

DEVON AREA CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a meeting
Held on Friday 15th July 2005 at Buckfast Abbey**

Present:

Anne Whiteley, Assistant Director (Chair), Devon Social Services Directorate
Chris Dimmelow, County Child Protection Manager, Devon Social Services Directorate
Deborah Booth, Group Manager, Inclusion, Devon Local Education Authority
Helen Hyland, Designated Nurse, North & East/South & West Devon Health Community
Derek Moore, Assistant Director, NCH
Ann Morecroft, Designated Manager, North & East Devon Health Community
Debra Laphorne, Director of Public Health, South & West Health Community
Jane Richards, Portfolio Holder Child Protection, Devon Local Medical Community
Ann Wilson, Senior Practitioner, Human Resources Directorate
Charles Holmes, Designated Doctor, South & West Devon Health Community
Martin Gladwin, Manager, CAF/CASS
Laura Hubbard-Fielder, Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Juliet Hammacott, Acting P.E.W.O.
Dr Alison Lee, Registrar, Child Psychology
Mr Martin Spragg, Youth Offending Service Manager
John Clements, Devon & Cornwall Police
Simon Snell, Devon & Cornwall Police
John Shaw, Joint Agency Services Manager
Catriona Cunningham, Nurse Consultant, Safeguarding Children
Alison Kearnes, NSPCC Representative
Gillian Wall, Child Protection Administrator

Apologies:

Hazel Curtis, Designated Doctor, North and East Devon Health Community
Peter Walker, Principal Education Welfare Officer, Devon Local Education Authority
Madeleine Jackson, Senior Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service
Tony Sweeney, Assistant County Solicitor, Devon County Council
Mary Mitchell, Assistant Chief Officer, Devon & Cornwall Probation Service
Carole Town, Clinical Psychologist, JACTAT and CAMHS
Peter Hancock, Housing Officer

1. MINUTES OF 22nd APRIL 2005, ACCURACY

Correct spelling: Debra Laphorne

Amendment: Report from the Training Sub Committee, Action: Jane Haslam and Ann Wilson to work up proposals for feedback at the next ACPC Meeting.

2. MINUTES OF 22nd APRIL 2005, MATTERS ARISING

New Licensing Laws

Chris Dimmelow advised that the department were receiving c. 30 applications a day. He noted that the deadline for receipt of these applications was 5th August 2005 and that to date they had only received c. 30% of the applications. The expectation was that there would be a surge over the next few weeks. Chris Dimmelow advised that there was nothing too controversial in the 100's of applications and so far they had just received one positive check. He added that based on their calculations so far, there was at least 55 hours work a week to process licenses, based on the 8,000 expected applications.

Deborah Booth suggested sharing information from the knowledge received by Education about child employment. Chris Dimmelow welcomed this suggestion and asked that all ACPC members keep him informed of any concerns which their department may have in relation to any particular establishment.

Anne Whiteley added that in six months time, a formal letter would be drafted to the Associate of Directors for Social Services, to advise of the impact of the legislation in terms of resources and finances.

ACTION:

- **ALL ACPC MEMBERS TO ADVISE CHRIS DIMMELOW OF ANY CONCERNS THEY MAY HAVE IN RESPECT OF A PARTICULAR ESTABLISHMENT.**
- **FORMAL REPORT TO BE COMPLETED 6 MONTHS INTO THE ACTIVITY AND AN UPDATE SENT TO THE ADSS RE: OVERALL IMPACT OF THE LEGISLATION.**
- **ISSUE OF FUNDING WITHIN SAFEGUARDING BOARD TO BE ADDRESSED.**

Common Assessment Framework

Anne Whiteley provided the following update:

- A National Policy Directive, which would be very heavily prescribed nationally, was due in respect of the implementation and roll out of the CAF paperwork.
- A National Training Tool Kit for implementation was available for practitioners and anyone working within children's and adult service.
- A recent meeting was held with Devon County Council to consider the key issues of implementation, and it was agreed that the Children' Services would lead the roll out.
- Devon County Council has already set aside funding from last year's budget to support this implementation.
- Local Authorities across the Country piloting the CAF paperwork, but Devon would not be one of them
- The use of National Exemplar Forms highly recommended to ensure consistency, and to establish a standard across the Country.
- The project expected to be a highly complex piece of implementation and it was agreed that Maria Kasprzyk would no longer be responsible for moving this forward. It was proposed that a dedicated appointment would be required to work alongside a team, to implement this piece of work.

John Shaw presented an overview of the Child Concern Pathways programme, which was being created as a result of work which came out of Pathways specific. It was hoped that the programme would be linked to the Common Assessment Framework, to give it some form of structure and process. He advised that this was due out for Consultation over the summer period with a view to commencing the build of the model some time in August.

The general feedback of the meeting was that this would streamline existing information making it easier to identify and co-ordinate services and resources specific to the children who require them vs. current evidence which was indicating that some services were disproportionate to the needs of the children.

Also discussed was the role and responsibility of the LCSB within the Children's Trust, and it was agreed that this needed further discussion.

ACTION:

- **TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE NEXT ACPC MEETING**

Integrated Children's System

Anne Whiteley advised that the time scales for implementation was by January 06, however, this had been set back due to IT difficulties. It was now anticipated that the timings for completion would be end March 2006.

Martin Spragg advised of a proposed link between the YOT Database and Social Services Care First to enable both parties to have two-way read only access. He added that both service providers were in liaison to develop further.

S.A.R.C.

Simon Snell distributed the briefing paper for the information of ACPC members, and advised of a strategy meeting which was due to take place on 9th August 2005.

ACTION:

- **TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE NEXT MEETING. SIMON SNELL TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FOLLOWING THE STRATEGY MEETING.**

Ensuring Compliance with P.A.F. 20

Chris Dimmelow advised that Devon were still hitting the nation target of 100% of Child Protection Reviews being held on time.

Private Fostering

Chris Dimmelow distributed the following papers for the information of ACPC members:

1. Update from Alison Davis, Policy & Strategy Manager
2. Devon Children's Services Statement on Private Fostering

Chris Dimmelow added that progress was being made as much as possible in accordance with emerging advice in respect of The Children's Act, however, no formal guidance had yet been received.

Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Young Persons in Custody

Martin Spragg advised that there were increasing concerns in relation to the ASBO Legislation due to the number of young people who were reaching certain points in the escalation process. The first child recently went into Court for breach of his ASBO and received a custodial sentence, and concerns were that the behaviour itself would never have triggered such a sentence within the mainstream justice system. He noted that this was likely to impact on the possibility of an increased risk of Young Offenders. Linked to that was the issue of where young offenders were being placed and the number of recent deaths in custody (23); 3 within Secure Training Units vs. none within the Local

Authority's Secure Units. However, with the increased number of Secure Children's Homes being closed, and the lack of availability of other prison services eg. Secure Training Centres, this was giving rise to under 15 year olds being sent to prison.

The meeting discussed this in detail and a number of other issues were raised in relation to young people in Custody:

- the length of a sentence and in particular how this can be increased substantially through the risk of repeated breaches.
- the recent guidance requesting that schools actively consider taking children off the Register – the key concern being where the child goes once the sentence is complete.
- the role of Secure Units and the Safeguarding Board's overarching responsibility to children within these environments.
- The lack of services (eg.CAMHS) within these Secure Units eg. The Atkinson Unit.

Safeguarding Children – Child Contact with Prisoners

Chris Dimmelow further advised of a Children's Safeguarding Committee Sub Group which had recently been established within 3 prisons in Devon. These groups would be identifying and giving consideration to:

- dangerous people being released into the community
- children visiting prisoners in prison

Additionally, as part of this Sub Group, any child(ren) in prison would immediately be brought to Chris Dimmelow's attention for his action.

Sudden Infant Death Response Team

Charles Holmes advised of a Regional CEMACH Meeting (Confidential Enquiry into Child / Maternal Death) which was due to be held in Exeter on 5th August 2005. It was hoped that this meeting would provide clarity re: the methodology used for investigating child deaths up to the age of 18 years. He added that it would be the responsibility of the LCSB to take over the overseeing of the system which had considerable resource implications.

ACTION:

- **CHARLES HOLME TO PROVIDE A DEBRIEF AT THE NEXT ACPC MEETING.**

Simon Snell distributed a DRAFT version of the Child Protection Working Practice in respect of Infant Death. He added that their Child Protection Policies were being completely reviewed internally, and that part of this was reviewing progress made with all policies re: Sudden Infant Death.

ACTION:

- **UPDATE TO BE PROVIDED IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHARLES HOLMES' BRIEFING AT THE NEXT ACPC.**

ACPC Communication

Catriona Cunningham provided an overview of current developments within the S/W Practitioners Forum. She advised that the forum was looking at areas of good practice as well as areas that need development or required a multi-agency audit. She noted that the programme was in early stages of development, and that they were receiving representation from some of the Agencies. Police and Health had consistent membership, however, Social Services and Education had less.

ACTION:

- **CHRIS DIMMELOW TO WORK ON SOCIAL SERVICES' REPRESENTATION.**

CRB Checks

The meeting was advised that the Government had issued an update re: progress against Bichard implementation and that the programme was progressing on course.

