

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

**WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY 2015, COMMITTEE ROOM 3, COUNTY OFFICES,
NEWLAND, LINCOLN**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C R OXBY (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors D Brailsford, S R Dodds, Mrs S Ransome and Mrs L A Rollings.

Added Members: Councillor C Burke (District Councils Representative) and Emma Olivier-Townrow (Parent Governor Representative).

In attendance: Chris Cook (Independent Chair, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)).

Officers in attendance: David Culy (Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Business Manager), Cheryl Hall (Democratic Services Officer), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Jane Mason (Programme Manager), Andrew Morris (LSCB Business Manager) and Jade Sullivan (LSCB Audit and Policy Officer).

22. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Scrutiny Sub Group was informed that the Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs H N J Powell, had resigned from the Scrutiny Sub Group and as a result there was now a vacancy and no Vice Chairman.

However, it was highlighted that, according to the terms of reference, if the Chairman was a member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, then the Vice Chairman had to be a member of the Adults Scrutiny Committee. Unfortunately there were currently no other members on the Scrutiny Sub Group from the Adults Scrutiny Committee and it was suggested that the Vice Chairmanship should be left in abeyance until the vacancy had been filled.

AGREED

That the Vice Chairmanship be left in abeyance until the vacancy on the Scrutiny Sub Group had been filled.

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Elaine Baylis (Independent Chair, LSAB).

24. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

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25. MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2014

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 15 October 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) BUSINESS

26. UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE LSCB AND ITS SUB-GROUP

Consideration was given to a report which updated the Scrutiny Sub-Group on the work currently being undertaken by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board and its Sub-Groups.

Members were advised that since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Group, the LSCB had been the subject of a full Ofsted inspection. It was noted that the Board had performed well in the inspection, and the Board Manager and Independent Chair were pleased to confirm that the published Ofsted report on 6 January 2015 had identified that the LSCB was a "Good" Board. The Ofsted grading had put the LSCB in the top 20% of Boards across the Country.

Two serious case reviews (SCR) were currently in progress and both would be concluded by March 2015.

It was noted that the LSCB was drawing to conclusion several large pieces of work, as follows: -

- The Section 11 Audit of Safeguarding in Lincolnshire. Members were advised that this was a large self-assessment of all the agencies and their safeguarding practice across the area;
- The Board was also finalising a joint protocol on Domestic Abuse;
- An Audit of Early Help was currently being undertaken. Members were advised that this was a multi-agency effort looking at cross cutting themes in Lincolnshire's Early Help provision;
- The All-Age Autism Strategy would be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Adults Scrutiny Committee at their January 2015 meetings, as pre-decision scrutiny. The Executive was due to consider this report on 3 February 2015.

Members were reminded that the All-Age Autism Strategy would be launched at an event scheduled to be held on 30 January 2015, of which all Members were invited to attend. Members were assured that a multi-agency approach had been taken in the formation of the Strategy.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

27. OFSTED INSPECTION OF LSCB

As stated above, Members were advised that since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Group, the LSCB had been the subject of a full Ofsted inspection of services for

children in need of help and protection; children looked after; and care leavers. It was noted that the Board had performed well in the inspection, and the Board Manager and Independent Chair were pleased to confirm that the published Ofsted report on 6 January 2015 had identified that the LSCB was a "Good" Board. The Ofsted grading had put the LSCB in the top 20% of Boards across the Country.

Members were advised that there were no areas for priority or immediate action. However, there were three areas for improvement, which were as follows: -

"152. Ensure that evidence of impact on practice is collected and analysed systematically to help the LSCB to measure its effectiveness more accurately and consistently.

153. Ensure that an evaluation of the impact of recent CSE initiatives relating to prevention, protection, prosecution and disruption is undertaken and that the right support is being made available to victims.

154. Ensure that the views of children and young people play an increasing role in the work of the Board and in any service developments that it oversees."

Members were assured that work was being undertaken to improve on the above three areas, and as part of the improvements it was noted that the service was looking to recruit two young inspectors during 2015, to ensure that services were inspected from a young person's perspective.

Members were pleased to note that the Ofsted report had deemed that there were 'well-established scrutiny arrangements which enabled elected members to provide challenge to both the Children's and the Adults Safeguarding Boards'.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

28. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION UPDATE

The 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).

In Lincolnshire the LSCB remained confident that the multi-agency measures that had been put in place would continue to safeguard children and young people from this type of abuse.

