



Minutes of Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Wednesday 25 January 2017 - 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Fownhope/Mordiford Room
Plough Lane

Present:		
Sally Halls (Chair)	SH	Independent Chair, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board
Jo Davidson	JD	Director of Children's Wellbeing Services (left at 10.15)
Margo Evans	ME	Manager, Oaks Ltd Childrens Centre - Early years representative (left at 11.55)
Lynne Renton	LR	Deputy Chief Nurse, CCG (left ay 11.25)
Phil Kendrick	PK	Commissioning, Performance and Quality Assurance Manager, YJS (left at 11.55)
Ursula Smith	US	SPO Hereford, NPS (West Mercia)
Sue Thomas	ST	Superintendent, Local Policing Commander for Herefordshire, West Mercia Police
George Branch	GB	Assistant Chief Officer, Warwickshire & West Mercia CRC
Lucy Flanagan	LF	Director of Nursing, Wye Valley NHS Trust
Alison Curson	AC	Deputy Director of Nursing, 2gether NHS Trust
Jane Hoey	JH	Head of Fieldwork (arrived 9.50, left 12.00)
Richard Hibbs	RH	Lay member, HSCB
Dr Sally Stucke	SS	Designated Doctor, CCG
In attendance:		
Steve Eccleston	SE	Manager, Safeguarding Boards Business Unit
Lisa Beavan	LB	Learning & Development Officer, Safeguarding Boards Business Unit
Ed Hughes	EH	Business Support Coordinator, Safeguarding Boards Business Unit
Gill Cox	GC	Head of Looked After Children, attended for item (left at 10.00)
Claire Morris	CM	Manager, Addaction, attended for item (arrived 11.00, left 11.20)
Alex Crawford	AC	Manager, Addaction, attended for item (arrived 11.00, left 11.20)
Ian Anderson	IA	Health Improvement Practitioner, attended for item (arrived 11.00, left 11.20)
Apologies:		
Jocelyn Anderson	JA	Chief Executive Officer, WMRSASC representing HVOSS
Debra Baldwin	DB	Director of Personnel and Senior Designated Safeguarding Person, Herefordshire and Ludlow College - FE Colleges representative
Anne Owen	AO	Interim Executive Lead Nurse, CCG
Mandy Appleby	MA	Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker, HC
Steve White	TC	Service Manager, CAFCASS
Sian Bailey	SB	Headteacher, Blackmarston School - Special Schools representative
Adele McGuigan	AM	Regional IDVA, Safeguarding and Children/Young People Support Services Manager, West Mercia Women's Aid
Chris Baird	CB	Assistant Director Commissioning and Education, HC
Adam Scott	AS	Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Family Support, HC
Tim Knapp	TK	Headteacher, Whitecross School, Secondary schools representative

1.	Introduction	
	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>During the introductions PK and JD informed members that this would be their final Board meeting. EH also informed members that Dame Oremi Evans had changed role and would no longer attend as Secondary Education representative.</p> <p>The Chair on behalf of the Board thanked all three members for their contribution to HSCB and safeguarding in Herefordshire over the last few years.</p> <p>It was noted that Chris Baird would be taking over as Interim Director of Children’s Wellbeing, once JD leaves her current post at the end of March, and he would be attending future Board meetings in that capacity.</p> <p>It was agreed that the running order of the agenda would be changed to enable Gill Cox to present the Corporate Parenting annual report first before leaving the meeting.</p>	
2.	Corporate Parenting Panel annual report	
	<p>Gill Cox presented the Corporate Parenting Panel report and the following points were noted:</p> <p><u>Background and introduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall oversight for Corporate Parenting lies with the multi-agency Corporate Parenting Panel. • Staff are currently working on a revised Corporate Parenting Strategy, the aim of which is to be bolder, more courageous and more ambitious. The revised strategy will also incorporate priorities. • The revised Corporate Parenting Strategy will be consulted on during February, and will be presented at HSCB Executive Group. The Board will contribute to the strategy individually and via the Executive Group. • Corporate Parenting Panel has strategic oversight only and does not get involved with any aspects of Quality Assurance. • The Quality Assurance (QA) subgroup of the Board will be including an audit of outcomes for looked after children and care leavers into its 2017/18 work plan. It will look at single agency and multi-agency audits. <p><u>Looked after children in Herefordshire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rate of looked after children in Herefordshire is significantly higher when compared with other authorities. There is no external reason such as deprivation or demographics, so it is felt that the extra numbers must be down to thresholds, and work is being done to investigate this issue. 	

