



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

2 OCTOBER 2006

Present:

Representatives of Wigan MBC

Mr G Rowney (Chair) Director of Children & Young People Services
Mr S Atkinson Children and Young People Services

Representatives of Other Agencies

Dr E Abbas Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust
Mr D Herschell Wigan & Leigh Housing
Mrs A Burt Designated Nurse Child Protection
Superintendent McIver Greater Manchester Police
Mr D Khan Deputy Governor, Hindley HMYOI
Ms C Woodford Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust
Ms R Walkden Wigan & Leigh CVS
Mr P Turner Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Ms S Bond Youth Offending Team
Ms C. Boyd Probation Service

ACTION

33. Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were submitted by Mrs S Astbury (Connexions), Mrs M Banham (CYP Services), Mrs J Barton (WAHL), Mr J Blott (Deputy Director of Adult Services), Ms T Culshaw (Democratic Services), Mr G Meehan (Deputy Director of CYP Services), Mrs K Nelson (CYP Services), Mrs M Pickup (Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust), Mr D Roberts (Legal Department), Mrs J Skorupka (CAFCASS), Ms S Woolmore (NSPCC).

The Board wished to extend their deepest sympathy to Mrs K Nelson on the death of her husband.

34. Minutes: 21 August 2006: The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2006 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Minute 21 (Refers): Mr Rowney invited Ms Bond, YOT Manager to attend.

Minute 23 (Refers): Ms Hubber of Government Office North West delivered a presentation and the comments were received by Mr Atkinson on the need to be aware of the increase in reporting needs which are of interest, there needs to be an increase in Strategy Meetings and a good working relationship with agencies. Ms Hubber is not part of the group but is an occasional member. Mr Rowney explained how allegations of a 'soft' kind will be dealt with.

Minute 24 (Refers): The minutes for the Child Death Overview Panel Sub-Group meeting were circulated. Dr Abbas commented on the issue of presentation of membership of the sub-group and requested police representation. Mr Rowney explained that the police will attend board meetings instead of sub-groups as a rule, to avoid doubling up. Superintendent Mclver suggested that questions be forwarded to Detective Alan Mines who may occasionally be able to attend.

Dr Abbas

Minute 28 (Refers): Mr Rowney discussed the funding for the DVD's and mentioned costs could be vastly reduced by using a web based version.

Minute 29 (Refers): Mr Rowney will bring further details to the next meeting. The Pilot for this has now been delayed until mid October.

Mr Rowney

Minute 31 (Refers): Wigan Missing Man - The missing Wigan man had gone missing on numerous occasions. There will be a meeting on 6 October 2006 to discuss secure accommodation arrangements.

Health Bid – A successful bid was made for 22K and the Chair congratulated all involved.

35. Sub Group meeting feedback:

Policy & Procedures

There has not been a meeting of the Policy & Procedures Sub-Group but a date will be arranged following consultation with NSPCC. A manager from Social Care Inclusion will also be invited to attend these meetings.

Mr Roberts

Evaluating Effectiveness

There has been a couple of meetings of the Evaluating Effectiveness Sub-Group. A draft self-assessment tool was circulated at the meeting for comments/feedback from the Board. A response is required within 3 weeks of this meeting. The Board asked questions to which the Sub-Committee representative responded.

Resolved:

- Chief Executive's for each organisation will take ownership for the self-assessment tool;
- The word 'Draft' will be removed from the form and will be sent to all relevant Chief Executives;
- Membership of all Sub Groups will receive minutes of the Board meeting, or be advised of web publication of minutes.

Ms Culshaw

Sub Group

Chairs

Training & Communication

Numbers have fallen and new members are required particularly from Social Care. Cara Davies will be contacted as a potential member. The next meeting of this Sub Group will be held on 1 November 2006. Mr David Hoyle will be contacted regarding the information sharing checklist leaflet.

Sub Group
Chair

Resolved: Members note the reports of the subgroups.

36. Cases/Issues that meet MAPPA Criteria: Ms Boyd reported that there were no issues of concern at present and that Mr Atkinson had been invited to attend these meetings. There was no report at this moment in time, however she did say that in future all referrals will go through a central support unit who will advise. This will not affect operations in Wigan.

As there are relatively few Level 3 meetings, only persons who have a particular interest in a case are invited to attend.

Resolved: Members note the comments and recommendations.

37. Joint Area Review: Mr Rowney thanked everyone who had made a contribution towards this review. It has proven to be a worthwhile effort and early feedback indicates a very favourable report.

The final version will be issued in mid December.

Resolved: Members note the report.

38. Child Death Review Websites: Mr Rowney commented on an American website that had been recommended and suggested that members take a look. The website discusses how child death issues are dealt with, how they are viewed and affected by the local community.

Resolved: The Members accept the report.

39. Any Other Business:

- Addendum to Appendix 8 of Business Plan: This will enable the updating of the Membership of the Board without the need to continually alter the Business Plan.
- Board Resignation: Mrs Pickup will be resigning from the Board as she is moving to Walton neo-surgical unit as a Chief Executive. The Board expressed their appreciation for her contribution and wished her good luck in her new career.
- Sharing Data: Mr Rowney expressed concern at the amount of forms received from various agencies requesting feedback. He stated that unless it was clarified what the information was for and how the feedback would be used then, in the long run,

Ms Culshaw

continually completing these forms would not prove to be a very worthwhile exercise.

- Sexually Active Young People: A Pilot procedure has been set up for working with sexually active young people under the age of 18. Mandatory reporting of under 13's was not thought to be a contentious issue as it would only be used by the police to satisfy them that no crime had been committed.
- Domestic Violence Programme: Initially 5 groups were set up, however, demand has now increased this number to 25. There is not enough funding at present to sustain this number of groups, therefore, all entries into groups (unless regarded as high risk) will be placed on a waiting list. There are currently 500 names on the waiting list.
- Young People in Crisis Unit: An address in Wigan has been bought by Salford Council as a place to house young people in crisis. Mr Atkinson will write to Salford requesting formal notification of their proposals regarding the unit and its residents.
- Future Meeting Dates: A request for future dates to be circulated with the minutes was received.

32. Dates and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 20 November 2006, in the Conference Room at Progress House at 2.00pm.

There were no further items.

CHAIR

Meeting started: 2.00 pm

Meeting ended: 4.00 pm