

DEVON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 22nd June 2007 at East Devon District Council Offices,
The Knowle, Sidmouth**

Present

Anne Whiteley, Director of Children & Young People's Services
Deborah Booth, Strategic Project Manager for Educational Achievement of Children in Care
Chris Dimmelow, Children's Safeguarding Manager, Devon Children & Young People's Services
Jane Richards, Portfolio Holder, Devon Local Medical Committee
Alison Kearnes, Assistant Director, NSPCC Devon, Dorset & Cornwall
Helen Hyland, Designated Nurse – Child Protection - Devon
Maria Kasprzyk, Policy & Performance Improvement Manager, Devon County Council
Charles Holme, Designated Doctor – Child Protection - Devon
Corinne Hayes, Clinical Director for Child and Women's Health, RD&E NHS Trust
Richard Tomlinson, Consultant Paediatrician, RD&E NHS Trust
Janet Phipps, General Manager for Women's, Children's and Sexual Health, Northern Devon Healthcare Trust
Jo Tennant, BCU Commander for North and East Devon, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Michele Thornberry, Named Nurse – Child Protection - Devon
Lucy Beckwith, Operational Manager Child Health, South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Peter Mitchell, Head of Service – CAF/CASS
John Davey, Director of Service Delivery, Connexions Cornwall & Devon
Andy Gill, Senior Consultant – Outcomes UK
Cathy Ellingford, Children's Lead Representative (SW Region) Devon PCT
Ian Fraser-Roe, A/DCI Devon & Cornwall Police Community Support Unit
Karen Brown, LSCB Workforce Development Advisor
Mary Mitchell, Assistant Chief Officer, Devon & Cornwall Probation Service
Peter Jeffs, Director of Communities, East Devon District Council
Martin Spragg, Youth Offending Services Manager
Beverley Dubash, Principal Education Welfare Officer
Georgie Mackintosh, Government Office South West/DfES
Virginia Pearson, Director of Public Health, Devon PCT
Jan Liff, Child Protection Officer, Exeter (attending as observer)
Julie Phillips, Administrator/Minute Taker

Apologies/copy of minutes to:

Claire Mitchell, Nurse Consultant (Safeguarding Children) RD&E NHS Trust
Derek Moore, Assistant Director of NCH Devon and Cornwall
Liz Smith, Clinical Lead, Devon PCT
Graeme Barnell, Adult & Community Services
Madeleine Jackson, Senior Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service
Laura Spittles, Named Nurse – Child Protection, Devon NHS Partnership Trust
Adrian Childs, Devon Partnership Trust
Roy Tomlinson, Adva
Peter Hancock, Mid-Devon District Council
Bob Brown, Head of Community Support Unit, Devon & Cornwall Police
Ann Morecraft, Designated Manager – Child Protection, Devon PCT
Kevin Peers, Interim Assistant Director (CYPS)
Peter Adey, Directorate Manager, RD&E
Piers Tetley, Devon County Council

Deborah Booth opened the Meeting and chaired until the arrival of Anne Whiteley.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Mitchell, Derek Moore, Liz Smith, Graeme Barnell, and Madeleine Jackson.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Accuracy

Page 2 – Corinne Hayes pointed out that Richard Tomlinson was now the Named Doctor for the RD& E Hospital NHS Trust and Ron Smith was the Named Doctor for East Devon PCT.

Page 5 – Corinne Hayes stated that there was more than a 24 hour delay in the AC case. Chris Dimmelow responded that he was referring to timescale once the case was picked up by Social Services District Office.

Page 9 – change of paragraph to read “Claire Mitchell advised that the RD&E Trust had asked the Devon Wide Group to audit all their safeguarding practices.”

Anne Whiteley at this point advised the LSCB that Cllr John Smith, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People’s Services, would be joining the meeting at some stage in order to observe proceedings.

Dr Virginia Pearson, Director of Public Health for Devon PCT, introduced herself to the meeting. Dr Pearson has child protection lead responsibility for the Primary Care Trust which she had picked up from Liz Smith.

Chris Dimmelow advised that Rob Weekes would not be attending for agenda item 15 – Contact Point (Previously Child Index).

Matters Arising

Page 2- Chris Dimmelow confirmed that he had had discussions with Roy Tomlinson, and Roy Tomlinson would be the representative of the Domestic Violence Sub-Group on the LSCB.

Page 2 – Charles Holme advised that one of the parents of Child A was changing jobs and had asked that the joint visit be delayed until such time as she was more settled. Chris Dimmelow at this point advised the meeting that Child Minder DH had now died and so would not be referred for inclusion on the POCA list.