	<p><u>Missing Episodes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue – It has been identified that children placed ‘out of county’ are recorded inconsistently on the Mosaic CMS, which makes it difficult to report on missing episodes of children placed ‘out of county’. • Asked whether any analysis had been undertaken to look at why children are going missing, including any links to CSE, GC replied that more analysis needs to be done to draw out the themes. • SH requested that future reports should include information on care leavers. <p>The report was noted.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of last meeting, matters arising and action log</p>	
	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u> The minutes of the last meeting on 17.10.16 were approved, as an accurate record</p> <p><u>Matters arising from the minutes</u> None</p> <p><u>Action Log</u> See below for actions that are still outstanding. All other actions were closed / completed and removed from the main log.</p> <p><u>Outstanding Actions</u> Action No. 60 (17/10/2016) Ref. 4.2 Early Help (Perpetrator Programme review) Ongoing - Jon Roberts, Chair of DVA Sub Group is pursuing Herefordshire Housing for the closing report for the scheme. This is yet to be received.</p>	
4.	<p>Serious safeguarding issues / Examples of good practice / Other issues</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LR informed members that she has escalated a case of possible CSE to NHS England and the Local Authority, where the required medical examination was delayed and social care staff did not visit until after the examination took place. • PK flagged up the issue of a number of cannabis factories that have been raided in Shropshire, where the trafficked young people working there have been treated as perpetrators rather than as victims, which is against nationally agreed protocol. • JD briefly mentioned that there is a serious and complex child abuse investigation underway currently. No further details were discussed. 	
5.	<p>Voice of the Child</p>	
	<p>RH and SE gave a presentation on ‘voice of the child’. Following the presentation, it was requested that members split into small groups to consider</p>	

5.1	<p>the presentation and answer the following three questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we as a Board want to use the Voice of the Child for, i.e. what aspects of our work can it most effectively influence? (Be specific!) 2. What should the Board do to secure it for those purposes? (if two or more suggestions, please give order of priority). 3. What evidence will the Board aim to produce that we are doing better in this area. ('you say, we do', how do we show that?) <p>After a period of group discussion members of each group presented their answers to these questions, from the group's point of view, and these were recorded by SE and RH.</p> <p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>The feedback from the groups will be collated and used to produce a report which will be presented at Executive Group. It is envisaged that the report will contain a range of proposed options.</p>	SE / RH
5.2	<p>Board members were requested to look at what arrangements are currently available to their individual agencies to capture the voice of the child, and to feed this information back to SE to inform the above report.</p>	All
6.	Scrutiny / Assurance	
6a.	Assurance report: Review of the current contract for substance misuse services	
6.1	<p>IA presented a follow up assurance report on Substance Misuse services as requested at the last meeting. In addition CM and AC attended from the provider, Addaction to respond to any specific queries.</p> <p>One of the issues raised after the previous report concerned disengagement by the user and the potential impact on their children of parents / grandparents / care givers.</p> <p>It was explained that Addaction are now working hard with this group of service users and levels of disengagement are lower than previously. Whilst it was acknowledged that there had been problems with transitional data that transferred from the old provider during the early days of the contract, as Addaction has now been in place for 13 months they have collected their own data to 'fill in the gaps'.</p> <p>Action – Review how many Addaction service users have children, and feed back to the Board via the business unit.</p> <p><u>Next steps / actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addaction's threshold for disclosure to MASH should align with the Levels of Need (LoN) thresholds. This is a requirement for all other organisations. • Commissioners must ensure that Addaction policies have a 'local fit' with child protection and other safeguarding arrangements. • Representative from Addaction to be invited to become a member of the Quality Assurance (QA) Sub Group of the Board. Business Unit to follow 	IA

	<p>up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addaction to look at their own themes, trends and audits taking place nationally, and report back to the Board on a quarterly basis. • Addaction to include information on safety and safeguarding implications for children in all Conference Reports, working with Cath Thomas in the IRU regarding expectations and standards. <p><u>Board response to the report</u></p> <p>The chair thanked IA and Addaction colleagues for coming to present the follow up report. The Board feels that the 'direction of travel' is the right one, and that all queries raised at the last meeting had been answered satisfactorily.</p> <p>The report was noted and assurance accepted.</p>	
6b.	Wye Valley NHS Trust CQC inspection findings report	
	<p>LF presented the Wye Valley NHS Trust CQC inspection findings report, in which much good progress was noted.</p> <p>In a reference to the earlier 'Voice of the Child' discussions, LF mentioned that they have produced a video featuring Young Ambassadors, which may be useful, and she will try and locate it and circulate for members to look at.</p> <p><u>Board response to the report</u></p> <p>The chair noted and members agreed that this should be the final assurance report directly from Wye Valley NHS Trust, in recognition of the progress that has been made in recent months. In future, information from the Trust to come to the Board can be incorporated into CCG assurance reports.</p>	
7.	Strategic Priority 1 : Child Sexual Exploitation / Missing Children	
	<p>SE presented the following reports relating to CSE:</p> <p><u>CSE and Missing Sub Group TOR</u> Updated terms of reference for HSCB CSE and Missing Sub Group (CSE Strategic Group) with senior level participation. Members agreed that the Strategic Group should concentrate on overseeing the CSE Strategy, and the Operational Group should work on the very important role of intelligence gathering, collation of data and problem solving / disruption.</p> <p>PK mentioned that criminal justice agencies (YJS / CRC / NPS) may need to further discuss arrangements for representation on the group, as sometimes communication between the three agencies may need improvement, and information sharing between all three is vital if only one attends each meeting on behalf of others.</p>	

