

Minutes
Meeting Title: Leicester Safeguarding Children Board Meeting
Date: 9th February, 2017
Venue: Room G.01, City Hall, Charles Street, Leicester

Present:	
The Chair – Independent Chair of the LSCB	
ASp - Consultant/Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children and Adults, CCG	CR - Deputy Chief Nurse, UHL NHS
CT - Director of Social Care and Early Help	CS - City Primary Heads
CD - Deputy Head of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	DT - Head of Service, Early Help (Specialist Services), LCC
FB - deputising for Chris West	FC – Strategic Director, Children’s Services, LCC
NT - Children’s Service Manager, Barnardo’s CareFree Young Carers Service	PP – Legal, LCC
RST – Service Manager, CAFCASS	RT - Director of Public Health
SR - Lead Member, LCC	SI - Deputy Principal, Leicester College
SC - Head of Serious Crime, Leicestershire Police	SG - Head of Service, Children’s Safeguarding, LCC
VP – Head of Professional Practice and Education	
Apologies:	
AT – Lay Member	CB – Performance, Information and Quality Advisor, LCC
SC – Lay Member	
LSCB Office	
JR – Interim LSCB Manager	PrP – Policy Officer
Minutes: AC, Admin and Business Support Officer	
1. Welcome introductions and apologies.	
1.1	The Chair welcomed [REDACTED] who attended the meeting to observe the work of the board in his role as Police and Crime Commissioner. New members to the board were also welcomed including [REDACTED] who is the new representative for CAFCASS.

