



**SLOUGH LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD - Meeting held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 at Connexions, High Street, Slough.**

**Present:-**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Laura Eades	Independent Chair
Bill Alexander	Assistant Director, Raising Achievement, SBC
Robin Crofts	Assistant Director, Inclusion, SBC
Clarisser Cupid	Berkshire East PCT
Cilla Dorman	Berkshire East PCT
Janine Edwards	Homestart Slough/SCVS
Christine Etheridge	NHS South Central
Kate Ford	Thames Valley Police
Sally Grimstone	Head of Psychology and Inclusion, SBC
Juliet Holloway	East Berkshire College
Theresa Jordaan	Berkshire East PCT Named GP
Rebecca Lacey	Berkshire East PCT Community Health Service
Shelley LaRose	Slough Youth Offending Team
Pat LeRoy	Reviewing Service Manager, SBC
Jessi Loftus	Connexions Berkshire
Jatinder Matharu	Training Officer, SBC
Jaipal Mondae	Business Information Analyst, SBC
Clair Pyper	Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services, SBC
Nicky Rayner	Assistant Director, Children and Families, SBC
Mary Shannon	Interim Business Manager, CT/LSCB
Rachel Sheean	Assistant Team Manager, Safeguarding, SBC
Sandra Storey	Performance and Projects Manager, SBC
John Worgan	ICT Manager, Schools, SBC
Susanna Yeoman	Acting Locality Manager, SBC

**Apologies for Absence:-** Neil Aves (SBC Housing), Rekha Brigue (Probation Service), Jo Cross (CAFCASS), Debbie Daly (Berkshire East PCT), Jesal Dhokia (SCVS), Councillor Patricia O'Connor, Karen Proctor (Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust) and Jane Weller (Fire and Rescue Service).

<b>Item</b>	<b>Main Points/Action Arising</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>1. Feedback from LSCB Executive</b>	Serious Case Review Update – LE updated the meeting on this SCR which had highlighted a number of issues, many of which were particular to Slough around communications, especially as regards migrants with limited English, as well as the workloads of health visitors and others and issues around HMOs. An extension had been requested and granted until 11 <sup>th</sup> September with the overview report being finalised by the end of July. Any	Laura Eades

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	urgent issues would be shared with Board members at an early stage.	
	Communications and Media – The importance of communications and getting the right messages out to the media had been highlighted and it was agreed that a discussion on this issue should be programmed for a future Board meeting.	Mary Shannon
	Singleton Report – BA to circulate statement to the Board on this issue concerning Independent, special and state boarding schools. LSCB to consider the issue at a future meeting.	Bill Alexander/ Mary Shannon
	Constitution – Any comments to be circulated to Mary Shannon as soon as possible.	All to note
<b>2.</b>	<b>Business Plan – Review of Update</b>	
	MS advised that it was important to review the Plan in relation to each of the outcomes the Board was aiming to deliver. Whilst it was fairly well updated at present, the next stage was to meet with individual Leads and better structure the way in which it was written. MS proposed to wait until the new Independent Chair was in place and would then be contacting each of the Leads on this issue. As with the Children's Trust Outcomes Plans, the document was possibly too operational at the present time and it needed to better link with the Children's Trust Outcomes and provide for better scrutiny of the Children's Trust's safeguarding role.	MS/ All Leads to note
<b>3.</b>	<b>Laming Report and National DCSF Conference Update</b>	
	LE updated the meeting on the current position. She had recently attended the annual LSCB Conference and had been hoping to hear from the DCSF some clear guidelines on the future direction that LSCBs were now supposed to be following in the light of the Laming Report. Unfortunately, little guidance had been forthcoming but the key question was how LSCBs could ensure safeguarding when it was not responsible for the agencies delivering services and it was therefore largely an influencing role. This could be delivered through good performance management information and putting appropriate quality management and assurance processes in place. It was clear that the government was looking for LSCBs to take the lead and it was important that partners acted collectively as a Board to influence and persuade.	
	It was felt that it would be useful for pressure to be kept on the DCSF to put down some clear guidelines for LSCBs.	
	CE on behalf of the Strategic Health Authority commented that	

