

SLOUGH LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD - Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th January, 2010 at Connexions, High Street, Slough.



Present:-

Name	Representing
Alex Bayliss	Service Manager (Safeguarding and Governance), SBC
Rekha Brigue-Parker	East Berkshire Senior Probation Officer
Elaine Coleridge-Smith	Slough LSCB Independent Chair
Robin Crofts	Assistant Director, Inclusion, SBC
Debbie Daly	Berkshire East PCT
Karl Davis	MALT's Manager, SBC
Cilla Dorman	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust
Janine Edwards	Homestart Slough/SCVS
Kevin Gordon	Assistant Director, Transformational Change, SBC
Juliet Holloway	East Berkshire College
Kevin Jones	St Joseph's School/SASH
Pat LeRoy	Reviewing Service Manager, SBC
Jessi Loftus	Connexions Berkshire
Jatinder Matharu	Training Officer, SBC
Jaipal Mondae	Business Information Analyst, SBC
Peter Morales	CAFCASS
Cllr Natasa Pantelic	Commissioner for Education and Children's Services,
Ellis Rivers	Group Manager, SBC
Ian Sandbrook	Interim Director, Education & Children's Services, SBC
Andy Sedgwick	Interim Assistant Director, Children & Families, SBC
Mary Shannon	LSCB/CT Business Manager, SBC
Chris Shead	Thames Valley Police
Elaine Welch	Named Nurse for CP for Slough
Sophie Wing-King	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator TVP/SBC

Apologies for Absence:- Jesal Dhokia, Chris Etheridge, Petra Kitchman, Rebecca Lacey, Shelley LaRose, Judeline Nicholas, Karen J Proctor, Karen Stoneham, John Worgan and Susanne Yeoman.

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22. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November, 2009 were approved as a correct record.

Ian Sandbrook (IS) raised the issue of safeguarding training and stated that a letter had been circulated to all members as to who had priority with regard to receiving the training. It was acknowledged that funding for the training was a difficulty and Elaine Coleridge-Smith and Ian Sandbrook would write to all these partners informing them that there was an issue with regard to resources and capacity but they also realised that there was a need for the training, especially level 2 training to

Ian Sandbrook
to action.

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	<p>take place. Debbie Daly raised the question as to whether agencies would be charged for the provision of such training and stated that Bracknell Forest Council currently charge £50 per training session. IS stated that a decision had not yet been made as to whether a charge would be implemented.</p> <p>Concern was expressed as to the position of schools and responsible individuals if they had not received statutory training. IS stated that if schools or agencies were anxious with regard to having received the training they were entitled to receive the training externally. ECS stated that an in depth analysis of training would be discussed at the next meeting and would look at issues such as gaps within the training, what was currently being provide, quality assuring of training etc.</p>	Mary Shannon to agenda plan
23.	<u>Performance Reports/Rise in Child Protection Numbers</u>	
	<p>Jai Mondae (JM) highlighted that the number of children subject to a protection plan had decreased since the LSCB had last met. Whilst this was welcomed it was noted that the figures remained above those of neighbouring authorities. It was also noted that the number of referrals being made to social services had also decreased. In the following discussion, it was asked whether agencies had revised their methods by which referrals were made to the appropriate authority. Representatives from health agencies stated that there had been no change in their procedures and were confident that appropriate referrals were being made.</p> <p>Andy Sedgwick (AS) stated that the reduction in referrals had been quite dramatic and there needed to be an understanding as to why this had taken place and whether the children were receiving the same level of support but by different agencies. It was noted that the figures would be analysed by who had made the referrals and the number of referrals made by agencies which would be looked at the next meeting of the LSCB.</p> <p>JM also reported that recent data relating to national indicator 70 – reduction in emergency hospital admissions - had decreased and was now moving towards average figures for neighbouring authorities. It was agreed that a quarterly monitoring of this performance indicator would be set up. Karl Davis stated that it would also be looked at the number of CAFs completed per agency and contact referrals that were then processed onto an initial assessment.</p>	Jai Mondae to action. Karl Davis/ Jai Mondae/ Kevin Gordon to lead
24.	<u>Safeguarding Issues from partner Agencies – Preperation for announced OFSTED Inspection</u>	
	<p>Ellis Rivers (ER) stated that a two week inspection by OFSTED of the services provided for children services would be carried</p>	

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	<p>out in the near future. The documents requested by the inspectors and an indicative timetable of the inspection process were also outlined. The emerging themes on what the inspection was likely to focus on and scrutinise was highlighted for Members information. AS stated that all partner agencies needed to be aware that the inspection regime could challenge any aspect of the services being provided, for example, why compared to statistical neighbours did Slough have a higher number of children with a protection plan.</p>	
25.	<u>Private Fostering Annual Report</u>	
	<p>Tina Ryan (TR) the Fostering Team Manager, outlined details of the private fostering annual fostering report. It was highlighted that at the start of the year there were three children in private fostering arrangements known to the local authority, but the year ended with only one child in private foster care. In respect of the other two children, they had returned to the care of their families. It was also highlighted that a raising awareness campaign, had been launched to co-inside with a national private fostering week in January 2009. This had included an information stand at the Queensmere Shopping Centre, adverts and editorial in Slough Observer, mailshot flyer to all GPs, Headteachers and Health Visitors. Posters were also displayed in Council premises and libraries and leisure centres etc. However, despite an extremely proactive campaign in January 2009 which was followed up in September 2009, the local authority was still receiving a negligible amount of notifications or enquiries and it would appear that there are very few private fostering arrangements made in Slough.</p> <p>Since a requirement to keep records was implemented it was noted that two children in 2006, two children in 2007 and two children in 2008 had entered private fostering arrangements within the local authority. The Chair expressed concern with regard to the low numbers reported and queried as to whether benchmarking data could be obtained for neighbouring authorities. TR stated that although the Local Authority (LA) was doing all it could to promote private fostering arrangement, difficulties arose when the LA had no knowledge of where the children were in the first instance. Concern was expressed specifically relating to the new emerging communities within Slough. An example was given relating to the Roma Community, where it was difficult to assess if and how many children there were as a high percentage did not attend school.</p>	
	<p>It was suggested that it may be appropriate to have a champion within various agencies to ensure that the issue remained high profile. It was agreed that the issue needed to be investigated further.</p>	<p>Mary Shannon to agenda plan</p>