2.	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of what the JSNA is, why and when it is undertaken was given to the meeting and thanks was extended to all partners who had participated in contributing to the current revised document. • It was noted that the main omission was the voice of the child although it is hoped that this will be addressed as a result of the children’s survey which is currently being undertaken throughout primary and secondary schools. This survey seeks to elicit children’s views on issues including bullying, mental health, exercise and diet and would like to bring the outputs from this survey back to the board at a future date. • The aim is to produce a web-based document so that people can just print off sections which they require and will enable updates to be effected on a more regular basis.
2.2	<p>The following issues were highlighted from the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to recognise the enormous growth in the number of children in the city which is larger than anywhere else in the country. Services need to be aware of this to ensure that they are prepared especially health and education. • Improvements have been noted in the number of women seen in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy where issues such as DV, obesity and smoking are being addressed, although there is still more work to be done to improve the number of low-weight babies being born and high infant mortality rates. • Obesity in children continues to be an issue but there is also a noticeable rise in the number of underweight children and further investigation is required to try and understand the contributing factors which are influencing this issue. • Oral health is still very poor in the city and although some improvements have been seen this area it continues to be a concern. • Additional chapters in this revision include older young people; health of looked after children; CSE and FGM; gypsy and traveller children.
2.3	<p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft JSNA is available with snapshot report which has been sent out to all members with the detailed report including recommendations. Partners are asked to consider if recommendations in the report along with the combined action plan is appropriate and comment on the document in its current form. • JR/RT to agree a date by which all responses need to be received by Tiffany Birch and email to be sent by LSCB Office informing partners.
2.4	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that some of the statistics in the report are quite shocking and partners would need to consider them in light of cuts that services are facing. • FE: The biggest risk in FE sector at the moment is considered to be mental health issues and an invitation was extended to RT to attend a meeting of the Further Education Safeguarding Committee to help them focus on the issues raised in the JSNA. It was suggested that connection to the Association of Colleges whose current priorities include a focus on mental health should be made as they are able to provide local data on mental health issues in FE. SI to pass details to RT via the LSCB to arrange attendance at a future FE Safeguarding Committee meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary sector: Reported seeing an increase in numbers of children new to the city who are presenting with behavioural/emotional mental health issues, some of which are a result of lives lived prior to their arrival in the city. It was noted that requests for additional support are captured but anecdotal information is not and there is concern around those whose needs fall just below the threshold for additional support and how schools are coping with this. • Child's voice: need to ensure that we progress on obtaining direct information from children and young people although concerns were raised about how we can capture information on the life lived of children under 11. The meeting was informed that there is currently a review underway to consider how younger children can input into the work of the youth council. • Issues around waiting lists for CAMHS were briefly discussed in terms of the need for assurance that those children/young people on waiting lists were being safeguarding. FC advised that contact had been made with LPT to see how they could work together to support those who are awaiting CAMHS intervention. • Funding is currently being sought for a project to help LSCB understand the factors which are fuelling the growth of issues around mental health in order to affect services to support those children/young people involved. 			
Ref	Actions	Person/s responsible	By	Desired outcome
2.1	RT to return to the Board at a later date to give briefing on outcome of children's survey of views of the life lived.	RT/Agenda	TBC	
2.3	JR/RT to agree a date by which all responses need to be received by Tiffany Birch and email to be sent by LSCB Office informing partners.	JR		Agreed JSNA which can be published.
2.4	RT to receive an invitation to attend a FE Safeguarding Committee Meeting to facilitate focus on the issues raised in the JSNA.	SI/RT	TBC	Public Health to make links with local FE Community.
3.	LSCB Children and Young Peoples Shadow Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster Version LSCB Business Plan • LSCB Improvements 			
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the group involved with preparing the two items presented was given to the meeting and it was recognised that these young people had been specifically trained for working on LSCB projects. • This was followed by a presentation by BK, RV and JS on behalf of the Young Advisors of the two documents which had been produced as a result of their work. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair, on behalf of the LSCB, expressed thanks for the excellent work that had been done by the Young Advisors. 			
3.2	Business Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This piece of work was presented as a draft, and it was noted that more work was needed although it was felt that it gave a good overview of what could be achieved when producing a document for children/young people. 			
3.3	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that adding a 'you said, we did' section would add value to what had been presented. LSCB office are tasked with revision of the Business Plan in April and the aim is to produce a streamlined plan of clear, deliverable strategic actions and this document could help achieve that. Once the revised plan has been agreed work could be undertaken with the Young Advisors to produce something which is more young people friendly. Concern was raised over how we promote this piece of work by the young people and get other children/young people interested in LSCB and it was noted that part of work of the Participation and Engagement Group would be to hold a Children's Summit to elicit this type of information to improve communication with children and young people in a way that was useful to them. Suggestion was made to use example from FE whose students have to undertake a session on safeguarding and where relevant documents are published on the institution website. 			
3.4	Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting were taken through the report from the Young Advisors which had considered the new LSCB website. Board to consider whether there is an opportunity for Young Advisors to do some paid work on their behalf in this area, and were advised that the group would be prepared to work with IT experts to help implement some of the points raised in the report. It was noted from a recent visit to the website some changes had already been implemented. It was agreed that work to consider the points raised in the report would be undertaken by the Participation and Engagement Group. All members were asked to confirm their representative for this group. AC to email LSCB partners a copy of the current membership list for the Participation and Engagement group for partners to confirm representation. 			
Ref	Actions	Person/s responsible	By	Desired outcome
3.4	AC to email out current membership list for the Participation and Engagement Group for LSCB partners to confirm agency representative.	AC	17/02/2017	
4.	Matters arising from the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 8th December 2016			