Page 3 – Virginia Pearson advised that Criminal Records Bureau checks were under way with regard to PCT staff.

Pages 7-8 – Anne Whiteley reported that last week, the review of the Children and Young People’s Plan had to be returned to OFSTED. Part of the annual performance assessment process required CYPS to have undertaken an annual review and that had taken place. This was sent off last week together with the Council’s self-assessment. Inspectors will be coming to Devon on the 13th September 2007. During the course of the summer, the Inspectors would be undertaking a “Desk Top Exercise” looking at all the performance indicators in relation to the five outcomes and in relation to Devon’s service capability. The Inspectors were only likely to be in Devon for one day and would want to meet up with practitioners. A new Plan had to be produced by April 2008 and this would involve a refreshed needs analysis.

Page 10 – Charles Holme confirmed that he did e-mail Anne Whiteley with general issues for her to raise at her meeting with Jayne Carroll, PCT Commissioning and Dr Virginia Pearson to clarify how they would be covered by the Primary Care Trust.

Page 15 – Anne Whiteley reported that it had been anticipated that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the County Council would be looking at Stay Safe. Anne Whiteley had now met with Councillor Christine Channon and she would be coming to observe the LSCB some time in the autumn.

Page 15 – Maria Kasprzyk reported that Julie Ford and others would be looking at training for the AXS co-ordinators.

Page 16 – Georgie Mackintosh confirmed that Devon views had been represented in the consultation process with regard to Safe Practice guidance, and guidance was anticipated to be published fairly soon. The DfES was looking into the possibility of publication as a DfES document, which would raise its profile.

3. REPORT OF THE TRAINING SUB-COMMITTEE

Michele Thornberry reported that the Training Sub-Committee had met last week and only draft minutes were available.

Karen Brown had been appointed as the LSCB Workforce Development Advisor, and would be managing the Serious Case Review e-learning package. The aim was for this course to be rolled out and managed by each major organisation. Anne Whiteley asked how that linked to work undertaken by Cathy and Maria Kasprzyk to ensure practitioners were aware of the lessons to be learned from serious case reviews. Michele Thornberry responded that there had been a meeting with Adva and the Hidden Harm Co-ordinator.

It was hoped to be able to get child protection trainers onto the CEOP training programme concerning safe internet use..

The Sub-Committee was looking at safe recruitment practices towards a consistent approach across Devon.

All places for child protection training have now been allocated. Therefore the cost to any other attendee was now down to £50 per person, which was good news for voluntary organisations whose finances were especially limited. In response to Anne Whiteley, Michele Thornberry confirmed that there was a monitoring process in place so that it was known who was accessing training at a specific level and where the gaps were.

Anne Whiteley asked that the monitoring of take up of child protection training to be an LSCB indicator.

ACTION:

THE MONITORING OF TAKE UP OF CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING TO BE AN LSCB INDICATOR.

In response to Peter Jeffs asking if there was any plan to promote this training to District Councils, it was hoped later in the year to put information onto the LSCB website. Courses for the Level 3 training had been increased by 100%. There were enough places to cover all staff that had a statutory requirement to undertake this training, plus anyone else who wanted to do the course.

4. REPORT OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2007 were received by the LSCB.

Helen Hyland was pleased to report that the RD&E Hospital NHS Trust was now employing Claire Mitchell full-time as Named Nurse.

Helen Hyland and Charles Holme had finished the guidelines for serious case reviews which they would present in due course to the LSCB for agreement to use on a multi-agency basis.

Maria Kasprzyk asked for clarification as to whether item k on Page 2 was referring to multi-agency group supervision. Charles Holme responded that that was actively under review, and Service Level Agreements were required. Anne Whiteley suggested that key CYPS staff including Maria Kasprzyk and Kevin Peers needed to be invited.

5. REPORT OF THE CASE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

The Final Overview Report in respect of Sophie Lincoln was received by the LSCB. Chris Dimmelow expressed his thanks to Helen Hyland for her involvement and contribution, in the absence of Ann Morecraft. With reference to point 6.8, Maria Kasprzyk confirmed that there was a Child in Need policy awaiting approval before it could come back to LSCB in September 2007.

Re RM, Chris Dimmelow confirmed that the circumstances surrounding this child's death were subject to twin track police investigation in terms of RMs mother who was still in secure psychiatric detention and a Police investigation with regard to any agency culpability given that RMs name was on the Child Protection Register. At the Strategy Meeting which Chris Dimmelow chaired, there was concern expressed by a number of agencies who wanted to know the criteria used by the Police to initiate investigation into the professionals involved. Chris Dimmelow understood the Police's actions to be in accordance with the DoH Memorandum of Understanding (previously circulated to LSCB members). There was a need to know in what circumstances the Police would run a criminal investigation alongside their own investigation into professional/organisational culpability.

