



## **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD MEETING Friday 8 July 2016**

### **PRESENT:**

**Rachel Cook**, Independent Chair; **Catherine Boyce**, South Gloucestershire Council, Strategic Safeguarding Services Manager; **Richard Clark**, Stoke Lodge Primary School, Headteacher; **David Gee**, CAFCASS, Service Manager; **Chrissie Hardman**, Sirona, Head of Children's Services; **Susannah Hill**, South Gloucestershire Council, Head of Education, Learning and Skills; **Sue Jones**, NBT, Executive Lead for Safeguarding; **Louise Leader** Pathways Learning Centre, Headteacher; **Jenny Macdonald**, AWP, Managing Director for South Gloucestershire; **Lindsey Mackintosh**, North Bristol Trust, Designated Doctor, Safeguarding Children; **Kate Mansfield**, South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Named GP For Safeguarding Children; **Anne Morris**, South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Nurse Director and Head of Quality and Safeguarding; **Peter Murphy**, South Gloucestershire Council, Director for Children, Adults and Health; **Carol Sawkins**, University Hospitals Bristol, Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children; **Gill Sinclair**, South Gloucestershire Council, Legal Services Manager; **Duncan Stanway**, Barnardos; **Claire Summers**, NPS Probation, Team Leader; **Alison Sykes**, South Gloucestershire Council, Head of Secure and Emergency Services; **Sarah Telford**, Survive, Chief Executive; **Steve Waters**, South Gloucestershire Council, Youth Offending Team Manager;

### **Apologies:**

**Paul Coates**, Merlin Housing, Director of Housing and Communities  
**Councillor Jon Hunt**, South Gloucestershire Council, Lead Member for Children and Young People  
**Julie Jones**, Soldiers, Sailors, Airman & Family's Association, Personal & Family Support Worker;  
**Sonya Miller**, South Gloucestershire Council, Head of Integrated Children's Services  
**Janice Suffolk**, Lay Member`

### **Representatives:**

**Sara Blackmore**, South Gloucestershire Council, Public Health Consultant, represented by Lindsey Thomas  
**Kathryn Birtles**, South Gloucestershire Council, Education Adviser Early Years, represented by Paula Young  
**Lisa Harvey**, South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Deputy Nurse Director, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, represented by Ann Morris  
**Robert Walsh**, South Gloucestershire Council, Head of Safe Strong Communities, represented by Mark Pullin  
**Detective Superintendent Will White**, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Head of PPU, represented by Geoff Wessell

**Observers:**

Sarah Omell, Police  
Vanessa Huskisson  
Blanche Duffy

**Non Attendance:**

**Rachael Cragg**, CRC Probation LDU Team Leader

**Maria Hennessy**, North Bristol Trust, Head of Nursing and Governance in the Community Child Health Partnership

**Nick Herbert**, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, Child Protection Officer

**Leanne Smith**, Faith Sector Representative, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

**Suzanne Smith**, HMP/YOI Eastwood Park, Head of Safety & Equalities

**Karl Stephenson**, Lay Member

**Sarah Thompson**, (interim representative) South Western Ambulance Service, NHS Foundation Trust, Safeguarding Named Professional

**Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure

**1. Welcome And Introductions**

All introduced themselves.

**2. CDOP Annual Review**

Mary Gainsborough gave a presentation on the CDOP annual report.

The annual report uses 5 years of data. 63 deaths over a 5 year period up to 2015 with 16 in 2015/16. 59% were perinatal/neonatal. 33% of deaths were unexpected. 12% were categorised as sudden, unexpected or unexplained.

Focus on suicides

The most common factors thought to have contributed to the child's decision to take their life were family discord, relationship problems and problems at school.

The presentation to today's board focused on case structures of 2 South Gloucestershire children. These cannot be shared as they are confidential. CDOP produced actions from both cases.

The Board expressed its concern regarding the lack of bereavement support available. However, a positive is the increased provision for palliative end of life support.