4.1	<p>The following issues were noted from the previous minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 2, item 3.1 – it was noted that incorrect title was used and that Lord Bach is the Police and Crime Commissioner. • Page 4, Action 3.1 (3) It was noted that communication about referrals to the CSE Hub had been successful and there has been positive feedback from frontline staff/practitioners with regard to the changes made to use just one number for all contacts. • Page 9, Action 6.1 (1) – the meeting was informed that KW is currently on leave and will attend the next meeting. <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>
5.	LCC Improvement Board
5.1	FC gave a short overview of the background to the history of the Improvement Board for new members.
5.2	<p>Monitoring Visit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal highlights of the report were shared with the meeting, however it was noted that the report was embargoed until the following day, at which point the report would be shared with partners.
5.3	<p>Improvement Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Improvement Plan has been refreshed and was signed off by the Improvement Board in January and will be sent out to partners. • The refreshed plan takes into account recommendations from the original Improvement Plan, feedback from monitoring visits, work that has been undertaken by social care and findings from the Peer Review. • The refreshed plan includes future ambitions, vision and the hopes for delivering through partnership.
5.4	<p>DfE Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team met with Chair of Improvement Board, SR/FC/CT as well as Advanced Practitioners, newly qualified Social Workers, members of the Performance Team and partners. • Feedback was positive about political/senior leadership as well as support for newly qualified Social Workers. • Particular interest was shown in role of Advanced Practitioners, and their additional responsibility for areas of expertise such as DV and assessments and the DfE were interested in discussing this further. • Team were impressed with performance and how it helps to show the golden thread from the frontline to strategy, and partners engagement with performance meeting. • There was recognition of the good relationships and engagement in partnership work and particularly constructive challenge and solution finding. <p>Risks Identified from the visit include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain momentum throughout the partnership in the future. • Inspection is expected sometime in the coming year and all partners need to be prepared.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care needs to be taken around the increase in demand and how the partnership makes use of this information. • Improvement in quality and consistency of work needs to be maintained. • Work needs to be done to improve input by partners in assessment and planning. • Need to improve the use of research into practice e.g. Why there are sudden spikes in demand for services? <p>The Board noted the improvements that have been made and the positive journey over the past 6 months and it was noted that there has also been positive feedback for the work of the LSCB.</p>			
Ref	Actions	Person/s responsible	By	Desired outcome
5.2	Monitoring Visit report to be shared with partners.	FC/LSCB	17/02/2017	
5.3	Refreshed Improvement Plan to be shared with partners.	FC/LSCB	17/02/2017	
6.	CSE, Missing and Trafficking Children’s Operational Group			
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of CSE, Missing and Trafficking Hub was given by RS and MD which included where they are now and future improvements which need to be made with the joining of Leicester City to the Hub. • The presentation showed the starting position and recognised that there is more work required particularly around data and ensuring its accuracy and made reference to data from Quarter 3 as this is the most accurate data currently available • Further research is required to understand patterns and activity of perpetrators and it is hoped that through the relationship with DMU Learning Hub some joint research could be undertaken to inform future practice particularly in terms of disruption. 			
6.2	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support was given for the work undertaken over a number of years which is now producing tangible information which can be used to inform services in this area of work • Need to improve assurance that there is identification of children, issues are being addressed and there is disruption to the activities of perpetrators. It was confirmed that work is currently underway to provide this. • The need to ensure there is an embedded ‘golden thread’ through structures from the Hub to the LSCB was also noted. • NPS requested that they would like to work with the Hub with a view to their staff being better equipped to work with CSE perpetrators. NPS to make connections via MOSSAVO. • The issue of learning from survivors (particularly over the past 5 years) was discussed as there could be some valued learning around perpetrator activity and how services support victims and it was felt that this could be incorporated into the work of the newly appointed multi-agency Communications Officer Post. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JR reported on a recent visit made to the hub with SC and how impressed they were with the speed in which work was dealt with and how information was being shared. However concern was raised about young people who are being placed in our authority and the length of time which it is taking to receive notifications from other local authorities. It was confirmed that JM will be raising this at a national level.
	Comfort Break for refreshments and networking
7.	Executive Chairs Group Highlight Report
7.1	<p>LSCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JH has been commissioned to undertake a review of LSCB the aim of which is to consider the programme of work that has been undertaken since the last inspection; to ensure readiness for inspection and transitioning of responsibilities from the Improvement Board. Partners are asked to make themselves available for interview on 27th/29th March and to let the LSCB Office know if they are unavailable on those dates so that alternative arrangements can be made if required. Work on the 2016/2017 Annual Report is due to start and a proforma is included in the highlight report. The aim of the report is to evidence impact of services in supporting users. Further guidance will be provided about completion but partners are requested to make responses as succinct as possible. Business Plan is to be reviewed to ensure it is robust and focussed, it was noted that the priorities will remain the same. The Board noted the report and welcomed the progress being made against priorities in the plan.
7.2	<p>PAAG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CB has requested an exception report which considers issues around LAC Education indicators from AM which is expected to be presented at the next PAAG meeting. Following concerns raised regarding CAMHS CB has requested a presentation on concerns about services to be made at the next PAAG meeting. Overview of multi-agency DV audit findings were presented and it was confirmed that these findings have been shared with DV leads in all agencies. Following a query about dissemination it was noted that the information has been presented in a way that makes it easy for sharing at team meetings and to prompt discussion. All agencies were reminded it was their responsibility for promoting these findings to their frontline staff.
7.3	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police have identified that DV is presenting as a bigger issue than CSE and work is currently underway to establish processes/support on a similar basis. SC reported that he is currently considering ToRs and Governance structures for DV Executive and DV Operations Group. It was noted that there was no significant analysis around MARAC and assurance had been discussed at the last Board meeting. It is understood that a separate piece of work is ongoing which has arisen as a result of a specific case and there is currently a review of MARACs underway. It is agreed that MARACs do add value, but appreciated more could be done to make best use of the service.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current report does not include information on next steps and therefore it was suggested this should be added to future reporting to provide assurance that action is being taken where needed. PP to speak with SMcB to consider how the recommendations and learning can be incorporated into future training. Request was made to ensure that UAVA are included in notifications of decisions as they are a large part of the process. Furthermore the meeting was informed of the significant waiting list for UAVA services. Schools reported difficulty in getting messages across where there is suspected DV especially where information falls below the threshold. It would help if there was some sharing of intelligence from other agencies and it was suggested that the new triage service would alleviate this. Thanks was given to those who took part in the audit and its presentation. 			
Ref	Actions	Person/s responsible	By	Desired outcome
7.3	ToRs and Governance structures to be worked on by SC to include DV Executive and DV Operations Group. Further information to be brought back to the Board at a later date.	SC	23/03/2017	
	PP to liaise with SMcB, Domestic Violence Co-Ordinator to consider how the recommendations can be incorporated into the report and future learning and how feedback to the board provides assurance of work that has been undertaken.	PrP/Executive Group	01/03/2017	
	Partners are asked to provide evidence of dissemination of messages from audit reports.	ALL	16/03/2017	
	UAVA to be made aware of any decisions regarding assurance reporting as they do provide a lot of the information.	Stephanie McBurney		
8.	Update from Other Partners <i>Other matters arising from partnership – Opportunity for partners to highlight anything that the Board needs to know about their own agency (inspections, new emerging themes, risk that might impact on delivery of safeguarding services)</i>			
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMIC Child Protection Inspection: Verbal feedback was that Child Abuse Unit and our child procedures were the best they have ever seen in any force they visited. S47 was very good and child protection flowchart was praised; close working arrangements with partners were really good. There was concerns raised that the CSE grading process was not consistent and this has now been changed. Downgrading risk of DV cases from 			

