



## MINUTES

### Safeguarding Children Partnership

Executive Meeting Held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 9.30 am in Meeting Room B,  
1829 Building, Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road, Chester

#### Attendees

Gill Frame (GF) – Independent Chair

#### Statutory Partners

Pete Shaw (PS) Detective Inspector, Cheshire Police

Paula Wedd (PW) Director of Quality and Safeguarding, CCG

#### Core Members

Ceri Schofield (CS) Community Director, CGM CRC

Lisa Jenkins (LJ) Senior Manager, National Probation Service

Ian Ashworth (IA) Public Health

Helen Brackenbury (HB) Director of Early Help and Prevention (and rep for Emma Taylor)

Alison Kelly (AK) Director of Nursing, Countess of Chester Hospital

Nikki Dowling Primary School Headteacher

#### Advisors to the Partnership

Sian Jones (SJ) Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager

Paul Jenkins (PJ) Senior Manager, Safeguarding Quality Assurance Unit

Anne Eccles (AE) Designated Nurse

Dr Rajiv Mittal (RM) Designated Doctor, Countess of Chester Hospital

#### In attendance

Gordon Grinney (GG) Quality and Assurance Officer

Jill Cooper (JCo) Rep for Victoria Peach

Jo-Ann Carnwell (JaC) rep for Julie Tunney and Kate Daly-Brown

#### Apologies

Gareth Jones (GJ) Cheshire Youth Justice Services

Emma Taylor (ET) Director of Children's Services (rep Helen Brackenbury)

Mark Parkinson (MP) Director of Education

Victoria Peach (VP) Deputy Director of Nursing CWP

Julie Tunney (JT) Director of Nursing Mid Cheshire NHS Foundation Trust

Chris Baggs (CB) Director of Learning and Learner Services and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Cheshire College – South and West

Mike McCann (MM) Head Teacher, Special Schools

Keith Simpson (KS) Head Teacher, High Schools

#### Administrator

Noreen Gallagher (NG) Partnership Business Support

No	Item	Owner
07/19/01	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
	Gill Frame welcomed members and noted apologies.	

No	Item	Owner
07/19/02	<b>Previous Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	
	The group endorsed the minutes from the Shadow Partnership Executive meeting on 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 and reviewed outstanding actions (see action log for detail).	
07/19/03	<b>Chair's Report</b>	
	<p>GF highlighted key information contained in the report including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Barnardos Report on Mental Health</b> (health and social media).</li> <li>- <b>Practice Guidance from National Child Safeguarding Review Panel</b></li> <li>- <b>Probation Services (nationally and North West)</b> – The Executive noted proposed changes to the Probation Service, including amalgamation of the NPS and CRC services (although a private element will be retained with tenders to be issued during autumn 2019). Following a short transition period it is anticipated that the new arrangements will be in place by Spring 2021. LJ confirmed that stakeholders will receive key communications and a formal report will be presented to Executive when available.</li> <li>- <b>Review of Exclusions</b> – The report compiled by Edward Timpson, containing actions for Government, has now been published. SJ confirmed that the report had been considered by the Practice Improvement subgroup and requested that the Independent Chair and the Director of Education write to schools to remind them of their responsibilities regarding exclusions in light of the report.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Independent Chair/Director of Education to write to schools regarding exclusions.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Chairs Report was noted.</b></p>	GF/MP
07/19/04	<b>Executive Terms of Reference</b>	
	<p>Members reviewed proposed ToR content and highlighted the following issues:-</p> <p><b>Role of Vice chair</b> – The Executive agreed that this role should be filled by a member of one of the statutory agencies, who will assume responsibility in the event that the designated chair is unable to attend.</p> <p><b>Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director of Public Health (Ian Ashworth) to be added to the membership list;</li> <li>- Emma Taylor's title was confirmed as Director of Children's Services;</li> </ul>	