Three future priorities for CDOP are:

- How to maximise learning from CDOP
- Outcome from the Wood Review and what that means for CDOP
- Lay representation on the CDOP

**3. Minutes of Executive Committee on 14 June 2016**

The minutes of the Executive Committee on 14 June 2016 were not available.

#### **4. Multi-Agency Performance Report**

Catherine Boyce presented the performance report. Observations were as follows:

There is an increase in referrals and police notification and the number of children and young people subject to child protection plan is going down. These are now at expected level. Work on police notification is ongoing.

Is the rise in the use of Bed and breakfast likely to continue?

It would be useful to have population changes shown within the report. This information is included in the annual report as it is collected annually.

Information on the health workforce needs to be included in the report.

The board were informed that Rachel Cook had made three formal challenges:

- Timeliness of initial child protection conferences
- Domestic Violence notifications from the Police
- The lack of AWP data

#### **5. Annual Report and Business Plan**

Catherine Boyce gave a verbal update on the annual report and business plan explaining that it should have been ready for this board, however, she has put aside time in the diary next week to get it finalised and sent to the Council Digital team for formatting.

#### **6. Annual Report on Private Fostering**

Nicola Hannaford presented the annual report on private fostering. A summary of the key issues are:

During 2015/16, five children were notified as being in a privately fostered arrangement in South Gloucestershire. Of these, three children were placed by their parents with a family friend, one was a Chinese young person who moved from China to live with her maternal cousin, and one was a German young person who was placed by a language school with a host family while they attended a local school.

The number of private fostering arrangements notified to South Gloucestershire have fallen in recent years. There were 11 notifications in 2012/13, 4 in 2013/14, and 3 in 2014/15. The reason for this reduction has been the fall in the number of young people being placed by international language schools in this area since 2012/13, when there were 6 such placements.

The regulations require that children are visited within 7 working days of notification of a private fostering arrangement, and then 6 weekly for the first 12 months and then 12 weekly. Of the five children notified during 2015/16:

- 60% were visited within 7 days of notification.
- No children were subsequently visited within the required timeframe on every occasion (ask Nicola to check this)

Actions to promote understanding of private fostering issues and the need to notify any arrangements have included:

- Copies of a revised leaflet were sent to each South Gloucestershire head teacher.
- A banner and leaflets describing private fostering were displayed in public venues in South Gloucestershire.
- Presentations raising awareness of private fostering were given to South Gloucestershire staff and partner agencies.
- During Private Fostering Week publicity on private fostering was included in council staff wage slips, an article was included in schools and CCG e-bulletins, the intranet and public website highlighted private fostering, social media posts and screen advertising was displayed in libraries and council buildings.

## **7. Annual Report on Corporate Parenting**

Nicola Hannaford presented the annual report on corporate parenting. A summary of the key issues are:

- South Gloucestershire's Children in care population, remains significantly lower, (28.9 per 10,000 of the population), than statistical neighbours (46 per 10,000) and the national average (60 per 10,000). There has been some small variance in the children in care population, most noticeably a reduction in those age 16 and over entering care and a reduction in those accommodated into care under the legal provision of Section 20 accommodation.
- The majority of young people in care in South Gloucestershire are placed within a family setting, with 75.7% being placed in foster care, 4% placed for adoption and 2 % placed with parents. South Gloucestershire's use of residential provision remains low and stands at 13%
- South Gloucestershire has maintained low usage of independent fostering provision with 10% of children and young people being placed in independent provision. However conversion rates from fostering recruitment and marketing activity to approval as foster carers have been disappointing; 3 new mainstream carers have been approved this performance year (an additional 9 assessments are in process or being commenced). Alongside carers who have resigned/retired due to changes in their personal circumstances, South Gloucestershire has overall experienced a net loss of ten mainstream fostering households. It's imperative that a net gain of mainstream fostering households is realised in 2016-17.
- Performance for children in care in South Gloucestershire has experienced significant improvement in some areas. For example numbers of children placed out of area has reduced from 55 (31%) in 2015 to 42 (25%) in 2016. Placement stability for children in the same placement for more than 2 years has improved from 67.3% in 2014-2015 to 78.9% in 2015-2016. Similarly there has been a significant improvement in health performance, for example combined medical and dental check-ups which have increased in timeliness from 85.6% in March 2015 to 93.8% in March 2016. Other areas of performance have been more static and need to improve further (for example timeliness of LAC reviews were 71.6% in timescale in March 2015 and 73.6% in timescale in March 2016). Similarly the numbers of children missing from care have not significantly decreased, although there has been a reduction in

