

Keeping our children safe from harm

**Present**

**Safeguarding Children Board Members**

Martin Banks	(MB)	CAFCASS
Keith Barham	(KBa)	Youth Offending Service
Karen Bradshaw	(KB)	Director of Children's Services, Shropshire Council
George Branch	(GB)	Community Rehabilitation Company
Sally Halls	(SH)	Independent Chair SSCB
Julie Harris	(JH)	Named Nurse for Safeguarding, Shropshire Community Health Trust
Linda Izquierdo	(LI)	Director of Nursing, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Steve Lunt	(SL)	Secondary Head Teacher Representative
Kerry Lynch	(KL)	Primary Head Teacher Representative
Nicola Maddocks	(NM)	Primary Head Teacher Representative
Colleen Male	(CM)	Head of Quality Assurance & Performance
Steve McAlinden	(SM)	Further Education Representative (Shrewsbury College)
Dr Jessica Sokolov	(JS)	Named Doctor, Shropshire CCG
Jason Wells	(JW)	West Mercia Police

**Also in attendance**

James Bainbridge	(JB)	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service (representing Guy Williams)
Donna Chapman	(DCh)	Learning & Development Lead, Shropshire Council
Maria Hadley	(MH)	Designated Nurse LAC, CCG (observing)
Ivan Powell	(IP)	Independent Chair (Adults) (observing)
Teresa Tanner	(TT)	Named Nurse, Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust

**Apologies**

Jo Banks	Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust
David Coan	Designated Nurse, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Sharon Conlon	Safeguarding, Lead Adults & Children, SSSFT
Tom Currie	National Probation Service
Cassie Davies	Community Member
Ellen Green	Community Member
David Minnery	Lead Member Children & Young People, Shropshire Council
Cheryl Sherratt	NHS England
Bev Tabernacle	Director of Nursing, RJAH
Rod Thomson	Director of Public Health

**SSCB Business Unit**

Lisa Charles (LC) Acting SSCB Business Manager  
 Corinne Chidley (CC) SSCB Training Officer  
 Sarah Chidlow (SC) SSCB & Children's Trust Administrator (Minute Taker)  
 Bill Joyce (BJ) Interim Development Manager, SSCB

**Item****1 Welcome and introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair noted that Jon Mills had now resigned as the voluntary sector representative on the SSCB and thanked Jon for his considerable work with and on behalf of the Board, particularly in relation to disabled children.

**3 Minutes and matters arising from SSCB Board Meeting held on 15 September 2016**

Board Members agreed the minutes from 15 September 2016 as a correct record of the meeting.

**Action Log**

Board members agreed the following actions to be closed as completed:  
 A112 – Establish a Task & Finish group to scope issues with regards to OLAC across agencies and recommend how they might be addressed consistently and effectively. The group will report to Executive in February 2017.

A116 – The Chair to follow up any persistence non-attendance at the SSCB meetings.

A118 – Use the domestic abuse audit report to inform a further challenge to the domestic abuse forum on the lack of availability of 'voluntary' perpetrator programmes, and proposing a business case is put to the PCC to request funding to address this.

A117 – Establish the level of analytical capacity in CSP and map out what information is available from the domestic abuse forum that would be useful for SSCB – to remain open due to no update from TC.

CM noted in regards to action A118, there has been a paper produced with regards to possible options of voluntary perpetrator programmes. The Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership Board are looking at the Strength to Change model and whether they would commission a team to deliver the programme or individual programmes. CM met with Jo Berry to discuss the programmes further. Jo's post is being made redundant and therefore there will not be a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the process. CM confirmed she has asked to meet with Andrew Gough to look at the different models.

**4 Minutes from the Executive Subgroup meetings held on 11 October 2016 and 15 November 2016 (for information)****Actions**

**Tom Currie  
(A117)**

The SSCB Exec minutes from the meetings held on 11 October 2016 and 15 November 2016 were noted.

