

SAFEGUARDING REFERENCE GROUP

Tuesday, 12 January 2016

Present: Councillor P Davies (Chair)

Councillors A Brighthouse M McLaughlin
P Gilchrist W Clements
C Jones

20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair welcomed all Members and officers to the Group's first meeting of 2016 and indicated that he would be bringing item 8 – Child Sexual Exploitation – Update up the agenda to be considered prior to Item 4.

21 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeff Green, Councillor Tony Smith and the Director of Adult Social Services.

23 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

24 TERMS OF REFERENCE - REVIEW

The Group considered the Safeguarding Reference Group's Terms of Reference and asked Members to review its contents to consider if they were still fit for purpose.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference be agreed.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION- UPDATE

The Corporate Safeguarding Manager gave Members an update on the work being undertaken in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

He informed Members that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) maintained a very high national profile and remained a key priority area. His presentation included information on partnership work, completed and ongoing, the KLOE (Key Lines of Enquiry) relating to the issues children and young people faced in relation to CSE.

The Corporate Safeguarding Manager gave an update on three cases which had been dealt in relation to CSE which had progressed well with positive outcomes.

In relation to Wirral cases discussed at MACSE meetings, it was noted that in December 2015 25 cases had been discussed. It was explained that in these meetings intelligence was shared between all parties, the primary referrer being Police. The meetings were attended by all professionals each discussing individual cases and putting together plans for each child. It was reiterated that all cases remained on the agenda until a resolution had been sought.

In relation to the age range of the children and young people referred, the Corporate Safeguarding Manager stated that most of the referrals received were aged between 14-17 years old and were predominantly girls. It was also reported that the showing of 'Chelsea's Choice' was aimed at Y9 children as this had reflected the age range of referrals received and also as a result of speaking to young people whose feedback indicated that awareness raising of CSE should be done a lot earlier than Y11.

During the course of the presentation, it was a point of concern for the Group that a number of children were moved out of the area (for protection) whilst perpetrators of crime may still remain in the area. Members were informed that at present there had been 5 CSE convictions since April 2015 with young girls having to be relocated at out of city placements for their own protection which was at a huge cost to the Authority.

It was suggested and agreed that at the next meeting of the Group the Police be ask to give a presentation on how they handled referrals of CSE.

In relation to misuse of social media and internet, it was reported that due its complex nature it had become increasingly difficult to police and also placed a huge strain on the department's resources.

The Director of Children's Services indicated that it had been highlighted in recent MACSE meetings that it was men from all over the country contacting

girls/women within Wirral and not just those living in the area, this was huge concern.

She indicated that written within the Rotherham Report young people had told them that people should take notice if for e.g. they had two mobile phones, designer handbags etc.. She stated that feedback received from young people was invaluable and this in turn had helped target the awareness raising at the right level.

The Corporate Safeguarding Manager indicated that he would put an information pack together and circulate to Members in relation to the CSE KLOE.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Safeguarding Manager be thanked for his update and the content be noted.

26 ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT

The Panel considered a presentation in relation to the Annual Report 2014-15 and priorities for 2015-16 from the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB).

Mr Bernard Walker, Independent Chair of the SAPB highlighted the statutory objectives and functions of WSAPB as detailed in the Care Act 2014; SAPB attendance and ALADO data and progress to date against the 2013-2015 objectives.

The priorities for the WSCB for 2015/15 were detailed in the presentation which included:

- Adults who may be at risk are safe, outcomes are improved and they feel safe
- Partnership arrangements for Safeguarding Adults in Wirral are improved;
- A range of responses are developed to enable earlier identification of need
- The implementation of the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy ensures professionals are equipped to quickly respond to domestic abuse in all its forms.

Mr Walker indicated that the PDF version of the Annual Report was not yet complete but would be made available shortly, he highlighted a piece of work that the Board was undertaking alongside John Moores University in relation to Self-Neglect.

Mr Walker indicated that Wirral was part of a pilot scheme “making safeguarding personal” following its success this now sat alongside the Care Act. The aim was to ask people what they wanted as a resolution to make them feel safe and to also ensure that outcomes were appropriately monitored.

In relation to attendance at the Board, Mr Walker indicated that these meetings were well attended and he as Chair always ensured that officers in attendance must make a contribution to the meeting each time.; he went on to praise the contributions made by Healthwatch Wirral and the Older People’s Parliament and indicated that the support given to the Board by all parties had been excellent.

In response to a Members question, Mr Walker explained that a multi-agency strategy meeting is held to discuss those referrals that may need an assessment or Police investigation.

Mr Walker indicated that in relation to the details provided in relation to complaints registered against professionals, more information would be available in the Annual Report but it was hoped that in the future historical data would rise and that the rise in complaints received was a good thing as it showed that the message was getting there that people should be reporting any safeguarding concerns. He also commented that with the huge pressure felt by providers due to fee increases more places see a high turnover of staff. A Member indicated that as part of a scrutiny review that she had undertaken it was noted that if a CQC inspection had rated a placement as ‘Poor’ there was no link made to any safeguarding issues. In response, Mr Walker indicated that the relationship between the Board and the CQC had been raised and that the responsibility lay with the Local Authority to investigate any reports of individual concern.

In response, Mr Walker indicated that he had been liaising with the Ambulance service, who had a system whereby they record and report all incidents where they may have to attend the same residential setting or individual home numerous times which in turn could be investigated by the Board.

The Strategic Director of Families and Wellbeing indicated that Wirral faced big challenges in relation to care and homes were facing huge pressures as a result of the increase to fees.

In relation to monitoring, she explained that the department received weekly reports and those homes in the ‘red’ were appropriately and efficiently investigated.

The Chair thanked Mr Walker and Mr Robbins and requested that the Group received regular updates from the WSCB on the key issues emerging.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) Mr Walker and Mr Robbins be thanked for their presentation and requested to provide regular updates on the key issues emerging.**

27 ADULT SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS

The Group considered the Action Plan in relation cases discussed within the SAPB Case Review Group and discussing where service could be improved.

The Corporate Safeguarding Manager indicated that a further report would be provided to the group updating on what had been achieved and outlining the escalation processes.

RESOLVED:

That the Action Plan be noted and a further report be provided to a future meeting.

28 CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS

Mr David Robbins, Local Safeguarding Children's Board Manager addressed the Committee to present and inform Members of the WSCB Multi- agency Learning reviews, entitled 'Child 4', and 'Child 5'.

The presentation detailed the process which initiated the case reviews and the finding of the Case Reviews Groups and initial recommendations.

Mr David Robbins WSCB Business Manager outlined the key points of the case, including background and contextual information. He then explained the process undertaken whereby a multi - agency approach was adopted, and chronologies were produced from all agencies and combined into one single chronology by the lead reviewers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

29 FINDINGS OF THE SAFEGUARDING AUDITS

Mr David Robbins, Local Safeguarding Children's Board Manager addressed the Committee to present and inform Members of the findings from the Section 11 and Section 175 Audits and preparations for the Audits 2016.

Mr Robbins indicated that a piece of work was being undertaken regarding supervision for school officers who attended case conferences etc.

In relation to the level of response to the audits, Mr Robbins indicated that it was estimated at 92% however, it was not known all the agencies working with children and young people within Wirral, a piece of work was on-going to try and identify as many of these agencies as possible.

Mr Robbins highlighted the launch of the Board's new website which contained information on the audits and how to complete them online.

In response to Members, Mr Robbins indicated that the agencies were possible were encouraged to complete the audits and it was advertised that in doing so, this would help in the event of any Ofsted inspection.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted