



DEVON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON: Friday 26 September 2008

AT: East Devon District Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES TO ALERT THE NOTETAKER OF ANY INFORMATION DISCLOSED DURING THE CONFERENCE THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO BE DOCUMENTED.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

THESE MINUTES WILL AIM TO REFLECT THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DISCUSSED AT THESE MEETINGS SHOULD BE TREATED FAIRLY, WITH RESPECT AND WITHOUT IMPROPER DISCRIMINATION. ALL WORK UNDERTAKEN AT THE MEETINGS WILL BE INFORMED BY A COMMITMENT TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EFFECTIVE PRACTICE ISSUES IN RELATION TO RACE, GENDER, SEXUALITY AND DISABILITY.

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SECTIONS OF THESE MINUTES MAY BE CLOSED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 UNDER ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTIONS:
INVESTIGATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES (S.30 (1)(B))
HEALTH AND SAFETY (S.38)
PERSONAL INFORMATION (S.40)
INFORMATION PROVIDED IN CONFIDENCE (S.41)

Present 26 September 2008

Surname	Forename	Agency	Role
Cunningham	Catriona	SDHCFT (Torbay Hospital)	Representing Heather Parker Associate Director Nursing and Midwifery
Davey	John	Connexions Cornwall & Devon Ltd	Director
Mitchell	Mary	Devon & Cornwall Probation Area	Assistant Chief Officer.
Whiteley	Anne	Devon County Council	Director of Children and Young People's Services
McCallum	Rory	Devon County Council	Director of Early Years and Families
Tomlinson	Roy	Devon County Council ADVA	Community Strategy Officer
Dubash	Beverley	Devon County Council CYPS	Principal Education Welfare Officer
Dimmelow	Chris	Devon County Council CYPS	Head of Safeguarding Children
Booth	Deborah	Devon County Council CYPS	Strategic Project Manager for Education Achievement of Children in Care
Wooderson	Alan	LSCB	Independent Chair
Thornberry	Michele	Devon PCT	Child Protection Lead Eastern.
Jeffer	Peter	East Devon District Council	Director of Communities
Richards	Jane	LMC (Local Medical Committee)	Portfolio Holder Devon Local Medical Committee
Spittles	Laura	NHS Devon Partnership Trust	Named Nurse, Safeguarding Children. Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Barnell	Graeme	NHS Devon Partnership Trust	Director of Care
Phipps	Janet	NHS North Devon Trust	General Manager. Women's and Children's Sexual Health
Cox	Mandy	NHS South West Strategic Health Authority	
Kearnes	Alison	NSPCC	Assistant Director NSPCC
Pearson	Virginia	Devon PCT	Director of Public Health
Holme	Charles	Devon PCT	Designated Dr. Child Protection Devon
Hyland	Helen	Devon PCT	Designated Nurse Child Protection

Present 26 September 2008

Surname	Forename	Agency	Role
Allen	Alison	Devon PCT	Named Nurse Safeguarding.
Vellacott	John	Devon and Cornwall Police Devon BCU	Detective Chief Inspector
Tomlinson	Richard	Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital FoundationTrust	Named Doctor
Bird	Lesley	DCC CYPS LSCB	Minutes Secretary

Apologies 26 September 2008 LSCB

Surname	Forename	Agency	Role
Parker	Heather	Torbay Hosp SDHCFT	Associate Director of Nursing & Midwifery Women's & Children's Diagnostic & Therapies.
Brown	Karen	Devon County Council CYPS	Senior Workforce Development Advisor
Kasprzyk	Maria	Devon County Council CYPS	Service Improvement Manager
Adey	Peter	Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital FT	Divisional Manager Children and Women's Health & Cancer Services
Hancock	Peter	Mid Devon District Council	Director
Mitchell	Peter	CafCASS	Head of Service. .
Northcott	Paul	Devon and Cornwall Police	Detective Chief Inspector HQ Public Protection
MacKintosh	Georgie	Government Office South West	Safeguarding Adviser

In Attendance 26 September 08

Surname	Forename		Agency and Role
Pritchard	Debbie	Item 3	Devon County Council CYPS Assistant Director - Performance and Planning.
Leischman	Tim	Item 7	Children's Trust Programme Manager
Demeger	Diane	Item 7	Children's Trust Programme
Elliot	Tish	Observing	Practice Learning and Development Officer
May	James	Observing	Practice Learning and Development Officer

Minutes LSCB 26/9/8

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Anne Whiteley (AW) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The new Independent Chair Alan Wooderson (AJW) was welcomed. This is the last meeting Chaired by Anne Whiteley.