Chris Dimmelow had received informal confirmation from the Police that they had submitted a report and were not recommending any action with regard to any professional or agency involved in the RM case. They found very good evidence of positive and appropriate interagency working in terms of the handling of this case. They could see nothing that could have predicted the tragic outcome. On that basis, Chris Dimmelow would now initiate a Serious Case Review. He had drafted terms of reference and would be sending out letters in due course.

ACTION:

CHRIS DIMMELOW TO INSTIGATE A SERIOUS CASE REVIEW IN RESPECT OF THE RM CASE.

IAN FRASER-ROE TO ASK THE POLICE SENIOR POLICY OFFICER TO RESPOND TO THE LSCB (VIA CHRIS DIMMELOW) CLARIFYING THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE POLICE WOULD RUN A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION ALONGSIDE A POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL CULPABILITY.

Anne Whiteley asked how learning from serious case reviews was to be rolled out to practitioners. Maria Kasprzyk responded that there was a suggestion that when an Overview Report was published, it should be brought to the attention of the professionals involved and work undertaken with them on the things they needed to learn. In other words, bring the professional group together in a similar way to the old Operation Kansas workshops. Charles Holme advised that Health were looking at the template of a formal audit pathway, so that recommendations were categorised as to resources or professional knowledge and skills recommendations. Report back would be made to the LSCB and to the Department of Health.

Ian Fraser-Roe suggested the need for some form of Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

ACTION:

CHARLES HOLME AND HELEN HYLAND TO PRESENT THE DRAFT HEALTH AUDIT PATHWAY TO THE NEXT LSCB MEETING.

Chris Dimmelow commented that the Triex e-learning package would feed in anonymous information around Devon serious case reviews.

The Board agreed that professionals involved in the Sophie Lincoln case needed to be brought together as a group and findings of the serious case review presented to them in a constructive way so that they could learn from this.

ACTION:

SCR TO ARRANGE.

6. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April 2007 were received by the LSCB.

Beverley Dubash confirmed that a letter had been sent to all independent schools in Devon telling them to notify the Education Welfare Department whenever they took a pupil off roll, and they had been complying with this request. A decision had been taken not to pursue these schools making notification whenever they put pupils on roll.

With regard to the issue of internet safety, Beverley Dubash had invited Steve Caley to the next Education Sub-Committee meeting in September 2007. A total of 17 Education Welfare Officers had expressed interest in undertaking CEOP training. The Internet Safety Policy for schools was in the process of being updated to reflect changes in internet technology.

Beverley Dubash reported that she had appointed a successor who was now in post – this is Barry Goff who will be delivering child protection sessions in schools, including refresher training. The theme for next year was child abuse and the internet given the level of concern around the potential for abuse when children accessed the internet in their own time. Cathy Ellingford asked if this internet safety training would roll out to teachers who were not based in schools, such as hospital and Family Centre based staff. Beverley Dubash responded that she thought this was a good idea. Maria Kasprzyk cautioned the need to include children in foster placements and children's homes who also have internet access. Chris Dimmelow reminded the Board that at the moment, all Devon schools receive their internet through the South West Grid for Learning. Peter Jeffs asked if the policy would cover child on child internet bullying. Anne Whiteley noted this to be a big issue currently, and this was also a priority within the Children and Young People's Plan for the next 3 year planning cycle.

Alison Kearnes reported that children were reporting on line abuse through a button on an MSN facility. On 19th November 2007, the NSPCC schools team would be running an initiative in this area. Anne Whiteley suggested to Beverley Dubash that she ask Annette Lyons (Chair of new sub-group) for some local involvement here.

Alison Kearnes advised that CEOPS were reporting that there were children in Devon and Cornwall who were reporting abuse of a huge variety.

ACTION:

ALISON KEARNES TO ASCERTAIN HOW DEVON CAN KNOW IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH INTERNET BULLYING IN A SPECIFIC SCHOOL AND LET CHRIS DIMMELOW HAVE DETAILS BY E-MAIL.

The point was made that if a person was convicted of abuse against a vulnerable adult, POCA would pass information to List 99 and ask them to consider banning them from working with vulnerable adults and children.

It was confirmed that supplies of the new "Safeguarding Children" leaflet had gone out to every operational office in Devon and Cornwall.

7. CHILD DEATH SCREENING FUNCTION OF LSCBs

Chris Dimmelow's document was received by the LSCB.

