

Keeping our children safe from harm

**Present**

**Safeguarding Children Board Members**

Keith Barham	(KBa)	Youth Justice Service
Karen Bradshaw	(KB)	Director of Children's Services, Shropshire Council
George Branch	(GB)	Community Rehabilitation Company
Dawn Clarke	(DCI)	Executive Director of Nursing, Shropshire CCG
Marilyn Hunt	(MH)	Primary Head Teacher Representative
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
Jason Wells	(JW)	West Mercia Police
Kerry Williams	(KW)	Voluntary Sector Representative, Shropshire Youth Association
Guy Williams	(GW)	Group Manager Prevention & Protection, Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

**Also in attendance**

Andreea Aschenazi	(AA)	CAFCASS (representing Phil Beaumont)
Nick Bardsley	(NBa)	Lead Member Children & Young People, Shropshire Council
Francean Doyle	(FD)	Head of Early Help Partnerships & Commissioning
Siobhan Hughes	(SH)	Service Manager, Quality Assurance & Performance
Jane Parsons	(JP)	Education Access & Safeguarding Lead
Jayne Randall	(JR)	Drug & Alcohol Strategic Commissioner
James Ibbs	(JI)	Partnership Manager, Department of Work & Pensions
Julie Webster	(JW)	Service Operations Leader, Department of Work & Pensions

**Apologies**

Phil Beaumont	(PB)	Service Manager, CAFCASS
Nicki Bellinger	(NB)	Robert Jones Agnes Hunt Hospital
David Coan	(DC)	Designated Nurse, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Sharon Conlon	(SC)	Safeguarding, Lead Adults & Children, MPFT
David Cookson	(DCo)	Deputy Head, National Probation Service
Ellen Green	(EG)	Community Member
Julie Harris	(JH)	Named Nurse for Safeguarding, Shropshire Community Health Trust

Dr Jessica Sokolov (JS) Named Doctor, Shropshire CCG  
 Bev Tabernacle (BT) Director of Nursing, RJAH  
 Rod Thomson (RT) Director of Public Health  
 Clive Wright (CW) Chief Executive, Shropshire Council

**SSCB Business Unit**

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

<u>Item</u>	<u>Actions</u>
<p><b>1 Welcome and introduction</b>            The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2 Round Table – Agency Update</b></p> <p><u>Business Unit</u>            CC reported that all Board Members should have received a ‘Save the date’ notification in respect of the Joint Exploitation Conference, which is due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018. CC is in the process of contacting statutory partners to get ideas on speakers and workshops, as well as contacting any keynote speakers. The conference will look at County Lines, exploitation, cuckooing, modern slavery, cultural awareness. There will be workshops in the afternoon on these areas. After the conference has taken place, there will be learning briefings delivered to professionals. If any ideas could be sent to CC or SA.</p> <p><u>Police</u>            JW reported on the interim policing model, which took effect from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018. There has been a marginal reduction in supervisor numbers and changes in shift patterns. Tactical resources remain in place. Road policing and firearms has also come into JW’s remit. There will be changes to who completes investigations. Chief Superintendent Kevin Purcell who was involved with the pathfinder model in Worcestershire is now leading the roll out for Shropshire and Telford.</p> <p>The Chair asked about the pathfinder model and whether the impact assessment form was completed at the time. It will be ensuring that the people with the right knowledge and experience continues in their roles.</p> <p>JW confirmed the impact assessment form was filled in at the time and will complete the impact assessment form for any new policing models.</p> <p><b>Action: The Chair, Kevin Purcell and JW to meet and consider who SSCB should formally communicate to within West Mercia Police to ensure that during any change programme activity the board impact assessment is fully considered.</b></p>	<p>Ivan Powell / Jason Wells/ Kevin Purcell (A137)</p>

### Youth Justice

KBa reported the Youth Justice Service have just undergone a 4-week joint inspection pilot, the report will not be published but a draft report will be available and subject to limited circulation within a month and they will address any recommendations in an action plan.