In August 2014, the multi-agency CSE team, known as the 'SAFE Team' had become fully operational. The Team was based in Grantham and included officers and staff from Lincolnshire Police; Children's Services; Youth Offending Service; Health and the Police MISPER Co-ordinator. It was noted that the Scrutiny Sub-Group Members had been invited to visit the hub in Grantham and this visit was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 15 January 2015.

It was noted that there had recently been a successful prosecution within Lincolnshire. However, it was also noted that there was no CSE offence to use for prosecutions but that other charges, such as grooming, had to be used for a prosecution instead.

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Members were advised that during October 2014, the award winning drama 'Chelsea's Choice' had toured Lincolnshire schools, colleges and Learning and Teaching Centres. Each performance was attended by representatives from the SAFE Team who were on hand to support any child or young person who required help or additional information.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

29. SECTION 11 ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The report provided Members with an overview of the 2014/15 Section 11 Assessment co-ordinated by the LSCB and undertaken by a team of multi-agency moderators.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 had placed duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contracted out to others, were discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The response from organisations had been very positive, demonstrating full co-operation and embracing a learning culture throughout the process. To date the LSCB had received moderated and agreed assessments from seventeen organisations, including all seven of the district councils. It was noted that officers had been working closely with the British Transport Police (BTP) to help develop a standard response template, as the BTP received approximately 160 requests from safeguarding boards across the county to complete Section 11 Assessments.

A discussion took place regarding town and parish councils and in particular, whether they should complete a Section 11 Assessment. It was suggested that in the first instance, town and parish councils should seek advice from their respective district council or visit the Safe Network website for information. Officers were also available to provide advice, should any be required.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (LSAB) BUSINESS

30. KEY MESSAGES FROM LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

The Scrutiny Sub-Group considered an update on the key issues from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB).

Members were advised that the new Care Act had received Queens Ascent in the autumn of 2014 and would become Statutory on 1 April 2015. As well as setting the requirements for Adult Safeguarding, the Care Act had set out new guidelines and obligations for Safeguarding Adult Boards. At a previous meeting, Members were presented with a high level gap analysis based on a paper produced by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association.

Members were invited to consider a low level gap analysis based on the new guidance, which also showed the current position of the Board against the twenty-nine specific guidance points. The LSAB Business Manager talked Members through the low level gap analysis.

The Act had also identified nineteen requirements for Safeguarding Adult Boards around Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) and a new SAR protocol was currently being written.

It was noted that one of the overarching points within the Care Act was around Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP). The Adult Safeguarding Team was currently working on a programme of implementation around the MSP and this would be presented to the Scrutiny Sub Group at its next scheduled meeting.

The LSAB Business Manager explained that a number of new documents would be needed. A Strategic Plan was now mandatory for each financial year and was currently being written. It was aimed to have this published within the first three months of the new financial year. From this, the Business Plan would then be developed. A new Memorandum of Understanding would reflect the new membership of the Board and it was hoped that a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) would be able to join the Board to provide financial input. A new Policy and Procedures document would also need to be developed.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

31. PEER-CHALLENGE

The report updated Members on the Peer Challenge process which had been undertaken within Lincolnshire County Council in 2013 and to present the Action Plan, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, which had been produced after the visit. An update on the current position of the actions attributed to the LSAB was also attached at Appendix B.

Members were advised that 'Peer Challenge' was a process commissioned by a council and involved a small team of local government peers spending time at the council to provide challenge, and share learning. It was designed to help the council and its partners to assess its current achievements and identify areas for improvement.

In November 2013, Lincolnshire Adult Care had hosted a Safeguarding Peer Challenge and the findings and areas for consideration were collated into an action plan and detailed within the Scrutiny Sub-Group's report.

Members were assured that all of the findings and areas for consideration had been addressed by the LSAB, with the assistance of the Business Manager.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

JOINT BUSINESS

32. LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB GROUP
WORK PROGRAMME 2015

The Scrutiny Sub-Group considered its work programme for 2015.

Members discussed the representation at forthcoming meetings of the LSAB and LSCB Strategic Management Group, where it was noted that Councillor S R Dodds could also attend the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board on 29 April 2015 at 10.00 am.

Members were reminded of the visit to the SAFE Team in Grantham on Thursday, 15 January 2015.

AGREED

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

The meeting closed at 11.50 am.