The Chair explained the Executive Report (agenda item 8) will highlight any issues which the Board members need to be sighted on.

## **2 Round Table – Agency Update**

TT informed that Dee Radford will be the board representative for Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust from January 2017.

JH mentioned Ellie Johnson has now resigned from her post of LAC Nurse but Shropshire Community Health Trust will be recruiting for Ellie's replacement.

KBa reported the restructure of the Youth Justice Service has taken place. The review of the Youth Justice Service was published this week, as well as the government review.

JB reported the fire service has rolled out the Safe and Well agenda in Oswestry.

CC reported the Neglect conference was well received. The GCP2 training is getting booked up and therefore more training dates are being set up.

LI reported she will be retiring from the NHS in August 2017 and therefore the CCG will be advertising the post in the next few months.

KB thanked all the agencies involved in the selection and recruitment process for the post of Head of Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning. Shropshire Council has now appointed Francean Doyle to the post.

They are interviewing on Friday for the Service Manager for Quality Assurance & Performance.

JW informed the board that his role has now changed to Superintendent in charge of local policing. Alison Davies has now taken up post as Detective Superintendent. As of January 2017, the PVP resources for Shropshire will sit in Shropshire. JW's team has gained a Safe in Partnership Officer. JW and Alison will inform the Business Unit of the police representatives for the subgroups.

CM mentioned Children's Services has undergone a 2 day peer review, with the final report due in the new year. This will be shared in due course. The peer review focused on the 'front door' (COMPASS) and leadership. The initial feedback was very positive of the leadership and they were very pleased with how Compass has developed.

GB reported the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) has completed a restructure. GB confirmed he is now covering Shropshire and Herefordshire areas.

The Chair is in the process of drafting a letter to the various sporting bodies, in light of the abuse in football clubs which has recently come to light. The information will be collated and a report will be presented to the Executive in the new year.

The Chair confirmed that this meeting will be her last as Independent Chair of the SSCB.

KB mentioned about the Wood Review of LSCB's and confirmed a Bill is going through the House of Commons which has implications for future partnership arrangements, including in regards to the proposed sharing of responsibility between the Local Authority, Police and Health. The Local Authority is unsure what the implications will be for the LSCB as yet and therefore has agreed to appoint an Interim Independent Chair for SSCB. Ivan Powell, who is already the Independent Chair for Shropshire's Adults Safeguarding Board, will undertake the interim role for up to 6 months.

## 5 CSE Strategy Review

SSCB had commissioned an independent consultant, Liz Murphy, to review Shropshire's CSE strategy and progress. Liz has produced a report which was considered by the subgroup, together with a revised CSE strategy and action plan. The subgroup has now discussed and finalised these, together with an outline CSE scorecard, which is intended to provide the basis for future reporting.

BJ summarised the revised CSE Strategy, which includes:

- 4 strategic priorities (Leadership and Governance, Prevention and Early Intervention, Protection and Support, Pursue and Prosecute)
- CSE pathway
- CSE action plan
- CSE scorecard

The Chair noted that SSCB has completed a lot of work on CSE, including raising public awareness of CSE, and asked Board members to consider whether the revised strategy covers everything the Board considers necessary.

The strategy and action plan were then discussed in some detail, with the following points being made:

- the likelihood is that CSE cases were only going to increase. JW confirmed the police have been given some additional resources for Shropshire in respect of CSE, however that funding would also be for Telford & Wrekin.
- BJ brought action number 6 in priority 2, to the attention of the Board members, as there is a gap in Shropshire around how CSE awareness can be included in a parenting support programme.
- In response to a question from BJ about whether the data in the scorecard is collectable and easy to analyse, members agreed that the scorecard was very comprehensive and the agencies need to continue to collect the data, however it was questioned how agencies act on the data presented. **BJ asked Board members to email any comments on the scorecard to him.**
- There is to be a new subgroup chair from WMP, due to the changed role of the current chair.
- Members questioned the wording on the CSE pathway, due to some professionals not knowing if they are referring correctly. CM stated if the cases are unclear as to whether it is CSE or inappropriate sexual behaviour the CSE co-ordinator is available to support the agency and assist in completion of the tool. It was noted that each agency needs

to provide the CSE guidance to their staff. West Mercia Police has secured funding and a dedicated resource team in regards to online exploitation.