### Children's Services

KB reported the new Early Help model was going to Cabinet. The Cabinet agreed for a wider consultation to take place. The new Early Help model has now gone out for consultation and will be reported back to Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 for further decisions.

### Secondary Schools

SL reported OFSTED are now placing more emphasis on safeguarding practice and safety in schools; rather than the bureaucratic element of data collection and processes that had been impacting on ratings for schools.

### Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

DCI reported Marie Hadley, who is the Designated LAC Nurse, is only part time for 2 days a week. There is now funding for a permanent full time post, which is out for recruitment for partners to share widely.

Dr Ganesh is currently interim Designated Doctor. There is now an advert out for a permanent position.

The CCG will also be conducting a clinical audit on new and retrospective CAMHS referrals.

### Children's Social Care

CM reported Children's Social Care received a visit from Mark Randall, who is a Department of Education advisor on care leavers who is reporting to the Children's Minister. He has given some good feedback on the progress that has been in respect of the specific recommendation relating to care leavers at the recent Ofsted inspection, and therefore will be returning in about 6/7 months' time to review. There is a Care Leavers action plan sitting alongside the OFSTED Action Plan, which is being overseen by Corporate Parenting Panel.

### Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

GB reported a review of CRC safeguarding procedures is taking place after a Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection.

### Fire Service

GW reported the Service have been reviewing the work that they have been doing with Bryn Melyn residential care company in relation to fire

safety and are taking legal advice as to whether to conduct PACE interviews due to their failings. GW will keep KB updated.

The Fire Service are in the process of being governed by the Police Crime Commissioner, which will come into effect in June 2018. There is also restructure of the Service taking place. The aim is to ensure that there remains one individual for the Boards to ensure a period of stability.

Fire Services are now subject to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) and due for inspection in Autumn, which may include an approach to the Board.

The Service are currently prioritising an update to their Children's Safeguarding Procedures.

Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)

AA reported on behalf of PB, CAFCASS is now part of the Black Country. This will provide more streamlined services and it is hoped that there will be a more consistent presence for the Board.

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

The members agreed the minutes were an accurate reflection of the meeting, except SM required a paragraph re-wording.

The board members went through the action log.

***Action A119: The Chair to consult with other West Mercia Independent Chairs and write to West Mercia Police with the challenges on behalf of the LSCBs, with a draft letter being circulated for comment before sending.***

Ivan Powell  
(A119)

The Chair reported on this earlier in the meeting, and would be meeting with JW and Kevin Purcell to discuss further.

The following actions were agreed to be closed:

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

***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.***

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

***Action A134: SSCB Administrator to circulate the Ofsted inspection report to board members.***

***Action A135: SA to email partners requesting theme ideas for the bi-annual conference.***

The following action was to remain open, due to it still ongoing.

***Action A136: The Chair and SA to write an action plan from the development day and circulate to members.***

Ivan Powell  
(A136)

## Executive Group Update

The Chair updated it has been agreed that LC will look at how learning is shared from the Learning & Improvement sub group across the other Board sub groups and how the learning is embedded.

There were concerns raised in respect of the CAMHS/Bee U Service Out of Area Looked After Children who are placed in Shropshire and children with disabilities. SSSFT have already presented an assurance report to the Telford Safeguarding Board, which The Chair will pursue with DCI out of the meeting, to ensure the report is presented to the Executive sub group.

There were concerns also raised in respect of some schools are not following up phone referrals with the MARF.

The Learning & Improvement Sub Group are undertaking 2 Serious Case Reviews (SCRs). 1 was due to be presented to the Board today but further work is to be done due to queries raised by Police and Local Authority. A meeting is scheduled on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to discuss the report further.

Liz Murphy is the independent author of the other SCR.

There is also another possible 3rd SCR but there are cross boundary implications, which the Business Unit are still in discussion with Powys Safeguarding Board.

The safer sleep workshops will be next held in July 2018.

Audrey Scott-Ryan (Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel) has circulated a letter reminding GPs to notify the DVLA of health issues that may impact on the safety of a driver, following the death of a child.