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26. <u>Domestic Abuse</u>	<p>Sophie Wing-King (SWK) outlined the work that was taking place in Slough with regard to domestic abuse and implications for children affected by domestic abuse. Public awareness with regard to the issue was raised via various methods including promotion on the website, public event awareness raising day held in August 2009 at Montem Leisure Centre and good local and national media coverage.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the number of domestic abuse incidents per 1,000 population was the highest in Slough for the Berkshire East area. It was queried as to whether a breakdown of the figures provided could be obtained with regard to background ethnicity, those with children etc. SWK stated that this was not collected by the domestic abuse team currently. Following a request with regard to whether the Domestic Abuse Leaflets could be electronically sent to all GPs within the area. SWK confirmed that she would do this.</p>	Sophie Wing-King to distribute leaflets electronically
27. <u>Feedback from Sub-Committees</u>	(a) <u>East Berkshire Training</u>	
	<p>Debbie Daly stated that she would be leaving her current post in March 2010 and a new Chair had been appointed to the Sub-Committee. Work of the training sub-group was outlined and included identifying training needs and carrying out an analysis with all partners with regard to obtaining a clear picture as to the training requirements for all partner agencies. The Chair on behalf of the LSCB Board members thanked Debbie Daly for her contributions over the years and wished her well for the future.</p>	
	(b) <u>Berkshire Procedures Sub-Group</u>	
	<p>Pat LeRoy stated that since the launch in September 2009 there had not been much demand for paper copies of the various policies and procedures. The Chair questioned as to whether the voluntary sector had access to the website and it was confirmed that this was possible and had been highlighted in the beginning when the initiative was launched.</p>	
	(c) <u>Quality and Performance Sub-Group</u>	
	<p>It was noted that the sub-group had met and agreed that the work plan needed to be refined to reflect current priorities. It was also identified that a new chair for the sub-group was required for the next meeting in February 2010.</p>	

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	<p>(d) <u>Child Death Overview Panel</u></p> <p>It was noted that a CDOP Manager had been appointed and their key responsibilities included training for the group and preparing the annual report to the LSCB.</p>	
	<p>(e) <u>Safer Staffing Sub-Group</u></p> <p>Members were informed that Karen Stoneham would soon be taking maternity leave and that a new Chair needed to be appointed for the Sub-Group. Members wished to place on record their thanks to KS for her contributions to the Sub-Group and wished her well for the future.</p>	
	<p>(f) <u>E-Safety Sub-Group</u></p> <p>Noted.</p>	
28.	<p><u>Discussion around the role of LSCB in challenging and scrutinising</u></p> <p>The Chair provided Members with an overview as to the current situation with regard to the LSCB and stated that a constitution was in place and various sub-groups had been set up. The main area of work now was to effectively challenge the work being done and to report this back to members in an effective manner.</p> <p>Robin Crofts reported that there was a degree of concern by elected members who required a degree of assurance that the work being done by partner agencies and organisations was to an acceptable standard. The possibility of safeguarding to appear as a regular item on the Education and Children Services Scrutiny Panel would be investigated further.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Children's Trust be requested to commission a report on specific areas of concern and carry out a risk assessment of key areas and commission these into the LSCB Business Plan. It was also stated that one key topic be discussed at each of the meetings of the LSCB in order to allow sufficient time and in depth discussion to a specific topic.</p>	<p>Ian Sandbrook / Mary Shannon to action.</p> <p>Mary Shannon to agenda plan.</p>

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	<p>Debbie Daly stated that scrutiny of individual agencies needed to be increased in case the LSCB were challenged on any area of non-compliance via these agencies. Councillor Pantelic stated that it was important for all to understand what the other agencies were doing and only then would it be possible to effectively challenge them. The Chair also stated that the issue of lay members and young people on the LSCB in future needed to be looked at. Councillor Pantelic reported that there was a youth cabinet which met regularly and perhaps their representative could be invited to come along to LSCB meetings.</p> <p>The Chair stated that a number of useful suggestions had been made and that this would all contribute towards a self evaluation of the LSCB Board and further professional development.</p>	Elaine Coleridge Smith / Mary Shannon to investigate further.
29.	Forward Plan and Agenda items for the Next Meeting	
	It was suggested that a report with regard to missing children be prepared for discussion at the next meeting. .	Mary Shannon to agenda plan.

(The meeting opened at 2.00 p.m. closed at 4 p.m.)