Martin Spragg raised concerns regarding the recruitment of volunteers when a positive Police Check is identified. He stated that there were circumstances whereby a) the volunteer disclosed the offences and/or b) the volunteer has since worked within a Local Authority and received a positive reference making the recommendation to discount the CRB Check. This matter was discussed and the outcome was that the decision needed to be made in conjunction with the Appointing Officer and a Human Resource Advisor and signed off by a Senior Manager. It was noted that specific Human Resource Guidance was available in respect of the processes in the event of a Positive CRB Check.

Juliet Hammacott advised of the following publication:
Safe Recruitment & Selection in Education Setting.
Issue date: June 2005-07-15 DfES ref: 1568/2005.

Statutory Guidance on making arrangements under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004

Chris Dimmelow circulated a summary which detailed the main actions. ACPC members were advised to consult the 'full' document on-line to understand guidance regarding their own Agencies. He advised that by 1st October 2005, all agencies were required to a) produce a Policy Statement in respect of how their Agency or Organisation will exercise

it's children's safeguarding functions and b) appoint a 'Champion' to ensure that safeguarding issues are given prominence within their respective organisations.

ACTION:

- **ACPC MEMBERS TO CONSULT EXISTING CONSULTATION GUIDANCE.**
- **TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Children & Young People's Plan – Consultation and Regulations & Guidance

The meeting was advised that the National Guidance was due out for consultation in the next couple of weeks. The requirement was for a single plan, for all Children & Young Persons Services, to be published by April 2006.

Workforce strategy

The meeting was advised that the consultation deadline was 22nd July 2005.

Substance Misuse & Safeguarding

The meeting was advised that the Substance Misuse Group had their first meeting on 4th July 2005. Terms of reference were drawn up and covered all issues from Part 8 and The Hidden Harm Conference. Next meeting was scheduled for September 2005.

ACTION:

- **CHRIS DIMMELOW TO ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER MEETING AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO THE NEXT ACPC MEETING.**
- **PLYMOUTH D.A.T. REPRESENTATION TO BE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

Asylum Seekers

The meeting was advised that Local Authorities were required to appoint a Lead Officer and send weekly returns re: unaccompanied asylum seekers.

ACTION:

- **ACPC MEMBERS TO ADVISE CHRIS DIMMELOW OF ANY UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSONS WHO ARE NOT LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN.**

REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE

Juliet Hammacott presented the minutes from the Education Sub Committee.

The meeting was also advised that guidance had recently been sent out re: photo phones in school, advising of a policy to have them banned.

ACTION:

- **JULIET HAMMACOTT TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE DATE OF THE NEXT EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE, TO BE CONVENED BEFORE THE NEXT ACPC MEETING IN OCTOBER.**

REPORT FROM THE TRAINING SUB COMMITTEE

Ann Wilson presented the minutes from the Training Sub Committee.

REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SUB COMMITTEE

Ann Morecroft advised that the Health Sub Committee had not met since the last ACPC Meeting.

Charles Holmes advised that he had reviewed his position and was continuing his work across North, East, South and West until July 2006.

REPORT OF THE CAE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

Chris Dimmelow distributed the Part 8 Overview Report in respect of LB. He noted that further recommendation changes had been received and that a final version of the Report would be submitted to CSCI and DfES. The next phase was to draw up an appropriate Action Plan to progress and fulfil the various recommendations that have been made.

ACTION:

- **CHRIS DIMMELOW TO FORWARD REPORT TO ALL AGENCIES.**
- **AGENCIES TO CONSIDER THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS AND REWORD THE 'STATEMENTS' WHERE NECESSARY.**

The meeting acknowledged the need for specific training / guidance re: the production of clear recommendations in Agency Reports. Furthermore, following on from these recommendations, the question raised was whether Agencies were achieving the outcomes and how/if this was being monitored.

The meeting went on to discuss the training issues in respect of compiling the Management Reports and Derek Moore advised that the person identified to carry out this training was John Fitzgerald. A provisional date for this training was set for 19th October 2005.

ACTION:

- **AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY REPRESENTATION AT THE TRAINING SESSION ON 19TH OCTOBER AND ADVISE DEREK MOORE ACCORDINGLY.**
- **ALISON KEARNES AND CHRIS DIMMELOW TO DEVELOP A BRIEF FOR JOHN FITZGERALD.**
- **ONCE GUIDANCE IS AVAILABLE, AN AWAY-DAY TO BE SET UP TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF THE OUTCOME OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND HOW THIS FITS IN WITH THE WIDER ISSUE OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.**

Chris Dimmelow presented the report of the Case Review Sub Committee.

