review: Mrs Nelson updated the Board on the serious case review currently taking place.

Resolved: The Board agrees to send a copy of the full overview report to each Board Member and that this report plus the action plan will be discussed at the next meeting. K Nelson

11 Private fostering: Mrs Nelson reported that following awareness raising, enquiries about private fostering had significantly increased.

Resolved: The Board agrees to receive ongoing reports with respect to private fostering. K Nelson

12 Review of prison services: Governor Hill reported that the decision on the review of the Prison Services would be taken on 26 June and that he would inform Board Members of the outcome of the review at the next meeting.

Resolved: The Board agrees to discuss this at the next meeting. R Hill

13 The Children are Unbeatable Alliance:

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

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14 Potential safeguarding issues in relation to children in asylum, refugee and migrant households: Ms Barton reported her concern to ensure that the safeguarding procedures be robust and informed. The issue would be considered by the Policies and procedures subgroup in liaison with the Council's Refugee forum.

J Barton

Resolved: The Board notes the report now submitted.

15 Any other business: Ms Hyde asked a question regarding policies and procedures for children who were tutored at home. Mrs Nelson replied that appropriate procedures were in place for the children and that there were presently 20 children at key stage 4 being tutored at home.

16 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 28 July 2008 at 2.00 pm at Progress House.

CHAIRMAN