Rory McCallum was also introduced and welcomed as the new Director for Early Years and Families,

ITEM 1:

Minutes of the last meeting on 6 June 2008 were agreed.

ITEM 2: Matters arising

Page 9 ACTION POINTS

- The Business Plan is accessible at www.devon.gov.uk Home page / Children & Families / Child Protection / Local Safeguarding Children Board. This document will be regularly updated
- The Revised Terms of Reference for some sub groups are not as yet available. Revisions are being discussed with Maria Kasprzyk, Rory McCallum and Peter Hancock before.

ACTION: MK/RMcC/PH

Paul Northcott has agreed to Chair the Performance and Quality Assurance Committee.

ACTION: LB add to BP

- The report on "Hidden Harm" went out with the minutes from the June meeting.

ITEM 3: Local Area Agreements (LAA).

Debbie Pritchard in attendance

DP spoke to her report on Local Area Agreements and the links required between the Children's Trust, the LSCB and the LAA:

A particular emphasis is in narrowing the gap between most children and young people and those that are the most vulnerable and under achieving.

The LSCB has influenced the LAA and Children's Trust (CT). To do this more effectively the LSCB contribution needs to focus on, improving: wellbeing, promoting a safer environment and reducing the risk of accidents, as well as the lessons from Serious Case Reviews, information from the Child Death Review process and effective interventions in domestic violence.

A W asked DP to check that the linkages between the LAA and Children's Trust was in place across all LAA themes and that these were cross referenced to the LSCB Business Plan.

ACTION: DP

A particular focus of discussion was around bullying. It was agreed that Annette Lyons of DCC will review the progress of the Anti Bullying Group and the Reducing Bullying Development Plan is to come to the LSCB in December Agenda.

ACTION: DP/AW

ITEM 4: “Better Safe Than Sorry Preventing unintentional injury to children” Published jointly by the Health Care Commission and the Audit Commission

Virginia Pearson introduced a Devon PCT report on the prevalence of unintentional injury to children based on the previously published report ‘Better Safe than Sorry’.

The report provides information on prevalence rates in Devon e.g. in Devon 74 children aged 0-14 died between 2001 and 2006 with cancer as the leading cause followed by accidents.

There is not a current comprehensive strategy for Devon in response to the national report and it is proposed that a multi agency task group supported by the Public Health policy team (Sara Gibbs) will produce an Unintentional Injury Prevention strategy. This will be brought to the LSCB at the meeting on 6 March 2009 for consideration. PJ asked that Local Strategic Partnerships be fully involved in the work

ACTION: VP

Item 5: Serious Case Review (SCR) Ofsted Evaluations

Chris Dimmelow and Helen Hyland Report

Ofsted have now evaluated 3 SCRs from Devon. As a result of the comments from Ofsted a meeting was held between Ofsted, GOSW and representatives of the Devon LSCB. The meeting was very constructive with helpful comments about the themes arising from the three SCRs and necessary improvements in process and content. A copy of the note of the meeting was made available to the LSCB

The SCR Sub Group has discussed the Ofsted evaluations and believe fundamental changes are required in the Devon procedures around Individual Management Reviews, Executive Summaries and Action Plans. Helen Hyland has already undertaken work on these changes, and towards meeting new requirements and standards. The aim is to work with the other LSCBs in the Peninsular to jointly revise procedures.

ACTION: CD

A discussion followed focussing on the three reports.

It was noted that some IMRs were judged outstanding and as such the LSCB needs to learn from these and ensure a quality standard is reached across all aspects of SCRs.

The Ofsted Evaluation shows active consideration is needed of the involvement of the parents and carers.

There is a general concern that SCRs need to focus/know more about fathers and their life histories.

The LSCB needs to assure itself as to the quality of Independent Overview Report writers.

The LSCB needs to be more robust and give as much direction as it can to each agency taking a stronger line on judgements, i.e. drawing conclusions on how to prevent a situation arising again.