7.1	<p>Action - (YJS / CRC / NPS) to discuss arrangements for representation on the CSE Strategic group.</p> <p><u>Proposed Joint CSE Strategy</u> Proposed Joint CSE Strategy based on newly revised Shropshire CSE Strategy, with local Herefordshire Action Plan to sit alongside.</p> <p><u>Next steps / actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Shropshire CSE Strategy as joint strategy with Shropshire, with local Action Plan to sit alongside – Agreed • Updated terms of reference for HSCB CSE and Missing Sub Group (CSE Strategic Group) with senior level participation. – Agreed subject to criminal justice agencies agreement on representation. • The Strategic Group should consider the information that it requires from the Operational Group, in order to effectively discharge its responsibilities. 	Representatives from YJS / CRC / NPS
7.2	<p>Action - The Board requires assurance around the governance of risk management meetings (SE to follow up with JH).</p>	SE / JH
8.	<p>Delivering the HSCB Business Plan</p>	
	<p>a) Executive Report</p>	
	<p>SE presented the Executive Report to the Board, with updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board priorities - Subgroups - Progress on the LSCB Improvement Plan - Risk register - Safeguarding in sport <p>Other items were covered as agenda items.</p> <p>Members felt that the Executive Report gave a suitable level of detail and the report was welcomed and noted.</p>	
	<p>b) Quarter 2 Scorecard</p>	
	<p>LB presented the Quarter 2 Scorecard to the Board and the following highlights were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect is now the reason for the largest cohort of CP plans at almost 50%. • The number of children subject of a second or subsequent CP plan is increasing, but actual numbers are very small. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a reduction in the number of CP plans at month end which have been open from more than 2 years. • LAC numbers are rising gradually (currently 288). <p>The question was asked as to why Herefordshire has such high figures on sexual abuse offences, and ST said that she felt it may be due to historic cases being 'crimed' ethically in current years. It is possible to split historic and current cases and ST agreed to do this for future data requests.</p> <p>The Chair asked that the low numbers of contacts progressing to referral be addressed by the MASH Governance Group. It was requested that the MASH Governance Group provide a more detailed and in depth analysis of what is happening on this issue, to the next meeting of the Executive Group.</p> <p><i>Update – This matter has been discussed with the Chair of the MASH Governance Group by AS, who has highlighted that the Q2 data refers to a referral process in which there was little confidence and as such had been recognised as in need of radical change. This process was in fact discontinued at the end of Q2, making further analysis of the data from that period uninformative of any current MASH performance and effectiveness. What is recognised as informative however is the data which will be secured from Q3 and Q4 periods on the ratio of referrals progressing to assessment, and therefore the effectiveness of that new referral process. It is therefore requested that this data be presented to a later HSCB Executive, with two periods being allowed in order to ensure an accurate reflection of a fully embedded process.</i></p>	
9.	Any Other Business	
	<p><u>Plans for next meeting</u></p> <p>The theme of the next Board meeting will be neglect. The meeting, which is being held on 25 April, will be a combined Board meeting and development session, starting at 9.30am with the development session, and continuing with the Board meeting in the afternoon.</p> <p>LB informed Board members that the Business Unit will be circulating a self-assessment form which when completed will inform the development session, to be returned by 31 March. The document appears lengthy but it should not take long to complete.</p> <p><u>Briefing papers requested at the last meeting</u></p> <p>The following documents, requested at the last meeting were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing for GPs about private fostering (Lynne Renton). It was agreed that the Business Unit would look at whether this useful briefing can be put on to the HSCB website. • Briefing on decision to reduce library services, and the safeguarding implications arising from reduced customer services provision. (Natalia Silver). 	

	<p>Meeting closed at 12.15</p> <p>Date of future meetings:</p> <p>LSCB Development Session and Board Meeting 25 April 2017 9.30 to 4.00pm Herefordshire Group Training Association, Holmer Road, Hereford HR4 9SX</p> <p>LSCB Board Meeting 10 July 2017 9.30am to 12.30pm Bromyard and Sutton Rooms Plough Lane</p> <p>LSCB Board Meeting 09 October 2017 9.30am to 12.30pm Bromyard and Sutton Rooms Plough Lane</p> <p>LSCB Board Meeting 15 January 2018 9.30am to 12.30pm Bromyard and Sutton Rooms Plough Lane</p>	
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