Preventing Young People in Crisis – A multi-agency assurance report was due to be presented at the Executive sub group, but Sharon was unable to attend and therefore will be carried forward. Telford undertake monthly crisis meetings, which is to be considered.

#### **4 Quality Assurance & Performance report – Multi-Agency UASC Audit, Quarterly Dashboard & Section 11 Audit**

SH reported the dashboard is still Children's Social Care focussed.



Item 4a SSCB 2018  
Dashboard Final.pdf

The Chair asked whether the Board need to be concerned about the cases who have been subject to CP plans over 2 years. SH responded that the complex nature of those cases means that it sometimes takes longer to address issues, but that CSC are specifically monitoring the progress these on a monthly basis.

Performance Dashboard Discussion: It was raised and acknowledged that the performance dataset needs to be multi-agency performance data, not just that of Children's Social Care.

**Action: IP, SA and SH to review the Board performance dataset to ensure that it is multi-agency**

Multi-Agency Audit – UASC (SH)

SH reported the multi-agency audit was completed on UASC to provide assurance to the SSCB regarding practice in this area.



Item 4 QAP Report  
April 2018.doc

The key recommendations of the audit are:

- SSCB Business Unit and Training sub group to provide cultural awareness training, highlighting the specific needs of UASCs and the settling minority ethnic groups in Shropshire.
- The sub group chair to write to agencies, which have gone the extra mile for the young people.
- Sub group chair to write to the Chief Executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club to identify any opportunities for those talented footballers.

KB commented on the good practice identified within the last audit. Board members agreed Ivan Powell as the Independent Chair of the board, should write to Shrewsbury College, on behalf of the board. The Chair also commented that it was good the UASCs have the same social worker. SM mentioned he was involved in creating the ESOL for the young people, which is working well due to the social worker and foster carers and the college is now looking at progression. The young people are working well in college.

SH also mentioned the QA & P sub group are going to explore the young people's input in the audit and suggested bringing the findings back to the board.

**Action: Recommendations relating to writing to agencies and Shrewsbury Town Football Club should be conducted by The Chair**

Multi-agency Core Groups

SH reported the changes to the multi-agency core group names, which are:

- CP core groups will remain known as CP Core Groups
- CIN core groups will now be known as CIN Reviews
- LAC core groups will be known as LAC Care Planning meetings.

Single Agency Audits

The QA&P sub group are requesting that more single agency audits are brought to the sub group and discussed.

Ivan Powell /  
Sam  
Anderson /  
Siobhan  
Hughes  
(A138)

Ivan Powell  
(A139)

### Section 11 Audits

The deadline for the Section 11 audits to be completed by was 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018. SH mentioned CSC have been unable to put the evidence online against the Section 11 audit and the business unit was going to explore how this can be done.

**Action: To obtain evidence and conduct section 11 audit analysis**

## **5 Education Assurance Report**

JP provided a summary of her report.

- External inspections by Ofsted have indicated the percentage of schools rated as good or outstanding continues to improve, at 91%.
- 6 education providers were non-compliant in completing the Section 9.
- Elective Home Education (EHE): there are robust processes in place for children home educated to ensure their needs are being met.
- There have been an increase of hate crime referrals from schools. The Channel Panel focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.
- Exclusions: The biggest challenge for the education service is the steep rise in both permanent and fixed term exclusions in both Secondary and Primary schools. In 2017-18, there have been 44 permanent exclusions and if the exclusions continue at the current rate, there could potentially be 82 exclusions by the end of July 2018, whereby only 46 were permanently excluded in 2016-17.

The Board members had a lengthy discussion on exclusions and the risk it poses for safeguarding. The Chair expressed concern about the potential impact of increasing unnecessary criminalisation of children.

The Education Access Team meet with all the excluded young people, focus on the young person's strengths and will then refer them onto other agencies where necessary. There is also time constraints and workload on Early Help, which is affecting provision of services, leading to waiting times for BeeU / Enhance and TYS, but some young people do prefer to access the online support (Kooth). There is also a drop in centre in Shrewsbury, which young people can access (Beam). Schools are also reluctant to engage with the Graded Care Profile (GCP2).