No	Item	Owner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police representation will be covered by either Chief Superintendent (with Superintendent deputising) – not both.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive stressed the importance of ensuring that SCP group membership is at an appropriate level of seniority to hold delegated authority to make decisions.</p> <p>PW confirmed that she was still in discussion with health colleagues on SCP representation and the chairing of the Quality Assurance subgroup</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SJ to incorporate amendments requested;</b></li> <li>- <b>Level of seniority to be reflected in group ToR;</b></li> <li>- <b>PW to seek health representative to chair QAS subgroup.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Executive endorsed the Terms of Reference following inclusion of amendments requested.</b></p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>PW</p>
07/19/05	<b>Westminster Feedback</b>	
	<p>SJ reported on the main discussion points at a recent briefing event on Transitioning to the New Child Safeguarding Arrangements which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for shift in mindset and shared responsibility;</li> <li>- Options for engagement with wider partnership (sports, faith and voluntary sectors etc.);</li> <li>- Importance of agreeing future funding arrangements;</li> <li>- Incorporation of dispute mechanisms and escalation processes.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive focused on the need for a formal agreement to encapsulate governance arrangements/mechanisms for escalation/dispute resolution and agreed to seek independent/legal advice (National Forums may also be able to assist) to ensure it is drafted appropriately. Alternatively, arrangements can be formalised through refresh of existing Governance Handbook and/or Memorandum of Understanding between the three key partners.</p> <p>Members felt it would be valuable to initiate pan Cheshire discussions and review approaches being taken in other areas such as North Lincolnshire to evaluate the best way forward. PJ agreed to review Northumbria and PS will look at Halton's arrangements.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>PJ to review Northumbria's governance</b></li> <li>- <b>PS to review Halton's governance</b></li> </ul>	<p>PJ</p> <p>PS</p>
07/19/06	<b>SCP Strategic Plan Development</b>	
	<p>SJ confirmed that the SCP Framework has been reviewed by both Practice Improvement and Quality Assurance and Scrutiny sub groups (the Child Exploitation group and the Training Hub have yet to meet). Outstanding actions have been transferred from the</p>	

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	<p>LSCB Business Plan and the Executive agreed to focus on priorities, which will require a partnership contribution.</p> <p><b>Priority 1 (led by police). A focus on Children and Young People with Complex Needs including Those Who Go Missing From Home or Care; Missing From Education; and Those at Risk of Exploitation</b>            SJ confirmed actions under this priority will be discussed at the Child Exploitation group meeting tomorrow. The Executive requested that a clear delineation is be made between CSP and SCP strands of work.</p> <p><b>Priority 2 (led by LA) Ensuring a Think Family Response to Children and Families Where Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse, Learning Disability and Mental Health Problems are a Feature of the Family Environment.</b></p> <p><b>Priority 3 (led by CCG) Responding Effectively to Children and Young People Who Experience Poor Emotional Wellbeing or Mental Health Problems</b>            This priority has not yet been populated.</p> <p>Executive comments on framework included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggestion to develop a similar approach to Operation Encompass for self-harming; this needs to align with the work of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership;</li> <li>- Partners felt plan was very light on emotional wellbeing and mental health;</li> <li>- PJ highlighted importance of seeking young people's views on priorities to ensure they are consistent with their concerns;</li> <li>- AK requested cross read with Domestic Abuse Partnership key support;</li> <li>- ND highlighted mental health prevention audit being conducted by Sam Myers-Whittaker, and how the outcomes from that audit could feed into that priority area;</li> <li>- HB confirmed that all appropriate data is being fed into Emotional Health sub group and Children's Trust.</li> <li>- Children in Care and Care Leavers Group is also undertaking work around priority access to mental health services at the right time</li> </ul> <p>GF emphasised the need to identify the most appropriate Partnership/Board to undertake work, clarify who is doing what and hold organisations to account.</p> <p>PJ highlighted work done by Blackpool on sharing information around vulnerable groups and members discussed whether there was greater scope for join up with Cheshire East. Other options for multiagency approaches will also be considered.</p> <p><b>The Executive noted the progress to date and felt that the plan needed further development prior to endorsement.</b></p>	
07/19/07	<b>Risk Register</b>	
	SJ confirmed that the Executive reviewed the risk register in detail	