AP: The meeting discussed the lengthy delays and Chris Dimmelow advised that although Bill Pasco had put pressure on CPS, the response back indicated that this was a highly complex case.

ACTION:

- **IF POSSIBLE, POLICE TO APPLY FURTHER PRESSURE ON CPS.**

JS: It was concluded that there were no identifiable Child Protection Concerns. It was advised that the matter was being taken to OHRA, The Medicines Agency.

ACTION:

- **CHARLES HOLME TO FOLLOW UP.**

ZS:

ACTION:

- **OUTCOME OF SWISS TEAM'S POST MORTEM EXAMINATION TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT ACPC MEETING.**

DH: The meeting was advised that an independent audit was being undertaken in respect of potential failings within the Multi Agency system. It was noted that there were cost implications for this Audit, which would need to be covered by relevant agencies.

ACTION:

- **CHRIS DIMMELOW TO PROVIDE A BALL PARK FIGURE FOR THE AUDIT.**

AC: Charles Holme advised that a Part 8 Review was proceeding due to the breakdown of the Child Protection system in terms of AC returning home.

ESTABLISHING AN LSCB'S

A first draft Implementation Plan was circulated to ACPC members for discussion and consideration.

ACTION:

- **AGENCIES TO PROVIDE THEIR COMMENTS TO CHRIS DIMMELOW**
- **CHRIS DIMMELOW TO AMEND AND RE-CIRCULATE**
- **TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD**

The meeting was advised that guidance was still outstanding.

- **ALISON KEARNES TO KEEP ACPC MEMBERS INFORMED OF ANY UPDATE FROM DfES RE: CURRENT SHAPE OF GUIDANCE.**

CHILD PROTECTION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Chris Dimmelow presented the Child Protection Summary Report, January to May 2005. He noted that there was a significant increase in the number of children on the Register over the past 4 months, but felt that the reasons for this could be:

1. the high number of large family groups
2. the aftermath of Part 8 reviews causing anxieties resulting in professionals acting more cautiously than needed, and registering children who may be more appropriately managed under the Child In Need forum.

ACTION:

- **CHRIS DIMMELOW TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THIS IS A GLITCH VS. A TREND**

AUDIT OF REFERRALS TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES RE: SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The meeting discussed the issue of sexually abused children outside the family environment and how these young people were not being referred through Child Protection. Although police investigations were being carried, the key concern was that there was significant overlap between intra and extra sexual abuse, the details of which does not become apparent until a Section 47 Enquiry has been completed.

Simon Snell advised of a proposed Central Referral Unit within the Police Force, whereby all referrals would be risk assessed by the Sergeant and then directed for either single or multi-agency action. He added that all staff working within this unit would be Child Protection trained.

ACTION:

- **TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE NEXT ACPC ONCE BRIEFING PAPERS ARE AVAILABLE.**
- **HELEN HYLAND TO TAKE POLICE REPORT BACK TO SUB GROUP FOR THEIR FEEDBACK.**

STOP IT NOW! CAMPAIGN

Charles Home distributed details re: Planning Day for the Development of Stop it Now! in the South West.

ACTION:

- **ALL TO ADVISE ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE ON 27TH SEPTEMBER.**
- **REMINDER TO BE SENT OUT TO ACPC MEMBERS CLOSER TO THE TIME.**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Chris Dimmelow presented an overview of the recent ADVA meeting. The meeting discussed:

1. the continued debate in respect of the use of additional resources recently appointed following the £600k funding from the Invest to Save Bid.
2. The expansion of MARAC meetings throughout the County and the preventative work done with children identified through that process.
3. Young Offenders and the huge percentage that had Domestic Violence as their history (85-90%)

4. Communication difficulties within schools and the work being undertaken with Caroline Hobson in respect of this, given that 24% of referrals come through Education.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Catriona Cunningham expressed concerns regarding licensing of children's events (eg Carnivals and Festivals), having recently heard of an incident whereby a young boy was badly burnt following 'hot coal walking'.

ACTION

- **SIMON SNELL TO CHECK IF THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE**
- **CATRIONA CUNNINGHAM TO FORWARD DETAILS FOR CHRIS DIMMELOW TO FOLLOWING UP.**

13. NEXT MEETING

The next ACPC meetings were scheduled for:

1. 21st October 2005
2. 13th January 2006
3. 17th March 2006

A meeting was also scheduled for 9th December 2005 to discuss Part 8 issues in respect of the responsibility of the Local Area Safe Guarding Board.