Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Boards

Joint Board Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014

Attendance

Members of both Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Boards

- Staffordshire Police
- NSPCC
- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust
- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board
- Stoke and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- University Hospital North Staffordshire
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- North Staffs Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
- NHS England, Shropshire and Staffordshire Area Team
- Cafcass

Members of Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board

- Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Burton & South Derbyshire College
- HMYOI Werrington
- Army Welfare Service
- Staffordshire County Council – Families First
- Staffordshire County Council – Community Safety
- Staffordshire County Council – Education
- Staffordshire County Council – Youth Offending Service
- South Staffordshire District Council (representing District & Borough Councils)
- Entrust
- Stafford Council for Voluntary Youth Services
- Hednesford Valley High School (representing High Schools)
- Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Community Rehabilitation Trust
- SES & SP Clinical Commissioning Group
The Cabinet Member for Children, Communities and Localism was in attendance as a ‘Participant Observer’.

**Members of Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board**

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council - People Directorate – Learning Services
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council - People Directorate – Locality Services
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council - People Directorate – Vulnerable Children and Corporate Parenting
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council - People Directorate – Youth Offending Services
- Public Health
- Primary Schools Representative
- Stoke-on-Trent Legal Services
- Savana
- Sixth Form College
- Lay Member

The Cabinet Member for Social Care was in attendance as a ‘Participant Observer’.

**Also present (to give presentations)**

- Strategic Commissioning Lead, Health Improvement, Staffordshire County Council
- Detective Superintendent, Staffordshire Police
- Principal Officer, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Area Manager, Children’s Services, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust

**Apologies: Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board**

- Lay Member
- Independent Futures
- Lane Green First School (representing Primary Schools)
- Chasetown Community School (representing Special Schools)
- St Dominic’s High School for Girls (representing High Schools)

**Apologies: Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board**

- High School representative
- Stoke Association of Secondary, College and Academy Leaders representative
- Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Trust
Minutes and Matters Arising

A copy of the minutes from the previous joint Board meeting, held on 18th September 2013, were shared with all members.

Early Help Assessment / Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

The Assistant Director (Vulnerable Children, Stoke-on-Trent City Council) advised that when the joint Board last met, the CAF paperwork was being re-developed in Stoke-on-Trent. The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership met in February 2014 and partners signed up to the revised paperwork which had been piloted. The Early Help Assessment was launched in April 2014. 200 Early Help Assessments have been completed during the first quarter. At the recent joint Executive Group meeting, agreement had been reached that the Early Help Assessment and CAF would be transferable between the two local authorities.

The Head of Families First (Staffordshire County Council) advised that the Staffordshire CAF had been piloted, with 430 assessments being completed during the pilot period. The paperwork is due to be signed off by the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership before being rolled out across the county.

Domestic Violence Partnership

Following a discussion at the last joint Board about synergy, a scope of commissioned services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was undertaken. It was identified that many contracts had a timeline until 2016; therefore there is a commitment to bring contracts together from that point onwards.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The SARC opened in January 2012 for adult victims of sexual offences. In August 2013 the service expanded to include child victims. During this time 364 adults and 71 children have been seen at the SARC.

In January 2014 the SARC Board recommended that an independent consultant be brought in to review the current situation for a 6 month period (February – July 2014). The review was over three stages:

1. Phase 1 – Priority tasks and short term interventions
2. Phase 2 – Mid term interventions and resolutions
3. Phase 3 – Long term planning and sustainability

The final report in August 2014 highlighted that the SARC is meeting both national and local standards and targets. As a result of phases one and two an action plan was developed to enable the SARC Board to monitor progress and performance closely.

A new SARC Manager has now been appointed and will take up the post in December 2014.
Sub Committees and Sub Group Updates

Performance

The Board was given an overview of the work being undertaken jointly by the two Performance Sub-groups, including the following:

- A joint Performance Outcomes Framework has been developed; however it is predominately local authority data that is shared.
- A Section 11 audit workshop was held in January 2014 and as a result of this the audit paperwork and grade descriptors have been revised. The new documents will be circulated for consultation. Specific work has also been undertaken with Districts in respect of the Section 11 audit process.
- A number of multi-agency audits have been undertaken across the strategic priority areas and the learning from these have been shared across both Boards.
- It was noted that further work is required in respect of collating Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) data.

Policy and Procedures

The Board was given an overview of the work being undertaken by the joint Policy and Procedures Sub-group, including the following:

- There is a rolling programme for refreshing policies and procedures.
- An information sharing agreement has been developed and ratified by both Boards.
- The Missing Children and Bruising in Non Mobile Babies policies are in the process of being finalised.
- Over 600 responses were received to the practitioner survey, which was used to measure the effectiveness of inter-agency policies and procedures.
- The Serious Case Review Toolkit has been agreed.
- On-going task groups are currently refreshing the Fabricated Illness, E-Safety, Suicide and Self Harm and Children with a Disability policies and procedures.
- A task group has also been established in respect of Elective Home Education.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The Board was given an overview of the being undertaken by CDOP, including the following:

- Child Death Nurses for both North and South Staffordshire have now been appointed giving support to families.
- CDOP campaigns are on-going. The Safe Sleep campaign has resulted in a reduction of the number of deaths. The campaign has recently been refreshed.
- Some work is being undertaken in respect of local deaths relating to asthma.
- Links are being made with the Palliative Care Network to review expected deaths.
- Neo-natal deaths remain a challenge for CDOP.
- The CDOP Co-ordinator was thanked for her hard work in progressing the safety campaigns.