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	<p>the outcomes were still awaited of a recent inspection of health services by the Care Quality Commission. The new Safeguarding Health PIs should prove useful although it was not yet clear how they would be presented.</p>	
	<p>Reference was made to the draft revision of chapter 8 of Working Together and to the main issues arising. There would be a requirement that a SCR would need to be held where a child had committed a serious offence or where a parent had been murdered although there was concern at the unclear terminology in the document. Further clarity was required.</p>	
	<p>CP commented that, with regard to the current structure of SCRs, there would be more discussion around these and their role with further changes possible.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Baby P Update</b>	
	<p>Pat LeRoy circulated a summary of the revised Haringey SCR concerning Baby P setting out the lessons to be learnt and the conclusions. CP commented that due to the increase in child protection cases in Slough, and the increased pressure on all agencies, an increased risk was being run that child protection would not be as thorough as it should be. She and NR had attended the Slough Local Strategic Partnership in May to talk about this issue and their concerns and had been asked to keep it updated on the position on a regular basis. This was the most critical issue for the Board at the present time.</p>	
	<p>Nicky Rayner reported that the thresholds for lower level children in need cases for social work intervention have been raised temporarily to reduce social work caseloads and further discussion on the impact of this and a full report will be available for LSCB discussion in September. All agencies were asked to consider the impact on their agency and bring that information to the September meeting for discussion.</p>	
	<p>LE asked how the matter should now be taken forward. PLR suggested that this could be picked up through multi-agency training, induction and ongoing monitoring. Another issue related to communication with parents and the need to be clear with them that if people were worried about their child, they would want to examine it and what this would entail. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to establish a short term communications group to look at the issue of how to get the message across to parents where a child protection issue arose and to ensure that they understood what this entailed, possibly through the production of a leaflet. LE agreed to produce draft terms of reference for such a group.</p>	Laura Eades
	<p>CE asked to be kept informed on this issue and she was happy</p>	Laura Eades/

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	to take this forward at the Strategic Health Authority level if an example of good practice in Slough could be shared more widely. The possibility of some financial support from the SHA was also raised.	Christine Etheridge
<b>5. Safeguarding/Scrutinising of Children's Trust Activities</b>		
	CP updated the Board. She referred to the impact on all agencies of the increase in child protection numbers. She commented that consideration needed to be given to the services provided at an earlier stage so that this earlier intervention could prevent so many needing child protection plans at a later stage. She also referred to the ongoing budget pressures which this increase was causing. It was suggested that one key element was to be able to analyse the information being provided by the CAFs at an early stage and this would be an issue that would be picked up at Children's Trust Awayday on 15 <sup>th</sup> September.	Clair Pyper/ Mary Shannon
<b>6. Reports from Sub-Groups</b>		
<b>6.1 Quality and Performance Sub-Group</b>		
	CC tabled the notes of the Sub-Group held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June. Reference was again made to the very high level in Slough of both accidental and non-accidental injuries as defined by NI70 and this issue would be brought back to the next meeting.	Mary Shannon
	Consideration had been given to the possibility of accident prevention being looked at on a wider basis, possibly through the establishment of a sub-group and JL was asked to contact the appropriate individuals, not necessarily members of the Board, to establish such a group.	Jessi Loftus
	It was suggested that this should be a short life group and that road safety issues should also be included.	
	The Quality and Performance Sub-Group still required representation from the schools and from the Police.	Mary Shannon/ Kate Ford
<b>6.2 Safer Staffing</b>		
	BA reported. There was a high level of demand for training at level 2 which was currently difficult to meet. CRB checks had been done in respect of supplementary schools across Slough although there was still a difficulty in respect of home tuition. Funding was also problematical for training to support organisations such as faith groups, supplementary schools, etc and for CRB checking.	