It is also important that recommendations from the SCR sub group and subsequently the LSCB are applied as appropriate across the work of all subgroups and partners. And also that the recommendations from sub groups in pursuing the Business Plan are fully discussed by the Executive and applied more widely than just the individual sub group if appropriate

The LSCB agreed that it was important that all partners were made aware of the importance of improvements in SCR requirements and that a letter should go to all Chief Executives accordingly setting out the new standards. Including adherence to regulatory timescales

ACTION: CD/AW

The SCR Sub Group is tasked with taking forward improvements in processes and guidance for consideration by LSCB Executive and decision at LSCB Board.

ACTION: CD/RM

The challenge now is to use the Ofsted comments positively and as a learning issue for every organisation. The LSCB needs to exercise responsibility to challenge performance and to raise appropriate issues with organisations and to raise the awareness of the Children's Trust about key whole system improvement and investment priorities.

AW commented that relationships with the CT will be strengthened with AJW joining the CT Board.

The Board reviewed the SCR Overview Report concerning the V family. A variety of errors were noted that needed correction and in the light of the previous discussion concerning Ofsted judgements it was agreed that further improvement comments and changes be sent to CD within 2 weeks .

ACTION ALL - to be received by two weeks from today.

Item 6: Revised Procedures Concerning Allegations Against Professionals.

Chris Dimmelow spoke to his report

He explained that this is regarding allegations of abuse against professionals working with children, and how they are responded to.

The report outlines new procedures and policies to be used and asks that each agency review its own internal procedures and provide the LSCB with the name and details of its designated Senior Officer and Senior Manager to deal with allegations against employees

Lesley Bird to update the list of Senior Officers and Senior Managers when information has been supplied.

ACTION:CD LB ALL

CD – explained that this is not a new requirement and reminded colleagues of earlier work and the Section 11 Audit requirements around this issue

ITEM 7: Contact Point Shielding:

Tim Leishman and Diane Demeger attended for this item

TL and DD explained that early next year the National ContactPoint Database will be populated with information regarding all children and young people in the country. Each Local Authority is responsible for identifying those names it considers should be 'shielded' from being able to be viewed e.g. subject to adoption orders etc. Devon has a duty to establish interim and mainstream policies across all partners to establish shielding best practice.

Records to be shielded need to be identified by January 2009 and this will allow early adopters of Contact Point to go live from March/April 2009

Given the complexity and the potential controversy around the whole ContactPoint initiative it was agreed that the LSCB should establish a small task and finish group to be chaired by RMcC to steer the work and make critical recommendations about categories of names to be shielded and to ensure all duty to co operate partners are well briefed on responsibilities etc. All Partners are asked to identify a representative to join the task group
RMcC to report back to the LSCB as required or to resolve issues via the newly formed Executive.

Particular concern was expressed about the resources and capacity requirements in the voluntary sector such as Womens Aid and other charities who work with domestic abuse and who need to contribute to the shielding arrangements . RMcC will encompass this in the task group

ACTION:RMcC

ITEM 8: Update on Child Death Review Panel.

CH updated the LSCB on the progress in establishing the Child Death Review arrangements. The four LSCBs in the Peninsular have now created a joint Child Death Overview Panel and have a fully prepared Rapid Response Team. There is a designated doctor to the Panel who from 1st October 08 will get the information on all child deaths. A retrospective report will be prepared for the information from the previous six months. The establishment of the arrangements has been a huge undertaking and all involved are to be congratulated. The learning from the initiative will provide unique insights into how to develop preventative measures and to improve practice

ITEM 9: Fabricated and Induced Illness (FII).

HH and CH brought to the attention of the LSCB increased awareness of the instances of alleged significant harm being discussed at strategy meetings where the child's illness has been fabricated or induced. As a result of this they asked that they be invited to Strategy meetings in future regarding FII cases. This was agreed and the action needs carrying forward by CD.

ITEM 10: Devon CYPS Domestic Violence (DV) Policy.

RMcC briefed the LSCB on work underway being led by Maria Kasprzyk .

"To build upon a model developed by Barnardos that adopts a tiered approach to responding to and assessing needs where DV is an issue. The model enables practitioners to judge whether the needs should be met by universal provision / CAF / Assessment under S17 or a Child protection Enquiry under S47".