the number of missing episodes with 26 looked after children (81 episodes) missing from care between March 2015- 2016 and 27 children (103) episodes between March 2014- 2015. Overall whilst areas need continued improvement the direction of travel regarding performance is positive.

- The key areas of concern for performance within Corporate Parenting are educational outcomes for children in care and care leavers engaged in education training and employment. With regards to educational outcomes Key Stage 1 and 2 results were more positive. Key stage 1 was a small cohort of 2 children but of these 100% achieved national expectations for reading, 50% for writing and 100% for Mathematics. Key stage 2 was similarly a small cohort of 5 children. Of these 80% achieved national expectations in writing, 60% in reading and 100% in Mathematics. Results for Key Stage 4 remained particularly disappointing with 0% achieving 5 A-C GCSE's, 54% achieving 5+ A-G GCSE'S and 73% achieving 1+A-G GCSE. The size of this cohort was 11 children. Predictions are looking more positive than 2015 but still require significant improvement. Currently 3 out of 15 (20%) students are borderline to achieve 5+ A\*-C grades at GCSE. The report details a range of measures being implemented to support and improve educational outcomes for children in care.
- Care leavers engaged in education, training and employment has demonstrated some improvement this performance year. However the cohort reported on previously was 19-21 year olds. This performance year the DFE have changed the cohort to 17-21 years olds. In March 2015 44.8% (19-21 year olds) of young people were engaged in education, training and employment. In March 2016 37% (17-21 year olds) are engaged in education training and employment. Whilst this is a changes cohort it does represent improvement however this falls significantly short of the target of 20% for March 2016. The report details the profile of the NEET cohort and context alongside measures being implemented to improve outcomes for care leavers in this key performance area.
- Participation has remained a central theme within Corporate Parenting activity. The Children in Care Council (CICC) have pro-actively been involved in a range of activities this performance year including, recruitment of senior officers including Head of Integrated Children's Services, delivery of staff training, participation in the annual 'Take-Over Day', completion of a satisfaction survey for children in care and participation in the completion of videos for staff training including 'What Makes A Good Social Worker' and 'Understanding Being in Care. '

## **8. Annual Report on Adoption**

Nicola Hannaford presented the annual report on adoption. A summary of the issues are:

The Government issued new Adoption Agencies Regulations 2013, which came into effect from the 1 July 2013. New Statutory guidance was implemented in July 2014.

Main Changes included:

The creation of a National Adoption Gateway called first 4 adoption to act as a single point of contact and information for all prospective adoption applicants streamlining of the approval process into distinct information gathering and assessment stages with the whole process to be completed within six months.

The promotion of concurrent planning by easing the process under which foster carers can be approved as adopters and a requirement for all adopters to be placed on the national register within three months of approval unless already linked to a child.

A central element of the Government's Action Plan for Adoption has been the introduction of adoption scorecards, for all local authorities measuring performance in a number of key areas over a three year period.

The scorecards were introduced as part of a new approach to address delays in the adoption system, set out in 'an action plan for adoption: tackling delay' (March 2012).

The scorecards allow local authorities and other adoption agencies to monitor their own performance and compare it with that of others. The scorecard data for the period 2012 to 2015 was last published in December 2015. The three year average for 2013 to 2016 has not yet been collated and published by the DFE. South Gloucestershire's score card performance is outlined below.