Members asked are the young people being excluded for their behaviour or is it more complex needs. JP explained the permanent exclusions were for weapons, drug misuse, and physical assaults within school.

KB stated that this is an area of risk for safeguarding, and is the cumulative impact of austerity collectively across services. She explained that this is what the Early Help consultation has been about. "Grey" exclusions whereby the Local Authority are less sited and so more difficult to track, which is also an area for concern and include the most vulnerable children. She stated that despite exclusions increasing, alternative

Ivan Powell /  
Sam  
Anderson /  
Lisa Charles  
(A140)

provision is not widely available. This is being looked into by Government. There has been an increase of exclusions from the primary sector.

SL stated that reasons for exclusions are highly complex, but that factors include: pressures on resources and capacity within schools, due to some cutting support staff and teaching assistants, a national teacher recruitment crisis and the “curriculum factor” which has narrowed the focus and time for addressing issues for and supporting vulnerable young people. There are many pressures the young people have to deal with in today’s society, which are the curriculum, their mental health, social media, weapons and drugs. The issue is not just local but national.

MH agreed that support for children has reduced and mental health is an emerging difficulty in primary schools.

SM added that post-16 provision is responding more positively , however more provision is needed. He commented that Early Help in schools seems to work well.

DCI stated that SSSFT are reporting up to 40 new referrals a day, therefore DCI asked how we tackle this growing concern together.

There are some schools who are working closely with Strengthening Families; Board Members agreed this might be a way forward. KB mentioned the impact on young people is around the resources being taken out of the public sector and therefore suggested bringing resources together through Early Help.

**Action: Exclusions to be a theme for multi-agency audits in the future.**

**Action: The Chair to meet with JP regarding schools approach to hate crime.**

**Siobhan  
Hughes /  
Q&AP Group  
(A141)**

**Ivan Powell  
(A142)**

## **6 Early Help Assurance Report**

FD summarised the Early Help report. The current Early Help framework has been implemented for some time but is currently under consultation.

Success of Early Help provision is measured on outcomes. School attendance, Parenting Capacity and Healthy Relationships have been improving year on year and there are increasing opportunities to improve emotional and mental health. Work has also been taking place with Children’s Social Care working on effective step up and step down.

The proposed Early Help Model includes the implementation of Early Help family hubs. The consultation has received a mixed response due to the closing of Children’s Centres, but the public have been positive about the multi-agency hubs across Shropshire. A paper on the Early Help model will be presented to Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.

FD raised that the main difficulty is in respect of Troubled Families as financial claims are not being made for the positive work that is being done. To make the claims, agencies need to capture the evidence on the ECINS system, but the evidence is not always being recorded, even though the work is being done. Users are reporting that the ECINS system is “clunky”.

FD will be setting up a task and finish group to look at how to make the claims more effectively over the next 12 months. The cost is £800 per family. Therefore, partners need to understand the evidence is required to make the claims.

KB stated the Early Help Partnership Board and Children's Trust are overseeing this work.

The Chair questioned whether the male perpetrator has been considered and whether the toxic trio had been represented as a single account.

FD mentioned the perpetrator programme is in place and asked if the programme is being reviewed through the SSCB. Domestic abuse is on the increase. Early Help are going to be focussing on auditing 10 cases and then fine tune over the next 12 months. The attendance at the Early Help Partnership board is good. Early Help are now focussing on troubled families. The mental health of parents is improving.

GB clarified that the perpetrator programme will be evaluated by University of Chester, which should be taking place April 2019. The first perpetrator programme is due to be completed in the next few weeks and the second programme is due to start in 2 months' time. The programme has gone pretty well so far. The next process is to look at the referral form.

**Action: Voluntary Perpetrator Programme Evaluation to be reported to Domestic Abuse Forum and SSCB**

**George Branch (A143)**

## 7 **Children's Social Care Ofsted Action Plan**

CM went through the OFSTED made 12 recommendations for Children's Social Care and the plan sets out how these will be addressed.