The procedures / model will be developed through the Domestic Violence Sub Group

ACTION: MK/ RMcC.

ITEM 11: Training Budget

Michele Thornberry spoke to the report on take up of training and the budget commitment to date.

Three organisations have not yet paid their contributions to the budget. Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT), South Devon Hospital Trust and Devon Partnership Trust (DPT).

ITEM 12: Independent Safeguarding Authority Seminar 13 October.

There are still places available. Please contact Lesley Bird to book a place. Lesley.bird@devon.gov.uk Tel: 01392 386042.

ITEM 13: Safe Recruitment Training

MT passed on the information regarding Train the Trainer Level III courses. Anyone interested to contact Anita Davidson 01392 383366

ITEM 14: Tri-X Online Training.

MT announced that there is now available an on-line IT package called Tri - X for use at Level 4 around SCRs. It requires administration from each organisation as people who take up the training need a mentor due to the nature and content of the training. .

CD – commented that the training addresses the understanding of research and underpins training regarding SCRs. This training requires managerial oversight and an administrator to assess response to the training package.

Anne W – commented that take up of the training needs to be monitored and this could then be incorporated into action plans regarding any future SCRs.

ITEM 15: GP Surgeries on “Pooled” List.

CH explained that children should not be discharged from hospital care back into the community without an identified GP. This can prove difficult due to the growing use of pooled lists since changes in the national GP contract Practitioners need to be alerted to this

ITEM 16: Managed network of Paediatricians for the assessment of child sexual abuse.

CH asked for support from the LSCB and the Chair for a business case that is being submitted to Devon PCT, Torbay Care Trust and Plymouth NHS Trust to have in place a care pathway for children and young people, resources for counselling and assessment and an agency approach to alleged young sexual offenders.

The document will be ready by the end of November.

A Wooderson – Acknowledged support

AJW to write formally to Gwen Pearson re support for the proposal.

AOB

VP informed the LSCB of an audit by the Strategic Health Authority of Devon PCT and the robustness of the Commissioning arrangements for Safeguarding. There is a meeting on 8 October with the main providers to talk through the outcome of the Audit with a view to completing an Action Plan by the end of October.

This will be shared at the next LSCB meeting on 12 December 08.

ACTION: VP

LSCB Meetings for 2009 will be half days with lunch.

One of the meetings will continue into a full day to cover LSCB Development.

Dates are: March 6th, June 5th, Sept 11th, and Dec 4th. Venues to be confirmed;

Meeting closed at 2.45 pm

Action Point (Item Ref)	To be Actioned by	Action Point	Target Date
Item 2 page 4	MK RC PH	Revision of Terms of Reference (TOR) and put on the web	12 Dec 08
Item 2 page 4	LB	Add Paul Northcott as Chair to Performance and Quality Assurance Committee on to Business Plan	12 Dec 08
Item 3 page 4	DP	Check / Link LAA and CT across all LAA blocks and reference the LSCB Business Plan.	12 Dec 08
Item 3 page 4	DP AW	Reduce Bullying Development Plan for presentation to the LSCB for signing off	12 Dec 08
Item 4 page 5	VP	Strategy for Child Accidents for presentation to the LSCB	New Year 6 Mar 09
Item 5 page 5	CD	Jointly revise SCR procedures with the rest of the SW Peninsular	12 Dec 08
Item 5 page 6	CD AW	Keep nominated Chief Execs of organisations informed of issues regarding training towards and writing of SCR's.	On going
Item 5 page 6	CD RM	Take forward improvements in SCR framework, process and guidance for consideration by LSCB Exec and decision at next LSCB meeting	12 Dec 08
Item 5 page 6	All	Further comments on subject 1 & 2 Overview Report before is submitted to Ofsted.	2 weeks from today
Item 6 page 6	CD LB ALL	Inform LSCB who is designated Senior Officer within Agency re Allegations Against professionals Working With children	12 Dec 08

Item 7 page 7	RMc	As appointed Chair set up small Task Group to managerially make decisions regarding shielding	12 Dec 08
Item 10 page 8	MK RMcC	The procedures / model will be developed through the Domestic Violence Sub Group	12 Dec 08
AOB page 8	VP	Bring outcomes of Audit and Action Plan to the LSCB	12 Dec 08

Minutes checked by:

Date: