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Minutes of Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board Meeting
Tuesday 25th September 2018 at 9.30am
The Conference Hall, Entrust HQ, Riverway Centre, Riverway, Stafford

Present

John Wood	SSCB Independent Chair
Lynne Milligan	Interim SSCB Manager
Estelle Landon	SSCB Business Co-ordinator – Minute taker
Kate Sharratt	Head of Partnership & Development, Families First
Phil Pusey	Chief Executive Officer, Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services
Simon Brownsword	Detective Chief Inspector, Staffordshire Police
Jenny Sims	Assistant Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police
Ros Negrycz	Designated Doctor for Child Protection (North Staffs), North Staffs CCG
Helen Inwood	Director of Nursing, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust
Denise Englefield	Area Personal Support Officer, Army Welfare Service
Paula Carr	Designated Nurse Child Protection, Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire CCG
Stephanie Lowe	Designated Nurse Child Protection, South Staffordshire CCG
Julie-Anne Murray	Deputy Director of Nursing, North Staffs Combined Health NHS Trust (<i>representing Maria Nelligan</i>)
Peter McNabb	Headteacher, St Dominic's Grammar School
Hassan Zoaka	Designated Doctor for Child Protection (South Staffs), South Staffordshire CCG
Janey Merron	Named GP, North Staffordshire CCG
Mick Harrison	Commissioner for Safety & Families, Staffordshire County Council
Jim Bywater	Group Manager, Central Risk Reduction, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Jane O'Daly-Miller	Safeguarding Lead, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton
Councillor Mark Sutton	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
Tony Kuffa	Head, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Community Rehabilitation Company
Sean Latham	Director, Entrust
Roz Randall	Education Safeguarding Lead, Staffordshire County Council
Jamie-Ann Edwards	Head of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Probation Service
Berenike Baeche	Paediatric Trainee (<i>observing</i>)
Melina Hancox	Victim Services, Victim Support
Nicola Holmes	Deputy Head of Service, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Community Rehabilitation Company
Simon Caton	Detective Inspector, Staffordshire Police (<i>agenda items 1-5 only</i>)
Julie Long	Principal Community Safety Officer (<i>agenda item 7 only</i>)

Apologies

Sarah Moore	Senior Service Manager, Cafcass
Safeguarding Lead	Head of Safeguarding, West Midlands Ambulance Service
Maria Nelligan	Director of Nursing, North Staffs Combined Health NHS Trust
Dr Ulka Choudhary	Named GP, South Staffordshire CCG
Jennie Mattinson	Superintendent, Staffordshire Police
Vonni Gordon	Strategic Lead Specialist Safeguarding Delivery, Families First
John Beaty	Vice Principal, Burton & South Derbyshire College
Helen Riley	Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities
Sharon Conlon	Head of Strategic Safeguarding, Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Clair Brindley	Lay Member
Lorna MacColl	Named GP, South Staffordshire CCGs
Hazel Williamson	County Manager, Staffordshire Youth Offending Service
Ian Darlington	Governor, HMYOI Werrington
Heather Johnstone	Director of Nursing and Quality, Staffordshire CCGs
Angela Jervis	Children Safeguarding Lead, Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

	Member
<p>1. <u>Welcome, Introductions & Apologies</u></p> <p>John Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>In his introductory remarks John reminded members that the role of the Board is to ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding systems and practices in Staffordshire. John encouraged members to question and challenge where issues are highlighted during the Board meeting or are known about elsewhere.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Minutes of 26th June 2018 – for accuracy</u></p> <p>The minutes of 26th June 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising from 26th June 2018</u></p> <p>All actions were either completed or are agenda items for this meeting, with the exception of the following:</p> <p><u>Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF)</u></p> <p>The following action is outstanding:</p> <p><i>Action: Jennie Mattinson to clarify with DCI Nicki Furlong in respect of sharing information with CCGs and feedback to Ros Negrycz, Hassan Zoaka, Stephanie Lowe and Paula Carr.</i></p> <p>It was noted that the last CSAF meeting, scheduled for August 2018, was cancelled due to a number of apologies arising from competing commitments. Ros Negrycz clarified that the above action was in respect of information sharing between police and health colleagues during complex abuse cases. Simon Brownsword confirmed that there had been no recent cases requiring use of the Joint LSCB Complex Abuse policy; therefore the criteria had not yet been put into practice.</p> <p>Action: Simon Brownsword to seek an update from Jennie Mattinson.</p> <p>John Wood advised Board members that he had recently received correspondence from Catherine Small (NSPCC) indicating that due to competing work pressures, Catherine would no longer be able to attend both the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent SCB meetings. Catherine confirmed that she will continue to attend the Stoke-on-Trent SCB and Joint LSCB CSAF meetings; however she will no longer attend SSCB meetings. Board members noted Catherine's comments.</p>	<p>Simon Brownsword</p>