Item 7 Children's Services Ofsted Acti

Most of the recommendations were around recording, with some issues around planning due to the CareFirst system and social workers not confident in completing the plans. Training is due to take place this summer around how to produce good plans and robust planning. Liquid Logic is due to go live later this year and will replace CareFirst. It is hoped that this will assist with good planning.

The CSC action plan starts at the front door up to leaving care at 25. Ofsted are due back at the end of this year or early next year to look at permanency and case progression for 3 days. CSC are on track with completing the action plan. CM suggested maybe QA & P sub group might also want to keep an eye on the action plan.

**Action: Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group to monitor progress of the CSC Action Plan**

**Siobhan Hughes / Q&AP (A144)**

## 8 **DAAT Assurance Report**

JR reported on the DAAT report.



Item 8 DAAT  
Assurance Report A1

The areas of risk/challenge are:

- Service response to meetings and JR has requested she is kept informed when there has been non-attendance at child protection conferences or safeguarding meetings.
- All services referring to the drug and alcohol service (including from hospital)

The Hidden Harm tool to be used by every service. JR is working with Teresa Tanner on the non-referrals to the drug and alcohol service. There is a lot of work to be undertaken with the parents, due to concerns that low take up is due to parents giving the young people the alcohol.

**9 SSCB Ofsted Action Plan**

The Chair mentioned the development of the dataset is still ongoing and the board are holding agencies to account if not receiving their data. Ofsted required 'contextual narrative' to be provided alongside the data. It is not clear how the board would consider the work on 'contextual narrative' to be completed but this will return to the Board for decision once the data set is developed further. QA&P sub group update the board at every meeting.

**10 SSCB Risk Register**

The Chair reported the business unit are looking at the risk register.

**11 Any other business**

There was no any other business raised.

**12 Universal Credit Presentation**

James Ibbs & Julie Webster presented the changes with universal credit.

JW explained the current credit system is not efficient, so the universal credits were introduced to be supportive and tailored to everyone. Universal credit are changing as it evolves, the waiting days have been taken out and the housing benefit has a 2 week run out.

Jl gave an overview of universal credits and showed a short video on how easy it is to complete.



Presentation for  
External Distributor



Autumn Budget  
Changes.pdf

The main changes are:

- Each claimant will require a bank account
- Payment and accounts are largely managed online with Assisted Digital Support via Shropshire Council through the Library Network or Job Centre or Alternative Payment Arrangements in certain circumstances (with set being completed by others on the service users behalf with their consent)

- Universal credit is “Tapered” down once an individual is earning enough, rather than being stopped.
- Payments will be paid monthly in arrears
- The tenant/claimant will be responsible in paying the landlord their housing costs
- The claim will be for the household and not the individual
- Claimants can request early payment, and will not have to wait 5 weeks before receiving payment but will have to pay back within 12 months.
- 16/17 year olds can access universal credits.

The board members asked if the new universal credit website is easy to use and if claimants do find it difficult is there any support for them. The Chair mentioned the more vulnerable people might not have a bank account due to debt and mental health; therefore, the system could be open for abuse by appointees. GB asked how long could someone who leaves prison get access to universal credits. AA asked if CAFCASS goes to court but does not know where the person is, would do they need to contact about getting information from DWP.

Jl stated the Department of Work & Pensions are building the website themselves and the system will be more user friendly. If any claimant has an issue using the system, then there will be members of staff in the job centres who would be able to support them. The DWP interview the claimant and appointee on the same day separately. The DWP can open a post office account on the claimant’s behalf, and can visit the claimant’s home. There will be penalties / fines if claimant say they are looking for work but are not actually looking for work. Most of the big prisons will have work coaches for the prisoners to access. They can set up an account and once released the DWP will interview them. They can still get an advance from day one. The claimant does not need to share information with DWP.

**Action: Jl will explore AA’s comments around sharing information on claimants, when required.**

**James Ibbs  
(A145)**

Jl offered to attend agencies to undertake training on the changes to universal credit.

JW mentioned from 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018, only new benefits to universal credit. Existing/live accounts will be transitioned over time.