Charles Holme commented that there was a need to get agreements around partnership working in place by 1st April 2008. There were repercussions for individual hospital trusts. Paul O'Sullivan had offered to host a meeting of all five Acute trusts in the area. Chris Dimmelow observed that, from the guidance, neither Torbay nor Plymouth were sufficiently large enough in terms of population to have a viable child death screening panel in their own right. There was unanimous agreement that the most efficient way (operationally and financially) of taking the matter forward would be to have a single child death screening panel on behalf of the 4 peninsula LSCBs. There would be a need to formally commission a service which reflected all the requirements of Chapter 7.

Alison Kearnes was aware that CEMACH had offered other areas some assistance and if the peninsula group were interested, it might be worth their while making contact.

The Meeting heard that in the next couple of weeks, the SHA would be meeting with all the Medical Directors across the region to get higher level support from clinicians in acute services. Amanda Cox would be making a presentation. Specific commissioning routes were required and so some approach was to be made to Directors of Nursing. In the South West, there was a need to look into how to fulfil data requirements around people coming into the area on holiday or moving in and out of the area to live. Peter Fleming, alongside his own research, would be looking at how to do this.

Corinne Hayes made the point that for all children brought into hospital, there was a rapid response within the Acute Trust. A Consultant Paediatrician would probably be immediately involved once a child was brought into hospital. Home visiting might be undertaken by different personnel. Hence there should be some caution around the use of the term "rapid response" here. Charles Holmes commented that each Trust's Clinical Directors as well as Medical Directors should be invited to the SHA presentation.

Jo Tennant wondered whether the Coroner's Office would be involved. Virginia Pearson advised that she had written to the Coroner (Dr Earland) regarding confidential enquiries including drug related deaths and child death screening but Dr Earland was not willing to meet with Dr Pearson.

Charles Holme noted that the Exeter Perinatal Death Study had a good relationship with the Exeter Coroner, and the Exeter study was trying to establish clear lines of communication.

Charles Holme suggested that the SHA give a similar type of presentation to the four peninsula Coroners.

ACTION:

AMANDA COX TO BE ASKED TO CONSIDER MAKING A PRESENTATION TO THE PENINSULA CORONERS OR FOR THE CORONERS TO JOIN THE DEVON MEETING.

The Board then considered the specific recommendations of Chris Dimmelow's report, as follows:

Point 1 – agreed by LSCB.

Point 2 – to include all named Coroners in Devon.

Point 3 – Chris Dimmelow advised that a specific bid had been put in to the Chancellor for monies for LSCBs.

ACTION:

GEORGIE MACKINTOSH (GOVERNMENT OFFICE SOUTH WEST) TO FOLLOW UP APPLICATION FOR FUNDING.

Point 4 – A specification to be produced. Chris Dimmelow advised that Maureen Grimley (Plymouth LSCB) had offered someone skilled in this area to be involved. The contract and commissioning arms of the four LSCB areas needed to work together.

ACTION:

CHRIS DIMMELOW AND CHARLES HOLME TO TAKE THIS FORWARD.

Anne Whiteley advised that information around funding would be required by the end of September 2007/early October 2007 at the latest.

Corinne Hayes suggested that a Paediatric Pathologist should be a member of the child death screening panel.

ACTION:

AMANDA COX TO BE ASKED TO RAISE THIS AS AN ISSUE.

ACTION:

A REVISED VERSION OF THE CHILD DEATH SCREENING PAPER TO BE PRESENTED BY ANNE WHITELEY TO THE DEVON CHIEF OFFICERS' MEETING IN JULY 2007.

Michelle Thornberry made the point that GPs, Health Visitors and schools needed to be made aware of child deaths when they happened. Corinne Hayes responded that this was on the RD&E check list.

Anne Whiteley at this point welcomed Cllr John Smith, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services, to the meeting. Board members introduced themselves. Cllr Smith thanked the Board for inviting him and commented that he had very recently been speaking at the National Police Conference about the issue of safeguarding.

8. MULTI-AGENCY AGE BANDED THRESHOLDS

Maria Kasprzyk reported that this piece of work had come out of one of the recommendations of the Joint Area Review, which Dave Simpkins was leading on. Age banded material would be tested out for the next six months and in January 2008 brought back to each multi-agency group. A small group including Maria Kasprzyk, Debbie Ford and Helen Hyland would monitor and feedback from the testing. They would propose that this should be included in the continual access training going on across the county and within specific agency training including multi-agency child protection training.