Performance against the indicator A1 (the timeliness of adopted children between entering care and being placed for adoption) for South Gloucestershire was 445 days for the three year average 2013-2016 against a comparative figure of 710 days for the three year average between 2012-2015. Statistical neighbour's performance for the three year average for 2012-2015 stood at 567 days and 593 for England. The national Threshold for this indicator for 2015-2016 is 426 days.

Following the commencement of a new three year performance period 2013-2016, South Gloucestershire's performance has significantly improved (following 5 adoptions in 2011 which had previously significantly affected the score card). Performance on the A1 indicator as of March 2016 is 445 days which falls slightly short of the national threshold of 436 days but exceeds the performance of statistical neighbours and England.

There a similar picture for the second key performance indicator A2. This indicator measures adopted children's average time between Placement Order and match with adopter. Performance relating to this indicator for the reporting period 2013-2016 is 183 days against a comparative figure of 273 days for the reporting period 2012-2015. Statistical neighbour's performance for the three year average for 2012-2015 stood at 194 days and 223 for England. The national Threshold for this indicator for 2015-2016 is 121 days

Similarly following the commencement of a new three year performance period 2013-2016, South Gloucestershire's performance has significantly improved. Performance on the A2 indicator as of March 2016 is 183 days. Whilst this is significantly improved performance and exceeds that of statistical neighbours this falls short of the national expectations of 121 and therefore ongoing improvement is required. Whilst a change in the direction of travel has been achieved, numbers of adopted children are low and continued vigour is required to ensure that progress is maintained should numbers of adopted children increase significantly.

Measures implemented to sustain and drive forward further improvement in adoption performance have included a restructure of Integrated Children's services to strengthen, implement fostering, adoption and permanence service. This will include the provision of 2 child care social workers to work alongside the locality social worker progressing permanence and family finding for children with an agreed or possible care plan of adoption. A permanence tracker tool for every child and young person in care has been devised and monthly monitoring meetings to track the progress of each child's permanent care plan has been progressed. Weekly and monthly performance reports have been implemented to track children with a care plan of adoption, and numbers of available adopters to ensure pro-active monitoring and family finding occurs. These are monitored and utilised by team managers and service managers to track and drive forward performance.

An adoption and permanence strategy has also been devised to ensure that there is a shared vision for adoption and aspiration for the adoption of older children with complex needs. A recruitment and marketing officer for fostering and adoption commenced their post in June 2015. Twice yearly adoption campaigns will be undertaken. South Gloucestershire is also undertaking specific adoption recruitment campaigns (where required) for children with more complex needs for whom adoptive families are not available within south Gloucestershire or regionally.

Other measures within the adoption score card (2011-2014) include:

- The percentage of children leaving care who are adopted. Performance for the reporting period, 2013-2016 has decreased and stands at 11.8% (30) children leaving care who were adopted. 2012-2015 has improved and stands at 15.9% (46) children against a comparative figure of 15.9% (46) children for 2012-2015. Statistical neighbour's average for 2012-2015 stands at 15%
- Adoptions of children from Black Minority Ethnic Backgrounds (BME) 8.3% of children from BME backgrounds exiting care were adopted from 2013-2016. This is a decrease from 11.4% of children from BME backgrounds exiting care were adopted from 2012-2015. Statistical neighbour's performance for 2012-2015 was 9%
- Adoptions of children age 5 and over. Between 2013 and 2016 3.5% were aged 5+ years when adopted. This has decreased this performance year from the reporting period 2012 and 2015 where 11 children (5%) age 5 and over were adopted. The national average stands at 5%; the performance of statistical neighbours was also 5% for 2012-2015

Whilst there has been significant improvement this performance this year in relation to the A1 and A2 indicator. The ongoing challenge and priority for South Gloucestershire's performance, is to increase the numbers of children leaving care who are adopted and securing permanency and secondly to increase the numbers of children age 5 and over who are adopted within South Gloucestershire. Nationally there has been a significant decrease in numbers of children exiting care via adoption and the above performance should be considered in that context.