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	<p>at the meeting on 30/04/19, with only a small number of actions remaining open. NG has now transferred all outstanding actions to the SCP risk register to ensure no work is lost in transition and the register has been discussed at the New Ways of Working meeting. The Child Exploitation group will also consider relevant risks at their meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>The Executive agreed to leave open the action to embed new arrangements and incorporate any issues highlighted at today's meeting. PW requested clarity on gaps and PS drew attention to adults and children's services approaching issues from different perspectives.</p> <p><b>Members accepted the dynamic nature of the document and agreed to review/update content at each meeting.</b></p>	
07/19/08	<p><b>Feedback from Practice Improvement Group</b></p>	
	<p>SJ confirmed that Sue Tomlinson, incoming chair of Cheshire West Association of Primary Heads (CWAPH), has been appointed as chair of the Practice Improvement Group but no Vice Chair has yet been appointed. Under the new arrangement group chairs will meet on a bi-annual basis rather than attend Executive meetings as previously.</p> <p>The group had its inaugural meeting utilising new core panel plus wider membership and ad hoc practitioner format on 20/06/19 and was well attended. Agenda items included submission of audits, pan Cheshire Policies and Procedures and discussion how best to disseminate information to wider membership.</p> <p>SJ drew attention to the debate around multiagency audit on children who go missing which highlighted education classification issues between 'missing' and 'unauthorised absences,' confusion around terminology/language and implications for a number of agencies. Audit findings will be interrogated at the next Child Exploitation group meeting and Executive members highlighted the need for a strong TaF approach to ensure issues are picked up at an early enough stage to prevent exploitation. Other measures suggested included strengthening accountability on schools to evidence measures taken; HB highlighted limitations in relation to academies.</p> <p>The Executive noted that Michaela Bridge is currently undertaking a significant piece of work around exclusions and an update will be provided in September.</p> <p>Whilst the PI group will review audit reports SJ questioned whether the Executive require sight of full reports or would be happy to receive summaries. LJ felt that the Executive should have sight of the full report but AE suggested that it would be sufficient to provide explicit recommendations/actions. GG suggested that reports could be added as appendices and GF requested that members must voice concerns if they feel they are not getting receiving the right level of assurance.</p> <p><b>Action:</b>  – <b>Child Exploitation/Quality Assurance and Scrutiny</b></p>	<p>CE/ QA</p>

No	Item	Owner
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Groups to interrogate audit findings.</b></p> <p>Agreed that the Executive would receive recommendations/actions as part of the Practice Improvement Report with the audits attached for additional information.</p>	<p>sub groups</p>
07/19/09	<p><b>Update on Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)</b></p>	
	<p>SJ provided a progress report on current SCRs.</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Irrelevant &amp; Sensitive</b></p> </div>	
07/19/10	<p><b>Rapid Response Panel Meeting (RRP)</b></p>	
	<p>A Rapid Response Panel meeting was held last week <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">Irrelevant &amp; Sensitive</span></p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Irrelevant &amp; Sensitive</b></p> </div> <p>The decision of the National Panel is awaited.</p>	
07/19/11	<p><b>Feedback from Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Group</b></p>	
	<p>Whilst NHS providers will lead on this group the role of chair has not yet been appointed. Mark Grady, Senior Manager, Early Help and Prevention, has accepted the role of Vice Chair and has agreed to cover chairing responsibilities until the role of chair has</p>	