	<p>high to medium was raised as an area of concern and action as already taken place to stop this practice although it is expected that more work needs to be undertaken to get this right.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQC inspection: Overall result was a 'requires improvement'. LPT recognise the challenges in the CAMHS Team and there will be further investment in these services from April but will need help from partners. A fuller report will be presented at the next meeting. 			
Ref	Actions	Person/s responsible	By	Desired outcome
8.1	Report on CQC inspection to be presented at the next LSCB.	VP	23/03/2017	
9.	Proposed changes to Early Help and the 'Front Door'			
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of changes was presented which highlighted exceptions with regard to key services i.e. Police/A&E although it was noted the PCC was not aware of the changes. • Overview was given of the Police Triage Hub pilot which highlighted the problems with consent and the number of cases which are referred but do not meet any threshold for services. The next steps for this pilot were also outlined. • Overview of next steps including the move to one referral form for Early Help and Social Care services; the establishment of an Early Help Partnership Allocations Hub for EH Assessments and LSCB will be asked to test this service through the MACFA process. 			
9.2	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership need to be assured that if there are any questions. • NPS reported that the 'one number' has been well received although problems understanding thresholds still exist. Issues about consent are still proving problematic and a request was made for some work to be done with their service about escalation of cases. NPS were advised that information had been sent out which reaffirmed the standards for Social Care intervention and were asked to let RS/JD know if this was still an issue. • PrP to research consent test case and distribute to partners. • Partners welcomed the changes to the front door and requested further update after April. 			
Ref	Actions	Person/s responsible	By	Desired outcome
9.2	PrP to research test case on consent and disseminate to partners.	PrP	23/03/2017	
	Update on Front Door/One Number and progress of establishment of EH Assessment Hub	RS/JD	29/09/2017	

10.	Any Other Business
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leicestershire's Ofsted Inspection report is due out on Monday and it was agreed it would be considered at the next meeting.The post of LSCB Business Manager has been advertised and two candidates have been shortlisted for interview next week further information will be shared when available.
11.	Meeting Close
11.1	Next Meeting: Thursday, 23rd March 2017 – 9.15am-12.30pm in Room 1.11, 1st Floor, City Hall

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