## **9. Safeguarding in the Ambulance Service**

This item was postponed as Sarah Thompson was not in attendance.

### **Resolved**

- The a report in Safeguarding in the Ambulance Service be put on the agenda for the next meeting

## **10.Domestic Homicide Reports**

Mark Pullin presented the report on domestic homicide on behalf of Robert Walsh. The report set out the national and local context

PADA will be overseeing detail of the recommendations.

Police are currently leading on a review of MARACs.

Sarah Telford informed the board that Survive provides training on Domestic Abuse

## **11.Annual Report on the Prevent Programme**

Mark Pullin presented the annual report on the prevent programme. Board members were told the report was strictly confidential and should not be circulate. All unneeded copies of the report should be confidentially destroyed.

The Prevent Board is made up of key organisations and they have agreed a two year action plan. The focus for 2015/16 is on training and in particular the voluntary sector, schools and council staff.

Both the Prevent Board and the Channel Panel have robust processes and procedure in place.

It was suggested that a question on Prevent should be included in the next school audit

### **Resolved**

- That a question on prevent be included in the next school audit

## **12.Information Disseminated from LSCB**

Catherine Boyce presented the report on information disseminated from the LSCB.

All documents are published on the safeguarding website. It was expressed that some documents were hard to find. Catherine explained that work is being done on the search engine which should hopefully make this easier.



### 13. Quality Assurance Sub Group Audit

Susannah Hill presented the audit report on behalf of the quality assurance sub group. The theme of this audit was children that had been reported as missing from home or care.

The conclusion of the four audits were:

- The key finding from auditing the four records was that for children who frequently go missing each missing episode was dealt with as a separate isolated incident and the links to joining episodes together was not made. There was limited evidence that the underlying reason for going missing was established or attempted to be established by dealing with each episode in isolation.
- In 3 out of the 4 cases there were appropriate referrals to the Police when the children went missing, for one case the mother was inappropriately referring her son as missing, however the implications as to why she was doing this or why the child was frequently not where she expected him to be were not fully explored or investigated.
- There is limited evidence that partner agencies were informed when the children went missing, in particular school health nurses and GPs were not informed unless the child becomes subject to a child protection conference, and there was varying evidence that schools were informed of missing episodes.
- There appears to be an inconsistent approach to undertaking safe and well checks, particularly when children were found to be at friends or relatives.
- In cases where return interviews have taken place this had not always included the completion of the SERAF. All agencies should be considering child sexual exploitation when dealing with children who have gone missing. In case two, there were historical concerns regarding sexualised behaviour and it is not clear whether these were considered in risk assessments.
- Good practices was in seen in one case where a multi-agency risk management meeting was held for Child Three who had repeated missing episodes and relevant partners were invited and attended, although auditors felt it should have been arranged earlier.
- There is evidence that there is there clear management oversight of children who go missing, particularly when considered serious or high risk by Preventative services when conducting return interviews.
- The 'voice of the child' appears to have been considered well and clearly recorded in records in all of the cases and there is a good example of Child Two feelings about his father which resulted in a male breakthrough mentor being put in place for him.
- None of the children audited were Looked after Children, therefore it was not possible to audit whether other necessary processes such as whether the IRO always informed when a child goes missing.
- There is evidence of good information sharing between professionals; however there seems to be inconsistency between the level of information and plans which are shared between agencies. In 2 of the 4 cases information was shared with primary care by other agencies and action was taken to flag these records appropriately but in the 3<sup>rd</sup> case, primary care had no information prior to May 2016 that there may be any concern about this young person. It appears that overall GP's have not been made fully aware of all

relevant concerns about these young people and there is nothing other than CP conference notes which would indicate any police involvement.

- For young people at risk of going missing good attendance in education is critical and schools need to be robust in their challenges to ensure this happens. Children with difficult behaviour are often moved schools in a managed move however there needs to be a greater focus to ensure that parents are not escaping scrutiny or avoiding tackling behaviour issues.