No	Item	Owner
	<p>been assigned. SJ stood in as chair for the inaugural group meeting on 25/06/19. The meeting was well attended with discussion on the work plan and options for a new dataset which will reflect the Partnership's priorities. Safeguarding Quality Assurance Unit (SQUA) and Safeguarding Children in Education (SCIE) reports were received and SJ will reflect work undertaken during 2018-19 in the final LSCB Annual Report. The group scrutinised whether membership was drawn from an appropriate level of seniority, gauged whether the right level of assurance was being sought and considered the best way to alert the partnership to any issues of concern.</p> <p>Other matters discussed included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practical actions required.</li> <li>- How to reflect impact of New Ways of Working.</li> <li>- Proposal to implement a similar approach to Operation Encompass for self-harm.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SJ will liaise with PW re health chair and secure alternative chairing arrangements in the interim (next two meetings).</b></li> </ul>	SJ
07/19/12	<b>Quality Assurance Framework (QAF)</b>	
	<p>PJ confirmed that the Local Authority had reviewed processes in order to reconfigure the framework. Discussions have been held with the Partnership, Early Help and Prevention and New Ways of Working to develop a structure which is fit for purpose and covers all aspects of safeguarding through a generic framework, with actions linked to multiagency activity. The Framework was presented to the Executive for agreement in principle prior to presentation at Children's Trust.</p> <p>IA highlighted opportunities for Public Health 'quick wins' and the Executive endorsed the need for a strong relationship with CDOP.</p> <p><b>The Partnership agreed to support the Quality Assurance Framework in principle.</b></p>	
07/19/13	<b>CoCH Neonatal Investigation</b>	
	<p>AK provided a brief verbal progress update on the police investigation being conducted on neonatal deaths at CoCH. She confirmed that detailed and complex police inquiries are still ongoing, and stressed that the hospital's primary concern is to support staff and assist the police. A health care professional has recently been re-arrested in connection with the case.</p> <p>A LADO investigation is also underway.</p> <p>The Executive noted that a multiagency coordination meeting has already been convened but no further meetings are planned at this juncture. GF highlighted requests received from North Wales Safeguarding Board for information pertaining to this case and it was agreed that an excerpt from the minutes will be released following approval of content from PW/AK. Further information on the investigation can also be accessed via the CoCH website.</p>	

No	Item	Owner
07/19/14	<b>Financial Statement</b>	
	<p>SJ provided a budget statement covering the first quarter of the new arrangement and outlined key issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The handover to SCP went smoothly with accounts reflected accurately.</li> <li>- The Statement covers the first quarter since staff sharing arrangements with Halton ceased with these posts now being fully resourced by CWAC (initially on a fixed term basis).</li> <li>- Additional contributions have been received from Early Help and Prevention (Community Safety Partnership and Domestic Abuse Partnership) to cover administration/delivery of Child Exploitation and Domestic Abuse training.</li> <li>- SJ is exploring viability of an alternative training platform to Access Planit which may generate savings on existing contract value.</li> <li>- Whilst overall expenditure remains stable the additional cost of supporting the three full time business team roles has resulted in a drawdown of £ <b>I&amp;S</b></li> </ul> <p>The Executive noted the budget statement and acknowledged the additional expenditure on staffing, which had been previously agreed.</p>	
07/19/15	<b>2Engage Commission</b>	
	<p>The Executive was asked to decide whether to continue to support the Commission of 2Engage (a drama performance company) to deliver a series of events to schools on Child Exploitation.</p> <p>SJ provided background on the rationale for this commission (in place since 2014) which is targeted at Year 9 pupils but also includes Year 10 and Year 11 young people.</p> <p>Although ND did not feel she was best placed to comment on the value of the 2Engage contract she did acknowledge that similar style performances targeted at primary schools had been well received. However, whilst the Executive recognised that child exploitation is a core SCP issue (and supported education of young people) it questioned whether 2Engage is the right medium and what the impact of this work has been. SJ highlighted the rise in disclosures during the first 2 years the production was staged (working in tandem with Catch-22).</p> <p>Members outlined details of a project being run by Phil Redmond to record a short film featuring young people expressing views on personal impact of various scenarios including child exploitation, being safe, having parents in prison and drug/alcohol use. However, it is understood that Mr Redmond would be more than happy to cover a number of additional topics. Mark Grady and Clare Roberts were identified as appropriate contacts and there may be an opportunity for the Partnership to contribute this work.</p>	