Maria Kasprzyk remarked that it was not clear whether the LSCB could sign off the document in due course or whether it needed to go back to the PCT for signing off. The document had been to the Children's Services Management Team. Virginia Pearson responded that she felt it would be best if the document went through the PCT Senior Officers' Team.

Cathy Ellingford thought there might be an issue around GP engagement.

Charles Holme felt this was a very useful tool but only as good as the training which staff had and the ability of staff concerned to analyse data. Maria Kasprzyk responded that there was a front sheet which gave a short statement description of the different levels and it was hoped this would be helpful. Anne Whiteley felt there should be a short introduction which stated how and when the tool was to be used. Alison Kearnes suggested that this could be the basis of excellent management information, giving the potential to produce good quality management information for audit purposes.

Virginia Pearson asked if this tool would be used as a potential screening tool or as a broad assessment tool to indicate the level of risk. Martin Spragg responded that this was why Anne Whiteley's suggestion of an introductory section was important. Maria Kasprzyk responded that practitioners did not understand what social care business was and so there was a five page document not yet signed off which talked about the process and lead professionals.

Peter Jeffs asked how the LSCB could be assured that the document resulted in multi-agency actions being followed through. Virginia Pearson said she felt an example of that was that 25% of 4 year olds were classed as obese and so were 'vulnerable' and that might raise the need for a

different type of intervention (such as the Healthy Schools initiative) rather than an individual response.

Anne Whiteley felt that trialling should only be undertaken in the context of the AXS Pathfinders – there was a need to see the implementation plan first. The Joint Area Review had been critical around lack of understanding of the thresholds.

Jane Richards suggested the need for an introduction which was shorter than 5 pages long, and Anne Whiteley suggested that might be achieved by way of a flow chart and/or diagrammatical depiction.

Andy Gill felt that a very constructive piece of work had been undertaken. The Joint Area Review's concerns had been around consistency of thresholds and this was a positive attempt to address that. There was a requirement for more needs-led and consistent thresholds.

ACTION:

MARIA KASPRZYK TO LET ANNE WHITELEY AND VIRGINIA PEARSON HAVE A COPY OF THE DRAFT FRONT SHEET WHICH THEY WOULD TAKE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEED BACK TO MARIA KASPRZYK THEIR COMMENTS BY MID-JULY 2007.

ANDY GILL AND MARIA KASPRZYK TO GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION AS TO HOW THEY MIGHT IMPLEMENT THIS AS PART OF THE AXS PATHWAYS.

THE LSCB AGREED THIS TO BE TRIED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AXS PATHWAYS.

Cllr John Smith suggested a way forward might be to run a trial of two or three groups of 50 children and give out forms to professionals to see how they graded their options by their professional judgement. Anne Whiteley suggested the need to link in to the Common Assessment Framework work – 1000 of these were expected to be done by December 2007. There was a need to consider how to pick up issues which required a whole system rather than individual response. Andy Gill added there was a need to link in with service responsibilities. Alison Kearnes wondered whether the Police would be involved, as there was a need to know how different interventions at different times worked out.

9. LSCB PERFORMANCE MONITORING MODEL

The LSCB received the document 'Devon LSCB performance data set'. Maria Kasprzyk explained that this was based on a model from Shropshire. In response to Anne Whiteley, Maria Kasprzyk confirmed that this document had been cross-referenced against the Business Plan.

Anne Whiteley remarked that a performance management tool was needed in order to help the LSCB achieve its objectives. She proposed that the LSCB sub-groups should each look at the document, identify any additional measures which should be included, and within the comments column detail by whom and how information would be collected.

Corrine Hayes commented that the outcome measures were negative, e.g. under Be Healthy, another measure listed should be immunisation update, which would be more positive.

Georgie Mackintosh felt that indicators should be included around staff working with children, for example whether allegations had been made against such staff. Another indicator ought to be safer recruitment and work force – appropriate checks, managing allegations and safer recruitment.

Alison Kearnes noted that many of the high level targets were process rather than outcome issues. She suggested under Be Healthy, another measure should be deaths of older children in Devon. Virginia Pearson added a suggestion of including smoking and obesity data in this section.

Chris Dimmelow reminded the meeting that the emphasis was on focussing on some of the core issues which would give key messages about how effective LSCB is and priority areas for

addressing. With regard to child deaths, there was a lot of information which the LSCB would be required to produce from the Child Death Panels.

Georgie Mackintosh commented upon the need to have systems in place to get the information wanted. For example, were there systems in place to collect data concerning internet bullying of children. Peter Jeffs noted that the LSCB needed to concentrate on child rather than child protection issues.