Serious Case Review (SCR)

The Board was given an overview of the work being undertaken jointly by the two Serious Case Review Sub-groups, including the following:
- Board partners were thanked for their valuable contribution to SCR scoping panels.
- It was noted that the learning from SCRs and learning reviews will continue to be shared across both Boards.
- The Learning and Development Framework and How to do it Toolkit has been developed jointly.

**Workforce, Development and Training (WD&T)**

The Board was given an overview of the work being undertaken jointly by the two Workforce, Development and Training Sub-groups, including the following:

- Thanks were given to the training teams for their invaluable support in delivering multi agency training.
- A joint Training Needs Analysis has been completed.
- It was noted that last year the SSCB funded Escape and Chelsea’s Choice across schools in Staffordshire. A cyber-bullying drama is currently being developed and a joint application has been made to the Police and Crime Commissioner to help to fund this across both Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from January 2015 onwards.
- A joint LSCB conference is being planned for autumn 2015. Board members were asked to forward any suggestions for the conference agenda to either of the WD&T teams.

**Communication and Engagement**

The two LSCB Managers gave an update to the Board. Recent campaigns have included Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honour based violence, safe sleeping. It was noted that further work is required with black and minority ethnic families to re-iterate the safeguarding message.

Engagement with practitioners is a focus for both Boards and all partners were asked to thank their workforce for their active contribution to the work of the Boards. Positive feedback has been received from the briefings that have been produced.

**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

The MASH Principal Officer gave a presentation to the Board.

Following the presentation, it was suggested that it may be helpful to re-iterate the message to front line practitioners about referral pathways to the MASH. This may help to dispel the myth that every referral is ‘mashed’.

There was a discussion around the future capacity and resource implications for the MASH.

**Commissioning of School Nursing Services**

a. An overview of the current role and workload of school nurses

The Area Manager, Children's Services, SSOTP gave a presentation on the current workload of school nurses.
b. The national perspective and local plans

The Strategic Lead, Health Improvement, Staffordshire County Council and the Consultant in Public Health, Stoke-on-Trent City Council gave a presentation on the role of school nurses from a Public Health perspective.

c. Contribution of other health professionals within child protection processes

The Named GP gave a presentation on the contribution of other health professionals within child protection processes.

Following the presentations, there was some discussion and debate and it was agreed that the school nurse specification should be an agenda item for both Boards in March 2015 to evaluate the progress made.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

d. Evaluation of Stoke-on-Trent CSE Services

The Strategic Manager for Safeguarding, Stoke-on-Trent City Council gave a presentation on the recent evaluation of CSE and Missing Children services in Stoke-on-Trent.

e. MACaRoSE Options Paper

The Board was presented with a Multi-agency Forum for Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (MACaRoSE) options paper. Following table top discussions Board members agreed to proceed with establishing a new multi-agency operating model to focus on sexual violence.

There is an opportunity to reconfigure and strengthen the effectiveness of key local safeguarding priorities in respect of sexual violence risk to children. National agendas relating to CSE, missing children, female genital mutilation, trafficking, gangs and forced marriage could be strategically coordinated by a small executive forum consisting of key senior agency leads from partner agencies. This executive group would be responsible for coordinating and meeting the outcomes set out on a sexual violence strategy. Existing operating forums could report into the executive group and task to finish groups could be established as and when required to meet specific strategy requirements. LSCBs and their partner agencies would be meeting new national requirements and promoting a clear focus on communicating shared key messages and directing preventative and targeted work based on local knowledge.

f. Consideration of the scope of the currently CSE strategic priority – should this now be expanded?

Board members were asked to consider the above question as part of a table top exercise. Feedback from the exercise will be shared with Board members.

Transition

A presentation was given to the Board on the transition from children to adult services.
Partner agencies were asked to consider whether the three Boards have a strategic role in promoting multi-agency co-ordination and communication in respect of the transition process for young people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, particularly looked after children. It was suggested that a task group should be convened to consider this as a potential strategic priority.

### Neglect and the Toxic Trio

A presentation was given to the Board on Neglect and the Toxic Trio. Following a table top exercise; Board members agreed that these should be included as strategic priorities for both Boards for 2015 – 2018. The Executive Group will drive this forward.

### Governance

The joint LSCB Independent Chair advised the Board that she wished to give six months notice of her intention to stand down as chair of all three Boards.