- Alice Cruttwell will be attending the next Student LSCB meeting and this will provide the students with an opportunity for the students to contribute to Alice’s work around CSE and PHSE. The students are currently working with Naomi O’Hanlon on the suicide strategy. The Chair suggested that the Student LSCB could help with the questions in the last action in strategic priority 2 – *Review options for conducting a health-related behaviour questionnaire with children and young people.*
- Board members questioned the involvement of licensing and trading standards with CSE. BJ confirmed there is a licensing member on the CSE sub group, which has completed a great deal of work in Shropshire with taxi drivers.
- GB mentioned there is a lack of representation within the action plan of NPS, who deal with high risk offenders and the CRC which works with low to medium risk offenders.
- BJ reported the CSE panel is being reviewed.

The Chair thanked LM and the CE Sub Group for their work in revising the CSE Strategy.

**Action: CSE subgroup to consider how best to support parents, and also how to reflect the role of NPS/CRC/ YJS in preventing reoffending (Including on the scorecard).**

**CSE  
Subgroup**

The Board members agreed the strategy and for the progress report on the action plan to be presented to SSCB in 2017.

**Sarah  
Chidlow**

## **6 Neglect Strategy**

A task and finish group, chaired by Donna Chapman, was set up to revise the Neglect strategy. Designing and delivering the practitioner conference in November was also a major task for this group.

DCh reported on the progress made in regards to revising the strategy. The Neglect scorecard and action plan are still to be completed. The vision of the strategy was launched at the conference, as well as Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2). The next step for the task and finish group is to develop the action plan.

The Board members discussed the revised strategy and the following points were made:

- The Neglect strategy and the GCP2 will be rolled out to all staff in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Health Trusts. Shropshire Community Health Trust has 2 members of staff qualified to undertake the GCP2 training.
- SM commented on how good the conference was, and that there were some good discussions in the workshops in the afternoon. SM raised a potential concern around some professionals not working with a family in the home environment and therefore not being able to complete those aspects of the assessment tool. DCh mentioned the

operations group will continue to run and therefore suggested SM or any other agencies attend the group to look at the challenges.

- NM reported there weren't many professionals from the education sector at the conference, However, everyone needs to be involved with the strategy. DCh confirmed she has been working with Chris Mathews around the issue of schools becoming involved with the neglect strategy and being able to complete the toolkit. The Chair suggested the issue around school involvement be raised at the Schools Safeguarding Group.
- DCh confirmed in regards to the data, she will be working with John Foster and the QA&P sub group. There is an upward trend of Child protection cases, which is higher than Shropshire's statistical neighbours. They will be mapping the cases against geographical area.
- Neglect is to be the next theme for Ofsted's Joint Targeted Themed Inspection.
- There is a lot of information in the document which is not strictly needed to be included. Therefore, it was suggested that the definition and indicators of Neglect could go as an appendix to the document.
- It is important to understand how many cases have been to Early Help prior to a child protection plan being needed and how long children have been on a child protection plan because of neglect?
- There are difficulties within the court process, as the court's views appear to be different from the Local Authority's in regards to Neglect. MB mentioned he is due to meet with CM next month and suggested discussing the issue around the court process further at that meeting, with a view to raising at LFJB.
- Work has already been commissioned through the QA&P sub group to develop the scorecard for Neglect. This will incorporate the outcome of discussions at the development session at last SSCB.
- Strategy should align with that of Telford and Wrekin where possible.
- Flowchart to be revised to be more assertive regarding escalation to legal proceedings.