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	<p>In respect of allegations, between March 2008 and March 2009 there had been 10 referrals but he did not believe this portrayed the true position when compared with statistical neighbours. 90% of the allegations came from schools and he believed there was considerable under reporting from other sectors. Agreed that PLR bring a summary of allegations for the past year to the September meeting.</p>	Pat LeRoy
	<p>RL commented that no allegations had been received against health service staff in the last two years.</p>	
	<p>Noted that it would be helpful to have an SHA perspective on this issue. It seems that low numbers are reported nationally from health settings and it would be necessary to have an explanation for this on a national, regional and local basis so that the LSCB can decide whether there is a performance issue in Slough.</p>	Christine Etheridge
	<p>TJ reported that a new complaints procedure had been introduced in the health service so that level of allegations may alter. It was also possible that the definition of what was an allegation may be different in different organisation.</p>	
	<p>Noted the next meeting was taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> September but that there was still shortage of representation from other agencies, including the Police.</p>	All to action
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Training</b>	
	<p>RL reported that a lot of good work had taken place including agreement across the three East Berkshire LSCBs of a two day level 2 training course. A training needs analysis had been undertaken but many agencies were unable to accurately provide the necessary information. DD had asked all agencies to identify the numbers trained and those still requiring it.</p>	All to action
	<p>CE commented that there was a national drive on safeguarding training and ensuring its consistency as the content of levels 1 and 2 training could vary enormously across authorities. LSCBs would have a role in scrutinising the position locally.</p>	All to note
	<p>Agreed that a costed proposal should come to the Board to deliver training over the year, given the increased level of demand and that this should be brought to the September meeting.</p>	Jatinder Matharu
<b>6.4</b>	<b>New Child Protection Procedures</b>	
	<p>PLR advised that as from 7<sup>th</sup> September it would be necessary for all agencies to destroy and recycle the former 2006</p>	All to action Pat LeRoy

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	Berkshire Child Protection Procedures with the new procedures being on-line from that date. Reference was made to a problem whereby a firewall was blocking the viewing of “sexual abuse” and it was agreed that all agencies test out the procedures and report any glitches experienced to Pat.	
	Particular reference was made to possible problems with schools accessing the procedures and JW commented that new filtering systems were being put into all schools which would be available for September. BA commented that all schools would be asked to test the system and let the authority know of any problems	John Worgan/ Bill Alexander
	In respect of independent schools, BA to write advising them.	Bill Alexander
	All organisations to ensure that the new on-line procedures are brought to the attention of all relevant people within their organisations.	All to action urgently
<b>7.</b>	<b>Child Death Overview Panel – Annual Report</b>	
	The annual report for 2008/09 had been circulated. All partners were asked to read it.	All to action
	NR suggested that it would be useful if birth rates information was included, given that Slough and Reading had maternity units within them and this would provide more contextual information.	Louise Watson/ Pat Leroy
	CP commented that there was no reference in the document to parents’ views of child deaths.	
	Suggested that an interim six monthly report to the Board would also be helpful.	Louise Watson to take back to CDOP
<b>8.</b>	<b>Task Group – Self-Harm Group Update</b>	
	Report and proposed referral/care pathway for young people who self-harm or are at risk of self-harming noted. A number of suggestions were made for changes to the pathway.	
	With regard to the possibility of a helpline for parents/young people there was concern at the realism of being able to provide this at a time of shrinking budgets and it was agreed to refer to the Children’s Trust how such a service might be commissioned.	Sally Grimstone/ Mary Shannon
	SG to amend and finalise the document and communicate it to all agencies including all LSCB/CT members.	Sally Grimstone

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<b>9. E-Safety Task Group Update</b>	<p>JW tabled an update report advising that most of the work programme had now been completed. He was thanked for leading what had been an extremely good piece of work.</p> <p><u>Performance Information</u> SS and JM reported. Agreed to bring the Ofsted information back to a later meeting of the Board.</p> <p><u>Update on Compact Responses</u> Report noted.</p> <p><u>Increase in Children in Care</u> NR advised of the increase, noting that Slough was not above the national average.</p> <p><u>LSCB Conference – 20<sup>th</sup> October</u> All agencies to note.</p> <p><u>Annual Report to Children’s Trust</u> LE undertook to provide a framework for this report before leaving her post as Chair.</p> <p><u>Chairing Arrangements</u> CP reported that an advert had been placed for a new independent Chair in the Guardian in the previous week on behalf of Bracknell Forest and Slough. The closing date was 26<sup>th</sup> July with interviews taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> August. In the interim, MS would keep CP updated on issues and someone would need to chair the next meeting if the new Chair was not in place.</p>	<p>Mary Shannon</p> <p>Mary Shannon</p> <p>All to action</p> <p>Laura Eades</p>
<b>10. Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>	<p>The minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 were approved as a correct record.</p>	
<b>11. Laura Eades, Independent Chair</b>	<p>The Board passed a vote of thanks to Laura Eades who was chairing her last meeting of the Board thanking her for her considerable contribution to its work over the past three years and wishing her well for the future.</p>	

(The meeting opened at 2.00 p.m. closed at 4.05 p.m.)