

Keeping our children safe from harm

Present

Safeguarding Children Board Members

Keith Barham	(KBa)	Youth Offending Service
Nicki Bellinger	(NB)	Robert Jones Agnes Hunt Hospital
Karen Bradshaw	(KB)	Director of Children's Services, Shropshire Council
David Coan	(DC)	Designated Nurse, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Sharon Conlon	(SC)	Safeguarding, Lead Adults & Children, SSSFT
Julie Harris	(JH)	Named Nurse for Safeguarding, Shropshire Community Health Trust
Steve Lunt	(SL)	Secondary Head Teacher Representative
Colleen Male	(CM)	Head of Safeguarding, Children's Services
Steve McAlinden	(SM)	Further Education Representative (Shrewsbury College Group)
Ivan Powell	(IP)	Interim Independent Chair SSCB
Dee Radford	(DR)	Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Kerry Williams	(KW)	Voluntary Sector Representative, Shropshire Youth Association
Guy Williams	(GW)	Group Manager Prevention & Protection, Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

Also in attendance

Nick Bardsley	(NBa)	Lead Member Children & Young People, Shropshire Council
Sarah Chaloner	(SCha)	Chief Inspector, West Mercia Police
Louise Cotton	(LCo)	Community Rehabilitation Company
Siobhan Hughes	(SH)	Service Manager, Quality Assurance & Performance

Apologies

Phil Beaumont	(PB)	Service Manager, CAF/CASS
George Branch	(GB)	Community Rehabilitation Company
Dawn Clarke	(DCI)	Executive Director of Nursing, Shropshire CCG
David Cookson	(DCo)	Deputy Head, National Probation Service
Ellen Green	(EG)	Community Member
Marilyn Hunt	(MH)	Primary Head Teacher Representative
Dr Jessica Sokolov	(JS)	Named Doctor, Shropshire CCG
Bev Tabernacle	(BT)	Director of Nursing, RJA/H
Rod Thomson	(RT)	Director of Public Health
Jason Wells	(JW)	West Mercia Police
Clive Wright	(CW)	Chief Executive, Shropshire Council

SSCB Business Unit

Sam Anderson (SA) Shropshire Safeguarding Boards Business Manager
Lisa Charles (LC) SSCB Development Officer
Corinne Chidley (CC) SSCB Training Co-ordinator
Sarah Chidlow (SCh) SSCB & Children's Trust Administrator (Minute Taker)

Actions

Item

1 Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Round Table – Agency Update

The Chair reported the joint development day took place and the SSCB are in the process of looking at the feedback and future arrangements. The Executive sub group agenda is very full and therefore suggested may be bringing back some of the Assurance Reports to the SSCB. Previously there were 4 board meetings but it has been agreed that there will be 2 full boards, and 2 strategic boards throughout the year.

SC asked whether there should be a debate at the SSCB meeting around the 0-25 Emotional Wellbeing Service. The new service went live on 4th December 2017 and are working on an offer of intervention.

The board members did not feel it would be helpful to have an assurance report around the 0-25 Emotional Wellbeing Service presented to the SSCB currently, as the service has only just started, therefore the board members agreed for this to be put on the agenda in the future, to ensure the services are safe for young people.

SCh updated on the stakeholders briefing. The PCC has announced West Mercia Police have to make a £16 million saving, therefore there will be some changes taking place. However, the safer neighbourhood teams are to remain largely the same but there will be a staggered shift patterns from 8th April 2018. There have been some concerns raised about the reduction of sergeants and inspectors. Ofsted did comment in their feedback about the strength of relationships with partners.

The Chair explained JW brought the proposed changes to the last board. It was agreed the board would want to be sighted on any changes in regards to safeguarding people.

LCo reported there was an inspection of the probation service last year and the CRC are due for a smaller inspection in the near future. The CRC are currently working on the priority areas, because the CRC require improvement.

The Chair asked whether children are focussed in the recommendations around safeguarding and domestic abuse.

LCo mentioned they are looking at how to reduce the harm and how to evidence the work that is being undertaken.

GW reported there are discussions taking place around the fire service taking further action against Bryn Melyn Care; he would keep the board informed on the progress. In addition, in the next 2 weeks the fire service will know if they are being taken over by the PCC.

KB reported Children's Services are in the process of developing a new delivery model of Early Help. The delivery model will go to Cabinet next week for agreement to go to public consultation. The new model will include integrated family hubs.

CM reported the Ofsted report on Children's Services has been published. Ofsted rated Shropshire as good overall; however, the LAC service needs improvement. The Local Authority are currently working on an action plan, which is due to be sent to Ofsted in March 2018 and would be reported to the Executive sub group in the first instance.

Action: SSCB Administrator to circulate the Ofsted inspection report to the board members.

**Sarah
Chidlow
(A134)**

NB reported the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Hospital (RJAH) are currently undergoing a CQC inspection, which is due to finish this week. NB confirmed she would feedback to the board if there are any safeguarding concerns.