The Chair thanked DCh and CC for their work on preparing and delivering such a successful conference.

**Action: Working with the task and finish group, DCh and BJ to revise the neglect strategy in the light of SSCB discussion and develop an action plan and scorecard, for agreement at the Executive in February.**

The Board members requested a progress report to be scheduled for SSCB later in 2017, to include scorecard information.

**Donna  
Chapman/ Bill  
Joyce**

**Sarah  
Chidlow**

## 7 **Quality Assurance & Performance report**

### Multi-Agency Audit

CM reported the last multi-agency audit took place in November 2016 and was around the quality and effectiveness of core group meetings, which was a key area of learning in last year's SCR. The audit looked at 12 cases and the overall feedback was positive. Progress has been made in regards to multi-agency core group working. There was good evidence of multi-agency attendance at the core group meetings and there was real evidence of partnership working. It was noted and agreed that any agency can take notes at the core group meetings. The social worker is the lead professional that oversees the progress of the plan.

After discussion, Board members agreed the following actions:

- All minutes of core group meetings to reflect the core group agenda and thus using the headings of the agenda to provide a record of information shared in respect of key areas of practice.
- To ensure that at each core group meeting membership, attendance, progress against the child protection plan are discussed, considered and recorded, including how the plan is supporting outcomes for children. Any agency disagreements with the plan should be raised and recorded.
- The training subgroup to review, strengthen and provide mandatory training to agencies around core groups and the role and function of agencies who attend.
- Partner agencies to share the responsibility for chairing and note taking of core groups (this to be included in training).
- Core group notes to clearly state who holds PR (parental responsibility) for the child.

The Board members also agreed the following:

- All core group minutes to be sent out prior to the next core group meeting.
- Training sub group to analyse and report on who has completed the core group training.

There will be a safeguarding briefing being sent out next month with findings from the last 3 multi-agency audits.

### Quality Assurance & Performance Report

CM reported on the dashboard for quarter 2. The concern forms data is consistent with last year. There has been a 50% increase in referrals to Early Help, and a decrease into Social Care. 2% of the referrals accepted do not proceed to a social work assessment, which suggests consistent application of thresholds.

Discussion included the following points:

- There is not yet enough information to be assured families are being helped within Early Help. CM clarified that ECINS will help with that information.
- The referrals by organisation were very similar to last year. Outcomes of referrals have seen an increase in section 17 assessments.
- The percentage of referrals that are repeat referrals within 12 months has continued to reduce.

- 50% of assessments are not resulting in social work intervention (have stepped down to Early Help or no further action), which suggests a problem with the threshold for SW assessment. Other local authorities have reduced the number of no further action cases. Children's Services are now giving more attention to the issue around consent for non-child protection cases with the result that the percentage of SW assessments which result in no further action has reduced to 30-35%.
- Has Shropshire got the threshold right between Early Help and child protection? Also, there are proportionately more children in Shropshire who are looked after, than in statistical neighbours.
- There has been a slight increase in the percentage of social work assessments being completed within 45 working days. There was a backlog of assessments which needed writing up and signing off previously, however that backlog has now been addressed and there are now only 20 assessments outstanding.

The Chair queried why there has been an upturn in permanent exclusions in primary schools in 2014-15. It was noted with concern that the EWS does not appear to be aware of which children are subject of a child protection plan. The Education Assurance Report is due to be presented at the Executive in February 2017, which will include details of safeguarding arrangements for those excluded from school.

**Action: Education Assurance Report to address the queries raised by the data regarding exclusions reported by QAP to SSCB in December 2016.**

Jane Parsons

Section 11 audits: a peer challenge meeting has been set up for Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017, which some agencies will be attending. There needs to be a smarter way to do the section 11 audits. It was suggested to look at 2 elements in one year and the next year look at 2 other elements.

SSCB has commissioned an online section 11 audit tool, and training will be organised for March/April 2017.