	Member
<p>John also queried whether NHS England should be removed from the list of apologies on Board meeting minutes as they are represented by the CCGs. Board members agreed to this proposal.</p> <p><u>Public Version of Board Minutes</u></p> <p>Estelle Landon reminded Board members that a summary, anonymised version of the Board meeting minutes are produced each quarter and are published on the SSCB website. Estelle queried whether in future the Board minutes could be published in full, in line with other LSCBs. Board members agreed to this proposal.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Implementing New Statutory Arrangements for Children’s Safeguarding (Early Adopter)</u></p> <p>Kate Sharratt advised that the three statutory partners identified in the new Working Together 2018 guidance – Police, Children’s Social Care and CCGs – have met on a number of occasions to consider future partnership arrangements. A Joint LSCB Executive Group meeting has been scheduled for 24th October 2018. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider the mechanism for more effectively ensuring that children across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are safeguarded.</p> <p>At a strategic level there is a proposal for there to be a joint Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board; however consideration needs to be given to the processes that would support this. Statutory partners have recognised that the Board needs to have more of a scrutiny and assurance role and be able to demonstrate how the partnership is working effectively.</p> <p>Kate noted that an element of the successful DfE Early Adopters bid was in respect of engaging more effectively with the Education sector. There are in excess of 400 schools in Staffordshire and over 130 in Stoke-on-Trent. The challenge for the partnership is how to work effectively with schools and colleges and how to support the Education Safeguarding Leads. Pete McNabb welcomed the offer of further support for schools.</p> <p>Jamie-Ann Edwards queried what deadlines are in place for the new safeguarding arrangements. Kate Sharratt confirmed that Miriam Hussain has been appointed as Joint LSCB Project Co-ordinator. New arrangements will need to be in place by April 2019.</p> <p>John Wood queried the arrangements for communicating with the wider network of safeguarding partners going forward. Kate confirmed that this would be discussed at the Joint Executive Group meeting on 24th October 2018.</p> <p>In conclusion of this agenda item, John asked all those invited to the Joint LSCB Executive Group meeting to prioritise the meeting as it will be an important opportunity for partners to engage in discussions about future arrangements.</p>	

	Member
<p>4. <u>SSCB Annual Report 2017/2018</u></p> <p>Lynne Milligan noted that the format of the SSCB annual report is significantly different this year and is based on the style of the recent Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) annual report. Lynne noted that whilst there is some evidence of impact within the report, this is still an area that needs strengthening. Lynne welcomed comments on the draft report.</p> <p>A number of Board members commented positively about the new format and suggested that it is a more user friendly document.</p> <p>Action: Comments to be sent to SSCB Admin by Friday 5th October 2018.</p> <p>John Wood commented that whilst the annual report is presented well, its purpose is to demonstrate a robust analysis of effectiveness. John suggested that there is still work to do to strengthen this in future annual reports. Thanks were given to Lynne Milligan and everyone involved in producing this year's report.</p> <p>Board members endorsed the Annual Report 2017/2018 subject to some minor amendments.</p> <p><u>SSCB Business Plan 2018/2019</u></p> <p>Lynne Milligan noted that the business plan is shorter this year, in recognition of the period of change the Board is going through. Whilst the statutory requirements of Working Together 2018 are still being met, there is flexibility for the Board to operate differently.</p> <p>Lynne noted that parental substance misuse was not included in the business plan; however it will be included in the final version.</p> <p>John Wood queried whether partner agencies are able to deliver on the business plan objectives and be in a position to report back to the Board in March 2019. John suggested that the evidence for the annual report is derived from being able to deliver against the business plan.</p> <p>Mick Harrison confirmed that parental substance misuse falls within Tony Bullock's remit as Lead Commissioner for Public Health; however Tony isn't a Board member. Ros Negrycz queried whether Public Health should be represented at Board meetings. Mick Harrison confirmed that the children's element of Public Health falls within his remit as Commissioner for Safety and Families; however parental substance misuse sits in the adult arena. John suggested that this requires further discussion at the Joint LSCB Executive Group meeting on 24th October.</p> <p>Jenny Sims queried the reason behind the Child Sexual Abuse element of the business plan having a narrow remit. Mick Harrison responded that when the Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) was established the remit was very broad and incorporated several vulnerabilities; however the focus was primarily on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Kate Sharratt commented that the last Ofsted visit to the Local Authority challenged the CSE focus. The work been</p>	<p>All Members</p>