Jo Tennant asked whether these data sets were internal and whether the LSCB would be held accountable. Anne Whiteley responded that the measures listed under 'Stay Safe' were all national Indicators.

Andy Gill commented that the percentage of supervisions and appraisals completed for staff was important data to collect. Corinne Hayes commented that the RD&E was starting to collect this data.

Deborah Booth cautioned the need to be aware that not all data was counted on a quarterly basis. Also that some data reported now referred to the previous year or two year period.

Martin Spragg commented that virtually all the targets were national key performance indicators and he wondered how close this was to the agenda of this LSCB. Many of the stated targets were a repetition of the Children and Young Person's Plan. Anne Whiteley responded that the LSCB did need to manage their performance and link this in with the Plan. In addition, the LSCB had new responsibilities around child deaths which needed to be included. At the very least, the Stay Safe measured had to be kept in, even if this data was available elsewhere.

ACTION

THE LSCB SUB-GROUPS TO EACH CONSIDER THE DOCUMENT 'DEVON LSCB PERFORMANCE DATA SET' AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO CHRIS DIMMELOW PRIOR TO THE 28TH SEPTEMBER 2007 LSCB MEETING.

The LSCB received the document 'Quality Practice Audit of Multi-Agency Child Protection files'.

Cathy Ellingford suggested that the child's name section be removed and the unique identifier number used only. Virginia Pearson agreed, adding that a child's unique identifier number should not be the same as a child's NHS number.

ACTION:

EACH AGENCY REPRESENTED ON THE LSCB TO TRIAL THE PRACTICE AUDIT TOOL. MARIA KASPRZYK AND CHRIS DIMMELOW TO WRITE TO EACH AGENCY EXPLAINING HOW THE TOOL WORKS.

10. MARAC REVIEW

Suzanne Hunter and Rachel Martin were in attendance for this agenda item. Rachel Martin gave a brief explanation of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences – which consider very high risk domestic abuse cases. On average, each MARAC looked at 30 such cases per month. The South Devon MARAC covered both this and very high risk non-crime cases. Each MARAC was supported by an IDVA who worked closely with each victim in order to pursue the best way forward for each individual victim. The Devon MARACs were now following the good practice model in Cardiff whereby there had been a move from monthly to fortnightly meetings, given the volume of work.

Suzanne Hunter stated that she and Rachel Martin were asking the LSCB today for their approval of the strategic recommendations.

Cllr Smith commented that, as Chairman of the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority, he would make the point that the Police were trying to relate to 5 Local Authorities. Whenever one authority began to move ahead in one area, this had huge implications for the other 4 authorities. Plans needed to

consider how to establish common thinking between the 4 authorities making up the Devon and Cornwall area, which ultimately would help Devon move forward.

Charles Holme commented that local hospital Accident & Emergency Departments, NHS Direct and Ambulance Trusts should be partners as well.

Michelle Thornberry made the point that there was a discrepancy across Devon as to exactly who received copies of Police Form 121as. Key workers needed to be aware of families in which there was domestic violence. Ian Fraser-Roe responded that this issue was in the top 4 issues to be dealt with. There might be opportunities within the new Central Referring Unit to deal with this matter.

Martin Spragg made the point that there was a need to be clear about the relationship between MARACs and Child in Need and Child Protection access pathway routes. The LSCB needed to understand that and for there to be clear protocols.

ACTION

THROUGH THE SUB-GROUPS AND AGENCIES, LSCB MEMBERS TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS.

11. REVISED VERSION LSCB FUNDING AGREEMENT

Chris Dimmelow presented this document, which did not introduce any changes but formalised for example what would happen if partners withdrew. The document also articulated how training would be delivered. This was the overarching agreement which partners would sign up to around what they would receive for the financial contribution they made. There was a need for separate paperwork between the Children and Young People's Service and partners around issues such as services. The LSCB was not a legal entity and so could not hold a budget itself, and so the Children and Young People's Service "hosted" the LSCB account.

Mary Mitchell asked who had Appendices 1, 2 and 3. Chris Dimmelow responded that these amounts had already been agreed at the previous Board meeting and because of that were not being re-issued to today's Meeting.

Virginia Pearson asked if Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust should be a partner. Chris Dimmelow responded that Miles Hapgood was of the opinion that they should. He was suggesting a funding split as follows:

40.4% from the RD&E Hospital Trust
24.2% from the North Devon District Hospital Trust
21.1% from the South Devon Healthcare Trust
14.3% from the Plymouth Acute Hospitals Trust

Kathryn Kershaw commented that she felt this was a fair apportionment. Chris Dimmelow added that Plymouth Acute Hospitals Trust had not yet agreed to contribute. Anne Whiteley cautioned that delay in signing off the document could not be afforded. Chris Dimmelow responded that Miles Hapgood thought the LSCB needed to take the matter up with Plymouth. Virginia Pearson stated that she would be happy to let the Plymouth Trust know this.