No	Item	Owner
	<p>The Executive stressed the importance of the SCP linking into work already commissioned through other organisations and noted activity being undertaken by Anne Marie Scraggs of the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Ben McCrory of the Local Authority and Carlos Brunes of Cheshire Police.</p> <p><b>The Executive agreed to suspend the 2Engage programme for 2019-20 in order to evaluate work already being undertaken and explore other options. Schools will be made aware of rationale for decision.</b></p> <p><b>Knife Crime</b>            Whilst data collated indicates that knife crime is not a significant issue in this borough anecdotal evidence gathered from young people suggests that it is a major concern for them. The Executive felt that a wider investigation should be conducted to evaluate whether this perception is based on reality and highlighted potential funding available from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support this work. Members highlighted activity already being undertaken in CWAC and surrounding areas around this theme and HB drew attention to discussions at CSP and possible funding available.</p> <p><b>Executive agreed to undertake scoping exercise around knife crime.</b></p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
07/19/16	<b>Neglect Strategy Progress</b>	
	<p>SJ provided a progress update on the Neglect Strategy and action plan. Open actions include:-</p> <p><b>2.2 Gather the thoughts and feelings of young people who have experienced neglect to test impact of this strategy.</b> The Executive discussed how to improve incorporation of the voice of the child and noted work undertaken in Cheshire East.</p> <p><b>2.4 Revise and relaunch GCP assessment and supporting training.</b> SJ requested that this action is put on hold to test impact of completion of neglect screening tool as this may negate requirement for separate assessment tool.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SJ/Gemma Gerrish to undertake analysis of screening tool use to evaluate whether separate assessment tool is required.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>2.5 Identify Neglect Champions within agencies to advise on assessment tools and the delivery of single agency neglect training, where appropriate.</b>            Champions have not yet been identified.</p> <p>The Executive felt that the Practice Improvement Group would be best placed to identify champions and analyse effectiveness of screening tools in order to make a decision about GCP.</p> <p>Action relating to young people's substance misuse and mental health can be added to existing plan under Priority 2.</p> <p><b>The Executive agreed to close JTAI Action Plan.</b></p>	<p>SJ</p>

No	Item	Owner
	<p><b>Initial unconfirmed feedback on Halton JTAI Inspection on Child Exploitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CART well integrated.</li> <li>• Police pro-active.</li> <li>• Work undertaken around lived experience of the child and mandatory field around voice of the child introduced.</li> <li>• Sign off in September.</li> </ul> <p>LJ highlighted potential implications, especially around Child Exploitation screening tool, if adopted across pan Cheshire. Other issues included understanding of terminology, safeguarding arrangements and involvement of partners. PS confirmed that it was a positive inspection overall.</p>	
	<p><b>Meeting closed at 12.15 pm</b>  <b>Next meeting: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 1.30 pm in</b>  <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">I&amp;S</span> <b>Council Offices, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port.</b></p>	

### Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Attendance Matrix

Name	Role	Agency	Meeting Date				
			17/07/19	23/09/19	Nov 19	Jan 20	Mar 20
Gill Frame	Independent Chair	N/a	√				
Pete Shaw	Detective Inspector	Cheshire Police	√				
Paula Wedd	Director of Quality and Safeguarding	CCG	√				
Emma Taylor	Director of Children's Services	CSC	Rep				
Ceri Schofield	Community Director	CGM CRC	√				
Lisa Jenkins	Senior Manager	NPS	√				
Ian Ashworth		Public Health	√				
Helen Brackenbury	Director of Early Help and Prevention	EHP	√				
Alison Kelly	Director of Nursing	CoCH	√				
Nikki Dowling	Head Teacher	Primary School	√				
Sian Jones	Business Manager	SCP	√				
Paul Jenkins	Senior Manager	SQAU	√				
Anne Eccles	Designated Nurse	CCG	√				
Dr Rajiv Mittal	Designated Doctor	CoCH	√				
Gordon Grinney	QA Officer	SCP	√				
Gareth Jones		YJS	√				
Mark Parkinson	Director of Education	CWAC	Apr				
Victoria Peach	Deputy Director of Nursing	CWP	Rep				
Julie Tunney	Director of Nursing	MCHFT	Rep				
Chris Baggs	Director of Learning and Learner Services	Cheshire College – South and West	Apr				
Mike McCann	Head Teacher	Special Schools	Apr				
Keith Simpson	Head Teacher	High Schools	Apr				
Noreen Gallagher	Business Coordinator	SCP	√				