CC reported the SSCB Training Team are working with Joint Training on domestic abuse awareness. Andrew Gough will be taking the new domestic abuse strategy to CSP next week. It has been suggested that all Local Authority employees attend the domestic abuse briefings.

SA reported the SSCB business unit have moved from Mount McKinley and are now based in Shirehall with KASiSB business unit. Hayley Rider is the new Safeguarding Administrator for Adults and the new development officer for Adults is due to start at the end of February 2018.

3 Minutes and matters arising from SSCB Board Meeting held on 11 October 2017

KB asked about the Bi-annual conference, and whether a theme for the conference had been decided. KB also asked about the CDOP report, which was agreed to be presented to the next board meeting in January 2018.

The Chair reported the CDOP report was presented to at the last Executive sub group meeting.

The board members asked about the funding of the bi-annual conference, as the cost for a conference is about £5,000. KB suggested taking the request for financing the conference to the strategic group and whether the conference would be joint with adults. CM mentioned the wider exploitation was discussed at the development day.

Action: SA to email partners requesting theme ideas for the bi-annual conference.

**Sam
Anderson
(A135)**

The board members went through the action log.

The actions that are to remain open are:

Action A126: JW to discuss police attendance at multi-agency training with CC before the next SSCB meeting in January 2018.

Jason Wells (A126)

Action A128: ASR to send the information of the Fire Service representative dealing with the safety of the flats in Telford to SSCB Administrator for GW.

Audrey Scott Ryan (A128)

Action A129: SH to update the SSCB on the Neglect data analysis at the next meeting in January 2018.

Siobhan Hughes (A129)

4 Minutes from the Executive Subgroup meetings held on 31 October & 12 December 2017 (for information)

SA reported the assurance reports were presented to the Executive sub group. The suicide pathway has been delayed due to finalising the arrangements for the new 0-25 Emotional Wellbeing Service. The attendance at the Policy & Procedure sub group was discussed, due to the group being so small and not quorate if 1 agency does not attend. There was a question raised about the front door and whether the Threshold document was being accessed and used. The training team are implementing the cancellation policy, whereby the charging policy will be reinstated. Domestic abuse was raised and questioned how agencies are assessing it. CDOP reported there was 21 deaths in 2017/18, and are working on safer sleep. There will be changes for CDOP in April 2018, whereby NHS England want to have a regional CDOP footprint but Telford and Shropshire want to remain within the West Mercia Police footprint

JH reported the safer sleep workshops are a rolling programme throughout the year.

The Chair mentioned David Cookson was unable to attend the Executive sub group to present his assurance report on NPS but The Chair agreed to contact David to discuss.

LCo reported both NPS and CRC had an inspection. There were difficulties around the split of NPS and CRC. CRC manage medium and low risk of harm and NPS manage higher risk cases including MAPPA cases.

5 Quality Assurance & Performance report – Multi-Agency CSE Audit, Quarterly Dashboard (CSE theme)

SH reported the QA&P sub group have added a narrative to the dataset, as agreed by Ofsted. SH gave a brief overview of the dashboard. In regards to Chart 1: Concerns Forms Outcomes – Children’s Social Care or Early Help – more referrals had been going to Early Help but now more going to the Initial Contact Team. In regards to Charts 12: CPP Latest Category of Need & Chart 13: CP Category of Need by Time on Plan – John Foster is doing some work around why some children are subject to the category of Neglect and lot more going to proceedings. In regards to Chart 14: Looked After Children and Chart 15: Number Starting & Ceasing to be LAC Cumulative from April 1st – LAC is high on the agenda; John Foster is looking at LAC children increase in depth.

CM mentioned the difference this year is 14 children, and the reason for this increase is that more children are not leaving the care system and returning home.

SH reported on the CSE data which Dot Johnson and Jeanette Hill presented a report to the CSE & Missing sub group. In the last quarter, there were 34 new CSE referrals, which 1 was a male referral. Various agencies make the referrals, but most of the referrals are from social workers.

The Chair mentioned the response from Ofsted was around narrative for the data. The narrative received is local authority data, and some data is still absent from some agencies. Therefore, more work is required on the narrative to ensure the SSCB are receiving the right information.

SH confirmed the SSCB will ask the agencies to send in their narrative by a specific time and to ensure it is meaningful.

Multi-Agency Audit

SH reported the last multi-agency audit was on CSE, which showed different levels of response to CSE, with 1 case being graded inadequate, 2 cases requires improvement and 2 cases as good. There was good practice identified which included:

- Tenacity from agencies in pursuing support for young people experiencing CSE including education and school nurses
- Good practice from substance misuse services when involved
- CSE Risk Assessments are embedded within the partnership and carried out
- Better CSE working since the revision of the CSE Pathway
- The multi-agency partnership are clearly able to recognise CSE concerns and there is evidence that they have taken steps to address this
- Good monitoring from the police noted.