## 8 Report from Executive

LC reported there have been 2 Executive meetings since the last Board meeting in September. The Executive report has been set out in 3 sections, which are:

- Reports from the subgroups
- Assurance reporting
- Review of the SSCB documents.

**Action: The Constitution to be sent to members for signing with the minutes.**

Sarah Chidlow

The Board members discussed the report and recommendations. The following points were made:

- Each agency has signed up to provide a report to every child protection conference, the only agency that has not signed up to the procedure are the GPs. DC has agreed to visit all the GP localities to discuss the child protection reports.
- It was mentioned that the acute health service never gets invited to share information at child protection conferences and it was suggested

that an email be sent to TT with all of scheduled child protection conference dates and dates on when to return the information for those conferences. Shropshire Community Health Trust provides health reports to the conferences, however they have suggested amending their own reports to coincide with the information required by Social Care, to save health professionals filling in different forms for different local authorities.

- A letter regarding the issues around Children's Services representation at MAPPA meetings and Children's Services prematurely closing cases once perpetrators are sentenced has been sent by the Chair to the DCS.
- TC will advise out which agencies need to be attending MAPPA Performance and Standards subgroup meetings.

The Board members agreed the recommendations as follows:

- The Board is asked to note and endorse the actions and decisions taken by the Executive on behalf of SSCB, in response to the reports considered.
- SSCB support is required in ensuring that all agencies provide a written report to all conferences outlining activities undertaken with the child and family and a clear recommendation within their report regarding ongoing child protection planning - this needs to become standard practice and reported on.
- Children's Services are requested to address MAPPA Panel representation for Level 3 to ensure immediate decision making can take place in high risk cases.
- The Board to be asked to endorse the request for greater representation from Shropshire partner agencies to attend and contribute to the work of the MAPPA Performance and Standards subgroup.
- The Board members agreed the Constitution.
- The Board members agreed the Business Plan subject to a revision of the wording of the SSCB focus on neglect, to reflect all stages of the child's journey (not just early help) and the need to address neglect before it becomes chronic.
- SM commented the Student LSCB thought the Neglect conference was enriching.

**Action: BJ to reword the terminology for the SSCB focus for childhood neglect.**

**Bill Joyce**

## **9 Effectiveness of meeting**

How effective has the meeting been in assuring the Board of safeguarding arrangements and how have Board members provided challenge?

The Board members mentioned the review papers were helpful and the challenges should be disseminated to the subgroups with the Board members being held to account. Board members provided challenge to partner agencies throughout the meeting.

## **10 Matters to raise with other partnerships**

- 1) input into the Domestic Abuse Strategy via the Domestic Abuse Forum from the SSCB.
- 2) The CSE action plan to be fed to the Children's Trust to commission some of the support.

**Bill Joyce /  
Sally Halls  
Bill Joyce /  
Karen  
Bradshaw**

## **11 Any other business**

The Chair informed the members that Ofsted will be in Shropshire next year to inspect the Children's Services and review the SSCB.

The Chair mentioned the work the SSCB have completed over the last 5 years, whilst she has been the Independent Chair.

- In 2011, the Board commissioned 'Back to Basic' review and following development of the Early Help Strategy responsibility was for implementation was passed to the Children's Trust.
- With the development of the CSE panel, the private providers were brought together and the Police established the Care Homes Team for vulnerable young people in Shropshire.
- Safeguarding work in Schools with the development of the Schools Safeguarding Group, the Section 175 for schools was established with nearly 100% compliance. The good E-safety work within schools and Chelsea's Choice roll out last year.

KB thanked SH for her work over the last 5 years in her role as Independent Chair. SH has made a significant change in Shropshire for vulnerable young people. SH has taken Shropshire in a strong direction and with focus. SH has ensured services are co-ordinated, and has held organisations to account.

Board members thanked SH for her commitment to safeguarding children in Shropshire.

**The meeting concluded at 4.50pm**