	Member
<p>undertaken in respect of CSE now needs to be used as a footprint for the wider CSA vulnerabilities. Mick Harrison noted that the District Councils have found it challenging to work across the wider vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Lynne Milligan commented that whilst the Board is not responsible for the delivery of services, it should have a clear understanding of the lines of accountability in order to fulfil its scrutiny and assurance role.</p> <p>Roz Randall commented that the new Ofsted Inspection Framework challenges schools about issues such as County Lines.</p> <p>Jim Bywater queried whether scrutiny of the Fire Service through the Family Strategic Partnership and the Section 11 audit is sufficient. Kate Sharratt responded that as each partner agency has their own internal auditing processes, there needs to be professional trust and openness that the audits have been triangulated with statutory regulations.</p> <p>Board members endorsed the Business Plan 2018/2019 subject to some minor amendments and the inclusion of parental substance misuse.</p> <p>Action: Lynne Milligan to forward a copy of the final version of the Business Plan to Board members by Friday 28th September.</p>	<p>Lynne Milligan</p>
<p>5. <u>Staffordshire Police Child Protection and Exploitation Team</u></p> <p>Detective Inspector Simon Caton gave an update on the new Police Child Protection and Exploitation Team (CPET), which became operational on 4th September 2018. The new team will deal with all aspects of Child Protection and Child Sexual Exploitation. There will be four teams with 5 Detective Sergeants and 42 Detective Constables working between 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday (8am – 6pm Sunday). Operation SAFENET has become part of this department.</p> <p>Action: Copy of the presentation slides to be circulated with these minutes.</p> <p>Kate Sharratt queried whether any support could be offered from the Local Authority, particularly in respect of training for officers around the S47 process, from a Children’s Social Care perspective. Kate and Simon agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Ros Negrycz offered to support the new team by offering a link to specialist professionals at UHNM. Ros noted that all FGM examinations take place at the Royal Stoke hospital.</p> <p>Mark Sutton welcomed the new CPET arrangements but queried what process is in place for dealing with cases outside of the operating hours. Simon Caton responded that all front line officers will still continue to receive safeguarding training and a DI will always be on call out of hours. Simon noted that the Force has recently reviewed its process for responding to incidents and as a result a Chief Inspector has an overview of the incident control room.</p>	<p>SSCB Admin</p>

	Member
<p>Mick Harrison acknowledged that Staffordshire Police have recognised the challenges faced within a particular area of vulnerability and have made changes to address it.</p> <p>Jenny Sims confirmed that a Police Vulnerability Plan is in place. Phil Pusey queried whether it is possible to capture the voice of young people in the plan. Jenny confirmed that the plan is being monitored by Jennie Mattinson and the voice of young people will be included.</p> <p>In summary, John Wood thanked Police colleagues for their openness in sharing the challenges and reiterated the offers of support from partner agencies. He commented that the clear willingness of partners to work together as demonstrated through this discussion is always good to see.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Family Strategic Partnership (FSP) Annual Report 2017/2018</u></p> <p>The FSP Annual Report was shared for consideration. This is the first annual report to be produced by the FSP. A performance framework has also been developed which will be used to hold agencies to account. Mick Harrison advised that the Troubled Families work will come to an end in 2020. Staffordshire was successful in an Earned Autonomy Bid and work is being undertaken with the Districts to try to reduce demand on statutory services.</p> <p>John Wood noted that early indications suggested that the Place Based Approach (PBA) has resulted in a decrease in demand, which is a welcome development, but this needs to be sustainable. Mick Harrison responded that work is being undertaken with a cohort of families who meet a specific criteria and there is evidence of sustained outcomes. A lot of work is being done through the Local Support Teams and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Mick Harrison noted that a key priority for the FSP is emotional health and wellbeing. This is supported by the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was noted that Helen Riley is leading on the children's element of the Staffordshire Transformation Plan.</p> <p>Phil Pusey commented that at the recent Local Government Association Peer Review in Tamworth, Chief Inspector Ash Farrington noted that there had been a 10-15% reduction in overall calls to Police in Tamworth. Tamworth is the most advanced of the PBA areas and is producing tangible results.</p> <p>The MARAC pilot is also running in Tamworth and complements the PBA. The pilot will end in March 2019. Simon Brownsword noted that there will need to be a formal evaluation of the MARAC pilot before it is rolled out across the County.</p> <p>Jenny Sims noted that whilst the outcomes in Tamworth are encouraging, they are not reflective of the whole County. Discussions are being held with the Districts' Chief Executives; however, funding is the key issue.</p>	

