

**LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING
 BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP
 9 JULY 2018**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S R PARKIN (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors Mrs J Brockway, R L Foulkes, S R Parkin and Mrs C J Lawton.

District Council: District Councillor Mrs S Waring (District Council).

Representative appointed by Local NHS organisation: Andrew Burton.

Officers in attendance:-

Andrea Brown (Democratic Services Officer), Chris Cook OBE (Independent Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board), Barry Earnshaw (Independent Chairman, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board), Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer) and Clare Rowley (Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager).

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Sub-Group was invited to nominate a County Council member of the Sub-Group to serve as Chairman for the Council year. Councillor S R Parkin was nominated and seconded and there were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor S R Parkin be duly elected as Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group for the Council year 2018/19.

COUNCILLOR S R PARKIN IN THE CHAIR

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Sub-Group for the Council year 2018/19. Councillor R L Foulkes was nominated and seconded and there were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor R L Foulkes be duly elected as Vice-Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group for the Council year 2018/19.

2

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

9 JULY 2018

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M A Whittington and Malcolm Burch (representative of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner).

In addition, apologies were also received from Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, (Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services), and David Culy, (Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager).

There were no replacement Members in attendance.

4 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Members' interest at this point in the proceedings.

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

5a Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2018

The Chairman requested an amendment to Minute No. 16 – *Report of Observation of Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board – 13 December 2017*. The minutes indicated that *"the Board's Risk Register had too many items listed and that the register was under review as some items were 'issues' rather than 'risks'"*. Discussion at that meeting had also included the assurance from the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board that this was unusual and Councillor Parkin asked that this be reflected in the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 15 January 2018, with the amendment noted above, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5b Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2018

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 16 April 2018 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6 REPORTS OF OBSERVATION OF LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD MEETINGS

6a Meeting held on 14 March 2018

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP
9 JULY 2018

Councillor Mrs S Waring provided an update to the Sub-Group following her attendance at the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) held on 14 March 2018.

It was noted that there was a good level of participation from Board Members although there was a degree of frustration from some Board Members, as the agenda appeared to focus too little on prevention.

The Chairman of the LSAB confirmed that a specific piece of work was being undertaken in relation to prevention which was part of a new strategic plan for the LSAB and would be in place in September 2018. The discussion broadened to the overall funding of adult social care, and the expected Green Paper from the Government during the autumn.

Councillor Mrs Waring reported that there had been a discussion which had considered covered a range of different issues.

Concern was noted at the information technology within organisations and the ability for links between the partners to work effectively and efficiently in support of service users and patients.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

6b Meeting held on 20 June 2018

Councillor Mrs C J Lawton provided an update to the Sub-Group following her attendance at the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board held on 20 June 2018.

It was reported that the meeting had been very well attended with 20 agencies represented by a total of 30 attendees and very few apologies for absence had been received. Councillor Lawton reported that the meeting had been chaired in an exemplary manner and the agenda had been all encompassing with questions being taken on all items.

It was noted that the format of the meetings and the structure of the LSAB would change from September 2018.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

New Members of the Sub-Group indicated that it might be helpful to have a checklist of what they should be looking at when observing Board meetings. The Chairman confirmed that she had devised a brief checklist and it was agreed that this would be beneficial.

4

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

9 JULY 2018

In relation to training opportunities for the Sub-Group, it was agreed that the link for an e-learning programme would be forwarded to Members of the Sub-Group.

In relation to the General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) it was confirmed that the Boards were 'data controllers' of information.

It was highlighted that the LSCB and LSAB remained exempt from the Freedom of Information provisions.

RESOLVED

That a checklist for meeting observation be finalised and issued to Members.

7 TERMS OF REFERENCE, OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report by the Health Scrutiny Officer which provided an introduction to the work of the Sub-Group and its terms of reference.

The Chairman reported that one of the achievements of the Sub-Group had been the observations of the Board meetings by members of the Sub-Group and the feedback received.

Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report and confirmed that the terms of reference had been incorporated into the Constitution of Lincolnshire County Council since May 2017.

It was noted that securing full membership on the Sub-Group remained an issue, especially for the parent governor representative role, as there were now only two parent governor representatives, and one of these posts was vacant. It was suggested that the interpretation of the Constitutional provision 'one parent governor representative' could be broader, for example to include any parent governor, or even any parent representatives on boards of trustees for academies. A request was made by the Sub-Group for this to be considered.

There was also concern that the previous recruitment of a Foster Carer representative in 2017 had also been unsuccessful. It was agreed that a Foster Carer representative should be sought.

In relation to the practical working arrangements, for the purposes of discussion, Members were asked to be mindful that the meetings of the Sub-Group were quarterly and were scheduled about four to five weeks after meetings of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Management Group to allow relevant feedback from each meeting.

Members were invited to ask questions, during which the following points were noted:-

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP
9 JULY 2018

- In relation to membership, a suggestion was made that if a Foster Carer representative could not be appointed, the appointment of someone who had gone through the foster system might be appropriate;
- A clear understanding of where the Sub-Group sits within the meetings structure to ensure that the defined roles remained clear;
- It was explained that it was unlikely that any other council operated a safeguarding scrutiny sub group and that Ofsted had been impressed with the commitment to safeguarding scrutiny in Lincolnshire. Clear guidance and remit of the Sub-Group would be required going forward to justify its existence.

RESOLVED

1. That the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Sub-Group and the other relevant constitutional provisions be noted.
2. That consideration be given to the suggestions in relation to the membership of the Sub-Group.

8 OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE WORKING OF THE SUB-GROUP

The Sub-Group discussed its future working arrangements and agreed that serious case reviews and safeguarding adult reviews were an area of great importance and one which could be a focus of the Sub-Group's scrutiny, in terms of how the relevant Board was responding to the recommendations in any report. It was noted that, in some cases, the time between the commissioning of a review and the publication of a review report was too long and that the review report might have a diminished impact in terms of its recommendations.

In line with the terms of reference, the role of the Sub-Group was to ensure that the activity of the two Boards was scrutinised rather than giving detailed consideration of the safeguarding functions of each partner organisation. The Sub-Group was advised once a serious case review or adult safeguarding review had been commissioned, there was limited scope to influence its timing.

After further discussion, it was clarified that the Sub-Group could refer matters to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, and its minutes were presented to these committees as a standard item.

The Sub-Group agreed that observations of meetings of the LSAB and LSCB by a member of the Sub-Group should continue and each agenda should provide an opportunity for the observer to provide a report on their observations.

It was suggested that the Sub-Group needed to strike a balance between taking an overview of the activity of the two Boards and detailed scrutiny of each policy, where in the case of the latter the Sub-Group needed to avoid compromising its scrutiny role by becoming too involved in the development of policies. The Sub-Group's role was to scrutinise the two Boards and how they operated.

There was agreement that the Sub-Group needed to be aware of its role within the overview and scrutiny structure to ensure that it could meet its defined roles. It was suggested that the role was not purely about scrutiny but also particular topics which needed to be considered in order to influence other meetings in the structure to consider areas for improvement.

Overall, Members agreed that they wanted the Sub-Group to be challenging and effective.

In order to discuss this further, it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman meet with the Chairmen and Business Managers of the LSAB and LSCB, and the Health Scrutiny Officer to agree what future agenda and meeting format might look like. Once agreed, the suggested agenda would be circulated to the wider membership for comment.

It was agreed that the Chairman would observe the Safeguarding Adults Board on 26 September 2018 and the Vice-Chairman would observe the Safeguarding Children's Board Strategic Management Group on 13 September 2018.

RESOLVED

That a meeting be held to discuss the future of the Sub-Group.

The meeting closed at 11.18 am