ACTION:

IT IS THE VIEW OF THIS LSCB THAT IF THE PLYMOUTH ACUTE HOSPITALS TRUST IS NOT PREPARED TO PAY THEIR CONTRIBUTION AS DETAILED ABOVE, THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE A SEAT ON THE LSCB.

Kathryn Kershaw TO LET VIRGINIA PEARSON AND JO TENNANT HAVE A COPY OF THE APPENDICES.

THE DEVON LSCB MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WAS AGREED BY THE BOARD.

CHRIS DIMMELOW TO ISSUE COPIES TO EACH AGENCY FOR SIGNING OFF.

12. MAPPA UPDATE

This item was deferred given that Chris Dimmelow had been unable to attend the last MAPPA Board Meeting.

13. PHASING OUT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

Maria Kasprzyk reported that the DfES had produced its latest integrated system which included the phasing out of the child protection register and the introduction of a formal child protection plan. Details were on the DfES website, including information on how people could check if a child was subject to a child protection plan and how that would be recorded. Implementation by Local Authorities could be at any time, but by 31st August 2008 at the latest.

Maria Kasprzyk reported that the DfES had confirmed that CareFirst (OLM) was now accredited by DfES to deliver the Integrated Children's System.

ACTION:

MARIA KASPRZYK TO PROVIDE CHRIS DIMMELOW WITH A COPY OF HER BRIEFING SUMMARY FOR SMT, SO THAT THIS CAN FORM AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2007 LSCB MEETING.

CHRIS DIMMELOW TO OBTAIN DETAILS OF WEBSITE LINK SO THAT INFORMATION CAN BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE LSCB MINUTES.

Corinne Hayes commented that at the moment, there was good information sharing around children whose names were on the child protection register and she wondered whether there was any risk of important information being lost in the process of transfer. Maria Kasprzyk responded that Devon had not put that functionality in yet as it had not yet been released by OLM. Anne Whiteley remarked that there must be a risk nationally in respect of IT systems which were not DfES accredited.

14. PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL RETURN AND NEW REQUIREMENTS

Chris Dimmelow reported that a request had been made to the DfES for a time extension as the annual return was not yet ready. Hence a presentation of this document could not be made to today's LSCB meeting. It was hoped the annual return would be ready for submission to the DfES by the end of June 2007.

The Board heard that the number of notified private fostering arrangements continued to increase.

The Board also heard that the Development Officer was about to leave and the hours vacated would be allocated to the 2 part-time workers who go out and assess placements – to help reduced the backlog of assessments.

As part of a serious case review in Gloucester, Amanda Cox would be asking authorities to look at private foster arrangements where children were home-schooled.

Cathy Ellingford advised that Placement Support Workers were in the process of being recruited.

15. CONTACTPOINT (PREVIOUSLY CHILD INDEX)

Chris Dimmelow reminded the Board that ContactPoint was the new name for what was the national information database – to be created as a consequence of one of the Victoria Climbié recommendations. A great amount of detail would be required to be recorded.

ContactPoint is now a consultation document. As this was such a detailed document and the issue itself was complex, ContactPoint had requested that those persons taking it forward in individual Local Authorities to consider if they wanted to make a group response, and, if so, to meet with Rob Weeks, Devon's Implementation Manager, for that purpose. Chris Dimmelow therefore asked the Board to consider whether a small group of Board members should meet with Rob Weeks to provide group feedback, or respond on their own behalf of their individual agencies.

Anne Whiteley reported that in speaking with Rob Weeks recently, she was aware that he would find it helpful to meet up with a small group of staff. Some aspects needed to be looked at from a practitioner viewpoint and others from a strategic/management viewpoint. It was through ContactPoint that one would be able to check in the future if a child was known to an agency and which agency. It would take from many databases and join together to make a comprehensive list of children and young people in the country.

In response to Mary Mitchell, it was confirmed that the Probation Service would have access to ContactPoint.

Corinne Hayes expressed concern at the implications of this initiative for child health records and the risk of a child being "lost". Beverley Dubash responded that a child could get on to the system through a number of routes, e.g. by seeing a GP, or by going to school. It would not pick up children who were in this country illegally – the DfES did not want the Immigration Service involved because they did not want to confuse safeguarding with the policing of illegal immigration. Maria Kasprzyk added that there was now a requirement to record a child's Home Office number.