	Member
<p><u>Early Help Update Report and Placed Based Approach</u></p> <p>The updated report was considered.</p> <p>In total eight District Investment Plans are being developed, and four have been agreed and signed off.</p> <p>Phil Pusey commented on a potential risk to the ability of SCVYS to deliver the voluntary sector offer dependent upon the decisions to be taken in relation to Staffordshire County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>The Early Help video produced by Burton College has a gap in the narrative so has been returned to the college with a request for support. The link to the clip will be shared in the next FSP newsletter.</p> <p>Action: Link to be circulated with these minutes.</p> <p>In response to Phil Pusey's comment about the Council's financial strategy, John Wood queried how the Local Authority will ensure that decisions to reduce funding won't impact negatively on services provided.</p> <p>Councillor Mark Sutton responded that the Local Authority has over the past few years reduced its running costs by £240 million, however it faces a further £35 million shortfall in the budget next year. By law, the Local Authority must produce a balanced budget. In response to this, the Local Authority took the decision to publish its short / medium financial strategy three months earlier than usual. Mark outlined that there will be a consultation process and no final budget decisions will be made until February 2019.</p> <p>Jenny Sims commented that all partner agencies are facing increased austerity and queried how the Board gains an understanding of the impact on services which may be affected by budget cuts.</p> <p>Mick Harrison commented that there is currently no partnership arena for the scrutiny of budget decisions. The FSP needs to mature to another level before these conversations could be held.</p> <p>Councillor Mark Sutton noted that some of the budget pressures have derived from an increased investment into Children's Social Care. There has also been an increased into Adults Social Care.</p> <p>Jenny Sims requested assurances in respect of how budget reductions will impact on services.</p> <p>In conclusion, John Wood suggested that there is no existing forum for discussing these issues and offering assurances. It was recognised that there are opportunities outside of the Board meeting for these discussions to take place. The Board will have an interest in the outcome of any decisions made in respect of resources particularly in relation to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children and families.</p>	<p>SSCB Admin</p>

	Member
<p>7. <u>Domestic Abuse Services</u></p> <p>Melina Hancox, Victim Support, Julie Long Principal Community Safety Officer, Staffordshire County Council and Tony Kuffa, Community Rehabilitation Company, gave a presentation on the arrangements for the new Domestic Abuse services.</p> <p>The pan-Staffordshire Domestic Abuse services will commence on 1st October 2018. Operating across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and funded by the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, 'New Era' will provide a victim and perpetrator service across the whole County.</p> <p>In line with needs identified within the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, support and services will span four tiers of provision, ranging from Prevention through to Early Intervention, Targeted Support and Acute Support and will extend provision to victims, perpetrators, children and families, communities and businesses.</p> <p>Victim services will be provided by Victim Support and perpetrator services by the Reducing Re-Offending Partnership.</p> <p>On behalf of the Districts Safeguarding Sub Group, Lynne Milligan raised the following queries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will welcome packs for partner agencies include a point of contact? <i>Melina Hancox (Victim Support) confirmed that the packs will include a contact.</i> 2. Will schools be charged for the early intervention work? <i>Melina commented that there is no planned approach to charge schools, however the work in schools will need to be undertaken in pilot areas.</i> <p>Lynne Milligan also commented that the Districts have noted an increase in peer on peer abuse. Lynne asked for this to be given consideration when developing services.</p> <p>Tony Kuffa commented that whilst the existing perpetrator programmes are low in demand there is some flexibility within the service. A key element of the roles in the perpetrator team will be to encourage engagement.</p> <p>In conclusion, John Wood commented on the important role of safeguarding agencies to engage and support the new service to enable the mutual benefits from the new arrangements to be achieved.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Sub Group Activity by Exception</u></p> <p>8.1 – Executive Group</p> <p>John Wood commented that the promotion of Richard Hancock to Director of Children’s Services in Tameside has created a vacancy for Chair of the Executive Group and Vice Chair of the Board. Ros</p>	