The areas for improvement are:

- In one case a CSE/single, assessment carried out during the school holidays did not contain vital information from schools. They should be contacted before the case is closed to ensure that there are no further concerns.
- Agencies expressed confusion as to when children's services are asking them to gain consent for referrals. It was felt that this could be defined more clearly. It has subsequently been confirmed with the Compass service manager that consent is not required for S47.
- Better understanding across the partnership of when the escalation policy is to be utilised.
- Better exploration of possible CSE in same sex relationships.

The key recommendations of the audit are:

- Escalation policy to be sent round the partnership and clearly visible on the SSCB procedures website.
- Threshold/consent exercise to be done at the next QA&P sub group to enable discussion and strengthen understanding by all agencies including children's services.
- Individual audit actions for agencies to be tracked.

- Consideration to be given to any allocated social worker to be present at the audit, to give real time information and share the learning.
- Service users to be contacted by children's services to ensure that their views are included in the audits.
- Awareness to be raised at CSE training of CSE in same sex relationships.
- Compass Service Manager to be invited to multi-agency audit days and attend where possible to create learning on decisions on contacts and referrals.

A discussion took place between board members, in relation to gaining consent.

CM asked for clarity on when agencies expressed confusion on gaining consent and asked how to address this issue. Children's services are seeing more referrals after consent gained but they are actively chasing the referrer for consent. Ofsted recommended a rag rated list of referrals. Members agreed consent is clear in the procedures and that the referrer keeps the case until they get consent from parents/carers. To clarify consent for a Section 47 is not required but consent is required for all other referrals.

SH mentioned Jeanette Hill has clarified the concerns about consent on those cases, and she will be invited to attend the next audit.

DCo explained there was a big conversation around consent and the escalation policy not being utilised.

KB suggested maybe the issue was more around Threshold than consent, therefore, KB suggested taking the issue to CSE & Missing sub group to look at and then escalation process.

CM mentioned she does receive escalations but not that many and said the local authority do welcome escalations. However, agencies need to make use of and understand the escalation document, which was revised recently.

Multi-Agency Core Group Audit

SH explained there was a multi-agency core group audit of 12 cases, which took place in December 2017. This looked at 4 LAC cases and 6 child protection cases. The majority of work on cases was found to require improvement to be good. The themes included:

- Core group meetings are happening regularly
- Core group meetings are held in venues appropriate for children and families
- Where all relevant agencies attend core group meetings, work is progressing better
- The children's services core group agenda is not being utilised consistently
- Minutes of core groups are not always recorded as being sent out by children's services.

Section 11 Audit

SH informed the board members that the Section 11 Audit will remain on the QA&P sub group agenda. The Section 11 audit is due to be completed by February 2018 and for a peer challenge to take place soon afterwards.

LC mentioned there is no training element in the Section 11 audit, due to it being the regional Section 11 and in compliance with Working Together. The West Midlands regional Section 11 group agreed not to add localised questions to the Section 11 audit.

The Chair asked if there is anything that can be done locally around training, but separately to the regional Section 11.

6 Outcomes from the Development Day

The Chair explained the notes from the development day have been typed up but no discussions have taken place with the Safeguarding Boards Business Manager. Ofsted found the SSCB to be good and there was positive feedback but there are some areas to be looked at. The Chair asked for any reflections on the development day. The development day did not look at the Student LSCB now Steve McAlinden has stepped down in organising it.

Action: The Chair & SA to write an action plan from the development day and then circulate to members.

The Chair clarified there were no changes to the priorities of the Board, other than extend CSE to be broader exploitation. This is the first year of the revised Neglect Strategy and with regards to domestic abuse, children are exposed and cases rising. Ofsted liked the clear business plan and liked the priorities. The Chair asked if there are any other areas that need to be included in the priorities, for example: mental health.

KB mentioned the Early Help are undertaking all the preventative work and are going to manage the high cost intervention work to keep children and families out of the system. The local authority is collectively changing the early help model, as the demands on services are increasing.

The Chair asked whether the SSCB have a Prevention Strategy.

CM confirmed the prevention strategy is included in the Early Help Strategy.

7 Report from Executive Sub Group

This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

8 Effectiveness of meeting

SM mentioned that there was a tension between papers that were overly onerous and feeling sighted on developments across agencies. He welcomed the proposed move to bring some assurance reporting back to the full board.

The Chair confirmed it was agreed under the review of the safeguarding boards, that there will be 2 board meetings a year and 2 strategic board

Ivan Powell /
Sam
Anderson
(A136)

meetings a year; therefore, it is around finding a balance in regards to reporting.

9 Matters to raise with other partnerships

The Chair mentioned the CSP need to finish the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

SCha reported West Mercia Police are trailing IDVAs going out with response officers on Thursday/Friday and Saturday nights.

10 Any other business

There was no any other business raised.