

Lancashire Children's Services Improvement Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th September, 2017 at 2.30 pm in Committee Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Philippa Williamson	Lancashire County Council
Alison Aylott	Primary Schools
Jane Booth	Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board
Richard Cooke	Lancashire County Council
Paul Wilcox	Voluntary Community Faith Sector
Stephen Cox	Secondary Schools
Louise Taylor	Lancashire County Council
Tony Crane (Chair)	Independent Chair
Jo Turton	Lancashire County Council
Chris Coyle	Lancashire County Council
Natasha Wright	Lancashire County Council
Bridgett Welch	Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
Katherine Ashworth	Lancashire County Council
Ian Whitehead	Lancashire Constabulary
Victoria Gent	Lancashire County Council
Tracy Poole-Nandy	Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	Lancashire County Council

Apologies:

County Councillor Geoff Driver CBE	Lancashire County Council
Jan Ledward	Chief Officer - Chorley & South Ribble and Greater Preston CCG

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made.

2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

There were no outstanding actions.

3. Young People's Awards

Natasha Wright informed the Board of three awards that young people had been nominated and shortlisted for in the CYP Now Awards which will take place on 22 November. They are shortlisted in the following categories:

Barnardo's Young Carers Service - Young Carers category

Children and Young People's Participation in Lancashire - Public Sector Children's Team
Award category
LINX – Children Looked After category

To celebrate Care Leaver week, Care Leavers are being asked to write a letter to their younger self (anonymously) and these will be displayed for the public to view at The Harris Museum in Preston before going on tour across the County.

Action:

To inform the Board of the outcomes of the CYP Now Awards at the December Board meeting – Natasha Wright.

4. Operational Improvement Group

Chris Coyle provided the Board with an update from the Operational Improvement Group (OIG).

- Slightly increased caseloads but this still feels manageable.
- New Head of Service in the North.
- Skylakes leave end of October.
- Taylor Davenport leave next year.
- Work around building compliance into every day work.
- Implement/evaluate the assessment plan.
- Takeover event planned where young people will takeover the OIG.
- Lots of work been done in terms of transition.
- Feels like there is a change in culture, staff are more confident.

Actions:

The Board to keep a watching brief on Children in Need (CiN) cases, stepping up and stepping down – Tony Crane.

5. Looked After Children

Bridgett Welch reported on what was happening within health and how they were addressing the bottle necks and obstacles in the children looked after system. There was some really good work being carried out at the Recovery Plan meeting of the Looked After Children (LAC) Improvement meeting, where designated nurses, provider leads, social workers and members of the data team all meet and monitor compliance and look at performance reporting accuracy also. At the moment, the Looked After Children (LAC) Improvement meeting does not feed into any governance structures.

Resolved:

That the LAC Improvement meeting be linked with the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and that this can be a sub-group of it.

Action:

To forward details of the Corporate Parenting Board Chair to Bridgett Welch – Louise Taylor.

6. Progress and update

Vicky Gent provided an update to Board members on:

Ofsted Preparation

- Ofsted preparation plan in place and being implemented.
- CiN Ofsted monitoring visit taking place 30-31 October 2017.
- Intensive support from Advanced Practitioners (APs).
- Linda Clegg – auditing, supporting District teams, preparation for interviews.
- Overall data in a better place than 12-18 months ago.
- APs are now in Central and East as well as the North.

Action:

To provide an update at the October Board meeting on the support and services provided to children with SEND – David Graham.

Management Development/Support

- Practice leadership programme for managers will aim to improve personal and team performance in social work.
- Embedding compliance – key challenges to achieve over the next six months.
- Focuses on the 'self' and developing strategies to improve the practice of social workers.
- Clearly defined roles of Team Managers (TM) and Practice Managers (PM).
- Working with the University of Bournemouth to develop a programme of learning which is effective.
- Need a Social Work Academy for Managers.

Action:

- Principle Social Worker needs to liaise with local Universities around the development of a leadership programme – Louise Storey.

12 Week Improvement Plan

- Most of it is well on track (green).
- Two categories remain on Amber – Early Help and Practice Improvement Model (PIM).
- PIM – taking parts of the plan that is working in the North and rolling it out across the County.
- Taylor Davenport are in the North and will look at discharge orders and work with the Legal team. Amanda Hatton met with Judge Singleton regarding this.

Actions:

- To develop a set of core principles for how we want the social work model in Lancashire to look and work and to bring these to the Board for agreement – Amanda Hatton.

Step Down – Social Care to Early Help

- Analysis of front door data – lots of cases no further action but no systematic way of engaging with early help services.

- CiN – significant progress in numbers and length of time for plans, review of CiN cases.
- Agreed immediate action to transfer 250 cases from social care to Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help (WPEH).
- Identifying cases and safe process for transfer of cases.

