

**SLOUGH LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD – Meeting held at 2.00 pm, on Tuesday, 23 March 2010 at Connexions, High Street, Slough.**



**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Elaine Coleridge-Smith	Slough LSCB Independent Chair
Robin Crofts	Assistant Director, Inclusion, SBC
Janine Edwards	Homestart Slough/SCVS
Kevin Gordon	Assistant Director, Transformational Change, SBC
Kevin Jones	St Joseph's School/SASH
Theresa Jordaan	Berkshire East PCT Named GP
Rebecca Lacey	Berkshire East PCT Community Health Service
Pat LeRoy	Reviewing Service Manager, SBC
Jessi Loftus	Connexions Berkshire
Jo Matthews	Littledown School
Jaipal Mondae	Business Information Analyst, SBC
Peter Morales	CAFCASS
Judeline Nicholas	Training and Development Manager, SBC
Clair Pyper	Strategic Director of Education & Children's Services, SBC
Shelley LaRose	Head of Service - Youth Offending Team
Andy Sedgwick	Interim Assistant Director, Children & Families, SBC
Mary Shannon	LSCB/CT Business Manager, SBC
Elaine Welch	Named Nurse for CP for Slough
Susanne Yeoman	Locality Manager, Mental Health, BFT

**Apologies for Absence :** Karl Davis, Chris Etheridge, Juliet Holloway, Clarissa Hughes, James Priestman, Louise Watson and Sophie Wing-King.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Main Points/Action Arising</b>	<b>Action By</b>
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**30. Minutes of the Previous LSCB and Executive Board**

The minutes of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 were approved as a correct record.

The minutes of the Executive Board held on 4<sup>th</sup> March were noted.

**31. Performance Reports**

Jai Mondae reported on the figures relating to the source care referral source analysis for the period between April 2009 and February 2010. It was noted that whilst the figures were initially much higher than neighbouring local authorities', there

## Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board - 23.03.10

Item	Main Points/Action Arising	Action By
	<p>had been a dramatic decrease in numbers. Following concern expressed with regard to this at the previous LSCB meeting, further investigation work had been carried out with regard to the source of referral of cases to social services. It was reported that there had been a decrease in the number of referrals from all the partner agencies including health, schools and the police. An example relating to Thames Valley Police was quoted as previously between 70-80 referrals being made per month which had now decreased to 20 per month. It was stated that it needed to be looked at how and why this was happening and whether it had any connection with the demographics of the area, for example, the high number of people moving to within the area from abroad.</p> <p>The Interim Assistant Director for Children's and Families, Andy Sedgwick (AS) stated that the service had reached saturation point whereby there had been a dramatic increase in cases but staff levels had remained the same. Clair Pyper stated that this was an issue that the Children's Trust needed to look at in more detail and that a more integrated approach from all agencies was required to manage the issue more efficiently. It was agreed that it would be investigated at to what multi-approach was being made by agencies to address the issue of referrals to social care.</p> <p>Alternative methods of reducing the number of referrals made included reaching out to voluntary sectors, schools etc. and providing them with information as to where to go for various points of information which may allow alternative avenues to be explored prior to a referral being made.</p> <p>Robin Crofts stated that it was important to look at family dynamics and the impact that this had on the referrals and as a result further work needed to be carried out with regard to what support was being given to collectively help families. It was agreed that AS would prepare a paper for presentation to the Children's Trust Board with regard to these concerns and what proposals could be put in place to prevent the number of referrals from increasing and if any measures could be put in place for early intervention to avoid referrals including the use of the CAF.</p>	Andy Sedgwick to prepare report for submission to the Children's Trust.
<b>32.</b>	<b>Safeguarding Issues from Partner Agencies</b>	
	<u>Preparations for Announced Ofsted Inspection</u>	
	<p>Andy Sedgwick reported on the measures being taken to prepare for the forthcoming Announced Ofsted Inspection. Following discussion with regard to the inspection it was</p>	

## Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board - 23.03.10

Item	Main Points/Action Arising	Action By
	<p>highlighted that a number of partner agencies were not confident that they were able to meet with the inspectors and provide a detailed response with regard to safeguarding issues. Clair Pyper stated that a long term plan of action of services provided to young and vulnerable children needed to be in place and that a single page briefing of the main key issues and multi agency approach to safeguarding young and vulnerable children would be circulated to all agencies.</p>	Clair Pyper to issue briefing page to all.
<b>33.</b>	<b>Feedback from Sub-Committees</b>	
(a)	<p>East Berkshire Training Group: Elaine Welch stated that a review of the work plan had been carried out and that it was likely that a training needs calendar would be ready for publication by the end of March 2010. Proposals for dividing the group between the strategic and operational levels were also being looked at.</p>	
(b)	<p>Berkshire Policy and Procedures Sub-Group: It was noted that work was ongoing and agreement had been obtained between Berkshire Local Authorities about procedures. It was agreed that the Berkshire-wide procedures would be adhered to unless national government proposed an alternative system.</p>	
(c)	<p>Quality and Performance Sub-Group: It was reported that the terms of reference and membership issues had been looked at.</p>	
(d)	<p>Child Death Overview Panel: It was brought to Members attention that representatives from the Strategic Health Authority had met with the chair of the Child Death Overview Panel and that they discussed a number of areas for further development.</p>	
(e)	<p>E-Safety Sub-Group: It was noted that an update with regard to this sub-group would be provided at the next meeting.</p>	
(f)	<p>Safer Staffing Sub-Group: Work on the action plan was being developed.</p>	
(g)	<p>Serious Case Review Panel: Elaine Coleridge-Smith stated that this was a newly established panel that would meet every couple of months to monitor progress on recommendations from any serious case reviews. It was also brought to Members attention that feedback from a recent Ofsted inspection of a serious case review had stated that it had been outstanding.</p>	

## Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board - 23.03.10

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34.	<b>LSCB Business Planning Day</b>  It was reported that the Business Planning Day had been scheduled for Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> April to be held at Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane. Issues to be discussed at the Away Day included update on changes in Chapter 8 - Working Together and Chapter 7 - Child Death Overview Panel and role of the LSCB.  Clair Pyper raised concern with regard to the number of apologies that had been submitted to this meeting of the LSCB and the impact that this could potentially have on the business planning day. It was brought to Members attention that the meeting date clashed with the meetings of the Safer Slough Partnership Board and it was agreed that this would be investigated further.	Mary Shannon to investigate.
35.	<b>Discussion on Education and Training Level 2</b>  Elaine Coleridge-Smith (ECS) reported on the difficulties relating to capacity to deliver Child Protection Level 2 training in relation to meeting the needs of Slough within the resources available. It was noted that a key function of the LSCB was to ensure that there was sufficient provision of learning and development opportunities to create and maintain a skills workforce.  In the ensuing discussion a number of Members stated that the current model of training being provided in house by SBC be maintained with expert representation for key modules provided by the PCT, Police etc. However, it was acknowledged that in order to meet the level of demand for the training, additional resources needed to be made available to support the cost of administration and delivery of courses. It was agreed that from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010 a charge of £50 per day would apply for Level 2 Training.  A number of Members stated that the current model of training would not be sustainable for the long term and an alternative approach needed to be investigated. ECS reported that there was a proposal by the East Berks Training Group to establish a Strategic Sub Group (responsible for identifying training needs) and an Operational Sub Group (responsible for delivering the training required). Kevin Gordon stated that he would investigate the matter further and compile a business case in conjunction with the three East Berkshire LSCB Chairs and report back to the meeting.	Kevin Gordon to prepare business case.

## Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board - 23.03.10

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36.	<b>LSCB Budget / Budget Setting Process</b>	

Mary Shannon (MS) reported that the current budget allocated for the LSCB and it's associated work was insufficient. It needed to be examined as to whether partner agencies should make a financial contribution towards the LSCB. MS stated that in neighbouring local authorities most partner agencies made a financial contribution towards the work of the LSCB.

It was agreed that the matter would be discussed in greater detail at the Business Away Day.

(The meeting which opened at 2pm closed at 4pm)