The Quality Assurance Sub Group recommend that as a result of the audit members of the Board consider the summary of the four children who were subject to the audit and identify areas where practice could be improved in their organisation or in that of a partner organisation.

### **Resolved**

- That members of the Board consider the report summary of the four children who were subject to the audit and identify areas where practice could be improved in their organisation or in that of a partner organisation.

## **14. Dissemination – this is how I do it**

Geoff Wessell, on behalf of Will White, gave a presentation on how the police dissemination information.

Emails go to the protect team and SCU

Policies go on the intranet

Internal Communication goes to all staff

Organisational Learning goes to the specific audience for the learning.

## **15. Dissemination – follow up from 29 April**

Rachel Cook presented the report on dissemination follow up from 29 April Board 2016 meeting.

Duncan updated on the voice of the child. It is felt that there are a range of approaches via Vanessa Huskisson and Blanche Duffy (who are observing today's meeting). A task and finish group is looking at how to take this forward on behalf of the board.

There was a discussion around practitioner feedback. Possible avenues include a practitioners' sub group, invite practitioners to existing sub groups or a virtual group of practitioners.

Rachel Cook to consider the way forward.

### **Resolved**

- That Rachel Cook to consider the way forward in relation to a Practitioner's Group

## **16. The structure and governance arrangements within CAMHS, the services offered in and out of hours**

Wendy Ottaway gave a presentation on the urgent referral criteria, when issues may not be appropriate for a CAMHS referral and the assessment process.

Issues raised were:

- 16-18 year olds are falling between the gap of children's hospital and adult provision
- Need for CAMHS to be involved in multi-agency decisions making and assessment when necessary
- When EDT attempt to deal with issues there is capacity issues within mental health out of hours resource.

## **17. Update on Budget and appointment of independent Board Business Manager**

Jon Shaw presented the update on the budget and the appointment of an independent board business manager

Discussion were had in connection to the stains on budgets Jon explained that group it had been agreed that money can be met from monies from the Better Care Fund Care Act.

The board manager would be employed for an initial 2 year period contract.

Geoff Wessell was encouraged that monies could be taken from Better Care Fund Care Act but for how long. Jon reported that he did not know but the funding was definitely available for 2016/17 but there is no detail for 2017/18 but there is also no sign the money is going to end. Geoff Wessell said he would have a struggle to get agreement from the Police if funding not known for next year.

It was agreed to appoint the Board Manager with the financial contributions to the LSCB budget by the Council, Avon and Somerset Police and South Gloucestershire CCG in the proportions of 50:25:25.

### **Resolved**

- That the process to appoint a Board Manager on an initial 2 year contract should begin

## **18. Education Safeguarding Audit**

Catherine Boyce presented the report on the education safeguarding audit.

Eventually all schools completed the audit, however, some audits were completed after the deadline so were not included in the report. All schools to devise an action plan based on their response.

The results of the findings shown in the report were broken down into areas and actions for sub groups with overall responsibility sitting within the Education Sub Group.

## **19. Newsletter Content**

Catherine Boyce verbally updated the board on articles for the summer newsletter

## **20. Minutes Of Meeting Held On 29 April 2016 and Actions Not Scheduled On This Agenda**

The minutes were agreed.

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Louise Leader reported that she had taken the issue of identifying gaps for children and young people within the current mental health provision forward with Steve Spiers, Public Health.

Rachel cook reported that she had been advised that the representative from the faith organisation would be leaving and no replacement was found. The issue of involving the faith community needs to be addressed.

## **21. Challenge Log**

Rachel Cook presented the challenge log. The following challenges need to be added:

- Timeliness of initial child protection conferences
- Domestic Violence notifications from the police
- The lack of AWP data

## **22. Forward Plan**

Rachel Cook presented the forward plan which was agreed by the Board with the addition of safeguarding in the ambulance service from Sarah Thompson which was postponed from this meeting.

## **23. Any Other Business**

There were no issues to be discussed.