Performance

- Dedicated Social Worker for Private Fostering in place now.
- There has been an increase of two Grade 9 SWs.
- Some issues around compliance on Child Protection (CP).
- Currently 1889 Children Looked After, continuing to rise – Burnley has the highest rate.
- At least another 1000 vulnerable children out of area which increases pressures on Children's Social Care, Schools and Health.
- Assessments, growing number not completed in 45 days (21.3%).

Action:

To bring further analysis on the growing number of assessments not completed within 45 days to the next Board to understand this number and agree actions to address – Amanda Hatton.

7. Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Annual Report 2016-17

Jane Booth presented the report to the Board.

Key issues on good practice and performance, pressures and concerns and children – challenges were highlighted in the report attached to the agenda.

Tony Crane indicated that lots of the actions covered are reflected in the Improvement Boards 12 Week Improvement Plan.

Significant Incident Notifications

Ofsted raised a concern in May 2017 with the LSCB about the level of Serious Incident Notifications submitted by LCC. As a result a review of practice has been completed and was attached to the agenda.

Jane pointed out to the Board that when the figures were looked at alongside Kent and Cumbria and adjusted against child population figures, Lancashire were not so far away from the rate in Cumbria but significantly higher than Kent. Jane also highlighted that when the cases had been reviewed it was felt that they had been appropriately classes as serious incidents based on what was known about the child at the time.

Risk Sensible Framework for Multi-Agency Partners

This will be rolled out through October and November following the summer holidays.

Feedback from those already using it is very positive and is liked.

However a concern was raised on why there was not an education representative involved in the delivery of the training. Jane Booth reported that she is meeting with Primary Heads in Lancashire (PHiL) in October regarding the framework.

Action:

To make efforts to ensure an education representative is involved in the delivery of future risk sensible training – Jane Booth

8. Child Sexual Exploitation

Tracy Poole-Nandy briefed the Board on the full review of the Child Sexual Exploitations (CSE) and Missing from Home (MFH) offer that was undertaken in May 2017 with clear recommendations, which, has informed the central pilot to address all areas of exploitation, missing from home and risk.

The review findings and recommendations are set out below:

- Duplication in the offer to children resulting in the allocation of two social workers, two managers, support workers, police, health and third sector where appropriate in one child's life.
- Differing assessment and management of risk.
- Limited knowledge, training or specialism in relation to all aspects of exploitation.
- Limited joined up working with key partner agencies in identifying and managing risk.
- Rigid gatekeeping in respect of CSE and missing.
- Pan Lancashire Problem profile offering limited local intelligence or demographics (white British female and older white British male).
- Limited understanding of the Organised Crime aspect of exploitation or indeed linkage with CSE, missing from home or the Multi-Agency CSE (MACSE).
- Limited training offer to partner agencies, community services, licensed premises of education.
- Poor buy in for the MACSE meeting from all partner agencies which resulted in limited information sharing.
- MFH, Return Home Interview (RHI) completed without the sharing of relevant information sharing in relation to hot spots or mapping.

Central Pilot

- The central pilot has been implemented to centralise the exploitation and missing from home offer, which will provide a joined up approach for children and remove duplication.
- RHI will also be centralised increasing information and intelligence sharing and enabling the mapping process to begin within this area of LCC.
- MFH Champion has been employed and will establish a joined up approach for exploitation and missing with key partners such as community safety, licensing, education, police, WPEH, health and third sector.
- MFH Champion is the lead across the North West in relation to modern day slavery and as such will bring this expertise and knowledge to LCC and incorporate the learning into a training package for all staff.

- MFH panels to be established jointly with police and partner agencies to address the risk of exploitation in relation to children missing from home and education.
- Steven Dudley will be integral part of this team capturing the intelligence and information from MACSE, MFH panel and MASH ensuring efficient mapping of children being exploited, people and places of concern.
- Links with Genga will be established with consistent representation and attendance, Pam training to be implemented to increase the sharing of intelligence with all partner agencies.
- Pan Lancashire SOP in respect of CSE and missing being updated to capture the PAN Lancashire approach to exploitation and missing.

Exploitation, Trafficking and Missing Forward Planner

- The roll out the central pilot across the authority to improve the offer in relation to exploitation and missing for children, young people and their families.
- Better partnership working to increase information and intelligence gathering and mapping that will inform interventions from all agencies.
- Better understanding of risk in relation to OCG's, County Lines, trafficking, criminal and sexual exploitation with consideration of radicalization.
- Partnership working with District areas in relation to the use of tools and powers.
- Increased training package across the authority and for partner agencies and improved educational offer.

9. Any Other Business

MOMO

This was launched yesterday. Please share with teams <http://mindofmyown.org.uk/>.

Information Sharing Agreement

Alison Aylott asked if the agreement could be circulated prior to the PHiL meeting.

Action:

To ask Simon Fisher to send the Information Sharing Agreement to Alison and Stephen Cox prior to the meeting - Jane Booth.

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 10 October 2017 at 2.30pm in the Diamond Jubilee Room – Committee Room 'B', County Hall, Preston.