Negrycz is the Vice Chair and has agreed to Chair the next meeting in October. The charring arrangements will be formalised at the next Executive Group meeting and have regard to the new SCB arrangements.

8.2 – Performance Management

A draft proposal for the Joint LSCB Scrutiny and Assurance Sub Group was shared for information. The proposal is yet to be agreed by the 'shadow group' which is made up of the three statutory partner agencies. A discussion is required to agree how information will be received and scrutinised going forward. Currently the information received is very much data driven. There is an opportunity to look at the way in which the existing Performance Management Sub Group operates and make amendments. The proposal will be discussed further at the Joint LSCB Executive Group meeting in October.

8.3 - Serious Case Review

An update on the work of the Serious Case Review Subgroup was given as follows:

- Child C and Child D - these are SCRs undertaken in 2014. Criminal proceedings have prevented publication. One of the cases is being re-assessed by the Crown Prosecution Service; the other case is due to go to trial in 2019. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is aware of these cases and the reason why publication is on hold. The action plans have been embedded.
- Child E – following an extra-ordinary Board meeting in May 2018, a risk assessment meeting was held in June 2018. The outcome of the meeting was that partner agencies decided not to publish the overview report as presented. Advice was sought from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in relation to the question of publication. At the second risk assessment meeting on 24th September 2018, partners agreed to publish a heavily redacted and anonymised version of the report. The Independent Chair will be having a conversation with a member of the National Panel in the next few days in relation to publication.
- BP Learning Review – the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have challenged the decision not to conduct a formal Serious Case Review. John Wood is due to speak to one of the Panel members (Peter Sidebotham) tomorrow to discuss this further.
- Birmingham LSCB – as part of the Early Adopters programme, Birmingham LSCB is piloting a Rapid Review Process. It is acknowledged that across the West Midlands region there are 14 different approaches to Serious Case reviews and Learning Reviews. The SCR process is resource intensive and commissioning an external reviewer doesn't always offer an assurance of quality. Birmingham

	Member
<p>LSCB is currently reviewing the relevant paperwork for the rapid review process. Both the SSCB and Stoke-on-Trent SCB will take part in a three month pilot. Further discussion will take place at the SCR sub group and will be fed back to the Executive Groups by exception.</p> <p><u>8.4 – Joint Policies & Procedures Sub Group</u></p> <p>The following Joint LSCB policies and procedures have been published since the June 2018 Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Religious Beliefs • Working with Parents who Misuse Substances Policy <p>The current position was noted and there were no exceptions to report to the Board.</p> <p><u>8.5 – Workforce Development & Training (WD&T) Sub Group</u></p> <p>The next WD&T Sub Group meeting is scheduled for Friday 28th September. There will be a discussion at the meeting in respect of producing brief ‘top tips for practitioners’ which will be shared via Facebook and YouTube.</p> <p>The current position was noted and there were no exceptions to report to the Board.</p> <p><u>8.6 – Child Death Overview Panel</u></p> <p>The CDOP Annual Report 2017/2018 was endorsed by the Board.</p> <p>The current position was noted and there were no exceptions to report to the Board.</p> <p><u>8.7 – Districts</u></p> <p>Mick Harrison gave an update on behalf of the Districts Sub Group. As a result of the development workshop held on 24th July, the agenda for the September 2018 sub group meeting followed a new format which worked well.</p> <p>The current position was noted and there were no exceptions to report to the Board.</p>	
<p>9. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>John Wood advised Board members that he had recently written to Helen Riley and John Henderson to give 6 months’ notice of his intention to retire upon completion of 4 years as SSCB Independent Chair in March 2019.</p>	
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting:</u></p>	

	Member
Tuesday 18 th December 2018, 9.30am – 12.30pm, Trentham / Rudyard Suite, Staffordshire Place 1, Stafford.	