

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

**WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2014, COMMITTEE ROOM 3, COUNTY OFFICES,
NEWLAND, LINCOLN**

PRESENT: Councillors C R Oxby (Chairman), S R Dodds, D Brailsford, and Mrs S Ransome.

Added Members: Emma Olivier-Townrow (Parent Governor Representative)

In attendance: Elaine Baylis (Independent Chair, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board), Chris Cook (Independent Chair, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board),

Officers in attendance: David Culy (LSAB Business Manager), Simon Evans (Scrutiny Officer), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Andrew Morris (LSCB Business Manager), Jade Sullivan (LSCB Audit and Policy Officer), Catherine Wilman (Democratic Services Officer).

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Mrs H N J Powell and Mrs L A Rollings.

12. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

13. MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY
SUB-GROUP HELD ON 16 JULY 2014

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 16 July 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) BUSINESS

14. UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE LSCB AND ITS SUB-GROUPS

The Sub Group considered a report which provided an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and its Sub-Groups.

Two serious case reviews were currently in progress which were due to be finished by the end of the year. More detailed reviews provided better accountability.

Jade Sullivan the newest member of the LSCB team was introduced to the Scrutiny Sub Group. Jade had been appointed as the LSCB's Audit and Policy Officer.

There was a significant amount of auditing being undertaken at the present time.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

15. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION UPDATE

This report provided an update on the work currently being undertaken by the LSCB and its Sub Groups, in particular the Strategy around preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

CSE did occur in Lincolnshire and agencies were fairly confident they knew where it was occurring, however it was more of an issue in areas immediately south of the county.

Educationally, the age group of 11-18 year olds were the main target for CSE education, however there was a gap in year 5 and 6 CSE provision and the LSCB were currently identifying which agency would be best to fill this.

The CSE theatre-in-education play "Chelsea's Choice" was still touring around secondary schools in Lincolnshire and information cards were handed out to students afterwards to help further CSE awareness. In addition, resources for pre and post-play workshops were provided to schools.

It was reported that the Child Sexual Exploitation hub at Grantham Police Station was now operational. Tracy Johnson would co-ordinate visits to the hub for members of the Sub Group.

Ofsted was currently carrying out thematic inspections of CSE provision at other local authorities and their local safeguarding children boards.

A Communications Sub Group was being set up by Caroline Mogg, the CSE Coordinator.

Discussion took place regarding school governors and it was reported that every academy and maintained school should have a governor responsible for safeguarding issues within their school. Three members of the Sub Group who were governors each reported that this was not the case at their schools. It was noted that Hilary Wells was the appropriate officer to speak to regarding this issue.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

16. PRE BIRTH PROTOCOL AUDIT

The Scrutiny Sub Group considered an audit report on the Pre Birth Protocol. The Pre Birth Protocol was created as a result of a Serious Case Review in order to provide practitioners with a tool and a clear pathway to assist with the decision making process when undertaking a pre birth assessment. Children's Social Care would accept referrals for an unborn child at 20 weeks gestation which enabled preventative work to be undertaken with the parents.

Following its creation, the protocol required auditing which was undertaken by Dr Kathryn Houghton of Safer Outlook Consulting Ltd.

Agencies were committed to supporting the protocol and had recently agreed to increase the Board's budget to assist this work.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

17. CHILD PROTECTION PLANS AUDIT

Consideration was given to an audit report of child protection plans which had been undertaken by Barbara Simpson of The Lucy Faithfull Foundation.

A lot of the work highlighted by this report had already been completed by Signs of Safety.

Members felt the audit report had been well written and was very readable. It was agreed the report should be passed to the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee for his information in relation to the scrutiny review into Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding.

It was noted that the Local Authority had done a lot of work raising awareness on early intervention in safeguarding, however a culture change was needed in Team Around the Child.

It was highlighted that all agencies must be responsible for safeguarding, not just social care.

AGREED

1. That the report be noted;
2. That the Child Protection Plans audit be passed onto the Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (LSAB) BUSINESS

18. KEY MESSAGES FROM LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

The Sub Group considered an update on the key issues that the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) had reviewed at its meetings held on 23 July and 2 October 2014.

The Care Act 2014 had been highlighted as it had now completed its journey through parliament. The LSAB would be fully compliant with the Act as of 1 April 2015.

The Board had been pleased with the Assessment Framework and agencies were being asked to complete it next year. On completion, an action plan would be automatically set up for them. The Framework had been adapted from a predominantly health centred format to a document suitable for all LSAB partner agencies.

A Domestic Homicidal Review had recently been undertaken and the action plan and lessons learnt had been shared as appropriate.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

19. DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS

Consideration was given to an update on the Supreme Court ruling on two cases with regard to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), which had lowered the threshold at which deprivation of liberty claims could be triggered. This had meant an unprecedented number of assessment applications to the Council. Councils nationally were seeing a similar response.

Before the court ruling, the Council would receive approximately 150 applications per year. This had increased to approximately 260 per month since the ruling. The issue would eventually be resolved but, due to the sheer volume of applications, there was no quick resolution. It would require either the court judgement to be changed, or for the application process to be changed, the latter of which was more likely.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

20. HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPDATE

The Sub Group considered a report which provided an update on the recent multi-agency operations, undertaken across Lincolnshire, based around human trafficking.

Following a multi-agency operation in the county in September 2014, arrests were made and potential victims identified in respect of Human Trafficking or Modern Day Slavery. Those arrested had been released on Police bail pending further enquiries.

A national phone line (which could be found on the LSAB website) could be used by the public if they suspected human trafficking. More work was currently being undertaken to raise awareness of the issue, especially for staff who were working on the front line for the Council and within the community.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

JOINT BUSINESS

21. LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB GROUP
WORK PROGRAMME 2015

The Sub Group considered its work programme for 2015.

The Members discussed and arranged representation at forthcoming meetings of the LSAB and LSCB Strategic Management Group.

Consideration was given to the Ten Questions from the Ofsted Framework table and their application to the reports discussed during the meeting.

AGREED

That the work programme and all changes made therein be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.

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