Maria Kasprzyk stated that Devon had submitted 8,000 records to the project and the errors identified were mainly around addresses/service provider. Addresses were taken from the Gazetteer. Any note to the effect that an address should not be disclosed to parents would make the address show up as invalid.

Anne Whiteley asked for a cross-section of views from different organisations. Rob Weeks would be inviting people to participate in workshops.

16. YOUNG WITNESS SUPPORT SCHEME – END OF YEAR REPORT

Alison Kearnes presented this document and asked for feedback from Board members. It had been a very busy year, which meant good levels of awareness, children able to talk about their experiences, and Police activity in terms of bringing alleged offenders to Court. Perhaps the scheme was making a difference in terms of the number of successful convictions. The scheme was getting good co-operation from the court system etc. and this made a significant difference. The scheme had been busy offering support to groups of children giving evidence against alleged abusers. Many more convictions were happening in respect of images viewed on the internet. There were emerging cases where a link could be made between viewing images on the internet and the start of actual abuse taking place.

ACTION:

CHRIS DIMMELOW TO SPEAK WITH BRIAN GRADY ABOUT COMMISSIONING AND FINANCING.

Alison Kearnes reported that the Young Witness Support Scheme had relocated from Newton Abbot into new offices in Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, which provided much better facilities. This was a co-location with Child Line South West. There had been a good response from Exeter and the surrounding area for call volunteers, from which it was hoped that weekend and longer evening cover would eventually be possible. If any LSCB member wished to visit the scheme, they would be more than welcome but were asked to telephone first to make an appointment.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LSCB Logo

Michelle Thornberry asked if there had been any progress in getting an LSCB logo designed. Chris Dimmelow responded that he was going to ask Young Devon if as part of their consultation exercise they could create a logo, but the advocacy contract was not awarded to them. He therefore planned to ask Reconstruct to get someone to put together some designs.

John Davey stated that Connexions could provide some assistance. He would provide Chris Dimmelow with a contact name and telephone number for this.

Consistency of decision making around Access/Thresholds for Social Care

Helen Hyland asked if any progress had been made on this. Maria Kasprzyk responded that it was set up on 4th June 2007. All referrals and contacts made into the child social care now went through a Threshold Unit – with named Practice Managers. This is a new approach and will be evaluated.

ACTION:

INDEPENDENT AUDIT WORK AROUND CONSISTENCY OF DECISION MAKING TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2007 LSCB MEETING.

Care Matters: Time for Change

Copies of the White Paper for Children in Care produced by the Department for Education and Skills were circulated by Deborah Booth. Implications for safeguarding noted at this stage.

Multi-Agency Referral Form

In response to Mary Mitchell, it was confirmed that the consultation period had now ended and a total of 142 responses were received. It had been through Health Information Governance and was now signed off by Devon PCT. The proposal now, if the LSCB was agreeable, was to roll it out as part of multi-agency work being rolled out in late summer this year. It would be put on Devon's website, but should not be faxed when completed given the lack of security around sending and receiving e-mails.

Corinne Hayes remarked that the form needed to clearly state that a copy needed to go back to the referrer so that they would know the outcome.

Young People placed on Adult Hospital Wards

Cathy Ellingford reported that she had been party to work with the PCT around young people placed on adult hospital wards and requested the completed document come back to the LSCB. This was **agreed**.

DfES Survey of LSCBs

Georgie Mackintosh reported that a national survey of LSCBs had been undertaken by the DfES and there was a 100% return on that survey from the South West. Pending publication of the national analysis (hopefully on Tuesday of next week, 26th June) a regional analysis had been prepared and it was proposed to send these two documents out together. If there was any delay, the regional document would be sent out on its own.

Police Central Referral Unit

Ian Fraser-Roe reported that the Central Referral Unit operated from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. seven days a week. Telephone number is 0845 605 1166. E-mail address is CENTRALREFERRALUNIT@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk.

Runaway Helpline

Ian Fraser-Roe drew the attention of the Board to Runaway Helpline, which was a 24 hour confidential helpline for runaways operated by the charity Missing People. It offered help and advice to young people who had run away from home or care, or who had been forced to leave. Runaway Helpline offered a Freefone number (0808 800 7070) and e-mail contact through www.missingpeople.org.uk and runawayhelpline@missingpeople.org.uk.

LSCB Development Day

Annie Whiteley reminded the Board that a Development Day was planned for Friday 5th October 2007.

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next LSCB Meeting will take place on Friday 28th September 2007 at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre.

Signed Dated

Anne Whiteley
Director of Children and Young People's Services

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