

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C R OXBY (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors D Brailsford, S R Dodds, Mrs S Ransome and Mrs M J Overton MBE

Parent Governor: Mrs E Olivier-Townrow

Officers in attendance:-

Dave Culy (Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Manager), Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Caroline Mogg (CSE Co-ordinator) and Andrew Morris (LSCB Business Manager), Catherine Wilman (Democratic Services Officer)

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

13 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

14 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE SUB GROUP HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes from the meeting held on 7 October 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15 UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND ITS SUB-GROUPS

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Sub-Group with an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and its sub-groups.

It was reported that the Government had recently commissioned an independent review of children's safeguarding which was to be completed by March 2016. A proposal in the review, which was being considered, was to centrally commission Serious Case Reviews. They would use an agreed model/template with local agencies compiling and writing the report.

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Some Councillors made it clear that they were against centralisation. The Independent Chair of the LSCB stated that it was clear from discussions that the Government lacked confidence in a number of safeguarding boards and their transparency, across the country.

Members were in agreement that if the format of the reports followed a standard template, there would be benefits. The commissioning of reports centrally, however, would not be successful.

Communications within the LSCB had become an integral part of each team since the Communications Sub Group had been disbanded and this had prompted changes to the arrangements for co-ordinating and issuing press releases.

The Association of Independent Chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards had responded to the consultation, as had the Director of Children's Services.

There had been an action plan borne out of the Ofsted inspection in 2014 and Members asked if the Sub-Group should be seeking assurance that the action plan was being implemented. It was reported that the role of LSCB Audit and Policy Officer had been created in order to monitor the implementation of action plans, as well as other responsibilities.

RESOLVED

That the update report be noted.

16 SERIOUS CASE REVIEW

The Sub Group considered a report which provided an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board, in particular a recently published Serious Case Review.

The Sub Group received a summary of the Serious Case Review from Officers, which had involved a young person taking their own life as a result of online bullying. The Review had taken into consideration the effective strategies around e-safety and bullying prevention currently used in Lincolnshire and had concluded that the death had been unpreventable and unpredictable. The family supported this conclusion.

Questions asked on the item from the Sub Group, confirmed the following information:

- Schools from neighbouring local authorities did not keep the Council updated on children moving into Lincolnshire schools from their area, however, work was being undertaken with schools allowing access for auditing the movement of children;
- In these times of funding cuts to preventative services, the Serious Incident Review Group was a mechanism to track actions following serious case reviews.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

17 LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

A report was considered which provided an overview of two new policy developments undertaken by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board which were the Pre-Birth Protocol and working with mobile families.

Work on the Pre-Birth Protocol involved development of the existing policy to ensure more effective use of the Team Around the Child (TAC) and Early Help processes. A section regarding Female Genital Mutilation had been added also.

The recent case of Family Q had prompted the creation of the Mobile Families Guidance, which agencies could also use. Work was also being done with the Department of Work and Pensions to identify transient families, as organising benefits, before moving to a new location was often a priority for people. The voluntary sector for example, community run groups, was also being approached for help with identifying transient families.

Discussion took place regarding children from eastern Europe being taken out of school for visits to their home country and then returning. Officers hoped that this was being raised as a safeguarding issue by the school. Generally, schools were happy to discuss such issues with transient or immigrant families and keep school places available for those children, however, it seemed certain families were not notifying the school of their children's absence in such situations.

It was noted that both the Pre-Birth Protocol and the Working with Mobile Families policies had been approved by the Board and the relevant agencies.

RESOLVED

That the report, policies and comments made be noted.

18 IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Sub Group with an update on the work undertaken by the Board in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

The Board's CSE Action Plan placed a requirement on all statutory partners to have in place a record flagging system so that they could identify a young person known to them who presented with any concerns of CSE. The partner agencies had agreed to apply the three levels of flags which ranged from Level 1 – identifying vulnerabilities in an individual to Level 3 – at risk of immediate harm.

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Work was ongoing to get all agencies to embed CSE Standards in their policies and procedures. To assist this, a number of posters and banners had been designed and produced to raise awareness of CSE and to tie-in with Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness day on Friday, 18 March 2016.

Professionals should only conduct a CSE risk assessment on children they believed were at risk, and not every child they came into contact with. Research had shown that following safeguarding work with a child, their mindset could be changed about why they found exploitative relationships so attractive.

Discussion took place regarding suicide and how to raise awareness of ways to reduce cases of suicide, without encouraging it.

It was highlighted that there was no requirement in schools for staff to have regular safeguarding training. This would be flagged up with Ruth Fox, Safeguarding Children Officer for Education Settings.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

19 KEY MESSAGES FROM LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

Consideration was given to a report which updated the Sub Group on the key issues from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) held in October 2015.

The Officer summarised the report and the following points were noted:

It was reported that this would be the last meeting of the Sub Group for the LSAB's Independent Chair, Elaine Baylis, who would be stepping down with effect from 1 February 2016. However, Elaine was involved in the selection process for a new Chair, which was underway.

A recent addition to standing agenda items for the Board was the Challenge Log, which was designed to ensure either 'cross member' or 'external to Board' challenges were documented, progressed and concluded in a transparent and appropriate way. It was reported that to date, there had been three challenges received.

Team Around the Adult was being introduced under the prevention strategy. This was part of a piece of work which took the principles achieved by the Children's Board and applied them to an adult context.

Recently a trial programme had been underway within East Lindsey and North Kesteven District Councils looking at working with multi-agencies around supporting individuals through wellbeing programmes and Police Community Support Officers.

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There was high quality training available for partner agencies by partner agencies as part of Workforce Development Programme. The Board strongly recommended agencies to take part.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

20 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEWS

Consideration was given to a report which updated the Sub Group on current Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) (formerly known as Serious Case Reviews) which were going through the early information gathering process.

There were three SARs currently being processed, details of which were in the report and the Sub Group was updated on the progress and current situation of each.

It was noted that the Prevention Strategy and Team Around the Adult would help protect people who relied on exploitative relationships for companionship.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

21 LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB GROUP
WORK PROGRAMME

The Sub Group considered its future work programme, which included the schedule of upcoming Board meetings.

Discussion took place regarding an issue around taxi licensing and any pending convictions of applicants. Under the previous licensing system, the Police (as a consultee) would inform the licensing authority (district councils) whether an applicant had any unspent convictions. This process could sometimes take up to a year to complete. Under the new law which was introduced over 2 years ago, the Police looked at applications on a risk assessment basis to decide whether the licensing authority needed to be informed of a conviction. It was felt that this approach was inconsistent and unsatisfactory. Despite this, Officers felt the issue was outside the jurisdiction of the Safeguarding Adult Board and was a matter for the district councils to resolve.

Sub Group representatives to attend forthcoming Board meetings were agreed upon.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

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