

## Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)

### Minutes from the meeting of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 2014, 1pm – 4pm at Rotherham Town Hall

#### In attendance:

Steve Ashley – Chair	Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Faye Prosser- Minutes	Administrative Assistant, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Phil Morris - Advisor	Business Manager, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Richard Burton - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Pete Horner - Member	Public Protection Unit Manager, South Yorkshire Police
June Lovett (representing Tracey McErlain-Burns)	Assistant Chief Nurse, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Jason Harwin - Member	Chief Superintendent, District Commander for Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police
Dave Richmond	Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Rotherham Council
Catherine Hall – Advisor	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Anne Riley - Member	Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
Maryke Turvey – Member	Assistant Chief Officer, Rotherham/Doncaster Cluster , The South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company
Jean Imray	Interim Deputy Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services
Sarah Mainwaring – Member	Assistant Chief Officer for North East Division, National Probation Service
Tim Pinto	E-Safety Officer, Strategy, Standards and Early Help
Uzma Moody	Quality Assurance Manager, Children and Young People's Services
Rachel Nicholls – Member	Assistant Principal, Rotherham College of Arts and Technology
Gordon Watson	Deputy Leader, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Carole Lavelle – Member	Deputy Director of Nursing, NHS England
Jo Abbott	Interim Director Rotherham Public Health
Ruth Fletcher-Brown	Rotherham Public Health Specialist
Julie Lodge - Member	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, RDASH
Jane Hopkinson	Rotherham MBC Lead Official – Department for Education Children's Social Care
Pepe Di'Iasio	Head Teacher, Wales High School
Ian Thomas – Member	Strategic Director, Childrens and Young People's Services, RMBC
Jane Parfremment – Member	Director, Safeguarding Children and Families, RMBC

#### Apologies:

Graeme Betts	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services
Tracey McErlain-Burns - Member	Chief Nurse, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Paul Grimwood – Member	Youth Offending Services Manager, Rotherham Council
Warren Carratt – Advisor	Service Manager for Strategy, Standards and Early Help, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council, and Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Tracy Holmes – Advisor	Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing, Environment and Development Services, Rotherham Council
Dawn Peet - Member	Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Ian Phillip – Member	Executive Director, Dearne Valley College
Zafar Saleem - Advisor	Community Engagement Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Performance
Sue Cassin - Member	Executive Lead for Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

## Agenda item:

## Action:

### 1. Welcome / apologies and introductions

Mr Burton asked how this meeting is advertised, and Mr Ashley explained that the dates appear on the RLSCB website.

Mr Ashley welcomed everyone to the meeting and brief introductions were carried out. Apologies were received as above.

### 2. Previous RLSCB Minutes from 05.03.2015 and Matters/Actions Arising

Ms Hall noted three inaccuracies on page 10 of the minutes, under agenda item 9: Update on Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of the Health Economy. Ms Prosser will make those corrections to the electronic copy of the minutes, and will ensure that the attendance lists shows that Ray Westley Morris represents the Community Rehabilitation Company, rather than RDASH.

Action 1 – Faye Prosser

The minutes were taken as an accurate record for the meeting.

Mr Harwin gave a brief update on the child sexual exploitation operations that are currently taking place within South Yorkshire. Twelve people have been arrested so far as part of Operation Stovewood, a National Crime Agency investigation into historic sexual exploitation cases; three of them have been charged with a total of seventy offences, with others on police bail. Mr Harwin stated that the South Yorkshire Police website now includes updates on child sexual exploitation operations, arrests and prosecutions. Mr Thomas, referring to a case in which a suspect had fled the country while on bail, asked how the RLSCB can reassure the public about the likelihood of this happening again. Mr Harwin explained that South Yorkshire Police undertakes an assessment on all suspects which includes whether there is a flight risk, adding that it is possible for suspects to be remanded in custody if they are judged to be likely to try to leave the country.

### 3. LSCB Improvement Plan six monthly progress report

Mr Ashley presented the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board 6 Monthly Improvement Report to the board, and led the rest of the group in a discussion about its findings. The commissioners can refer to this document when they report back to the government ministers: it highlights the areas that have improved, but also the work that still needs to be done in order for the LSCB in Rotherham to be as good as possible, and the measures that will be needed in order for the board to be assured that sufficient improvement is taking place.

There was a detailed discussion about Improvement Area 1: Performance, challenge and improvement, and especially about the role of both single and multi-agency audits. Mr Ashley explained that the partner agencies had decided to invest in more resources for the Board with which to carry out audits, and that the increasing timeliness and quality of the multi-agency audits shows that the extra investment is already paying dividends. The two full time Quality Assurance Officers are working closely using the Quality Assurance Schedule with the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub

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Groups; their latest reports, which focus on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and children who go missing from home, were presented at the last Quality Assurance Sub Group meeting. Mr Thomas agreed that this was a welcome start in terms of building an enhanced audit programme, but stated that the challenge would be to decide how to capture learning and use it to improve practice as part of the wider improvement efforts, which will require the board and its partners to respond to audits in a way that improves things for families. Mr Thomas thanked Mr Ashley for identifying the local authority's strengths and providing positive feedback, and stated that he would like to see more audit work from the RLSCB.

Ms Imray stated that her team was able to respond to the MASH audit almost immediately, and offered to provide an update on the development of MASH and the changes made by the CYPS Quality Assurance Service at a later meeting. However, Ms Imray also emphasised the importance of monitoring both RLSCB and internal Social Care audits, noting that MASH had been audited twice within two months. The recommendations from the audits should be reviewed and implemented, with all changes carefully tracked, and should be made part of a cycle of continuous improvement within the RLSCB and its partner agencies.

Ms Parfremment stated that the latest QA Sub Group meeting, at which both of the audits were presented, noted that they highlighted both good practice and areas of potential development; one of the most significant examples of good practice was the development of a template that can be used when children go missing from home, which Tracey Holliday is already making available to the rest of Social Care. At the same meeting, it was suggested that each sub group should decide upon three key issues that can be reported to the RLSCB and posted on the board website; preferably issues that require broader communication, such as the need for practitioners to gain the consent of parents before they refer a child to MASH if the case does not meet the child protection thresholds.

Mr Ashley agreed to find out how the Business Management Team is monitoring the measures that have been put in place to cover the shortfall in audits for other agencies. Mr Ashley emphasised the need for other agencies to submit their own audits to the board, therefore allowing the RLSCB auditors to focus on the big issues and multi-agency working; ideally, he would like to develop a calendar that shows which areas are being covered, when, and by which agency. These audits should not focus solely on negative aspects of practice, and should not be carried out while improvement work is underway because this will naturally interfere with the results – instead, the audits should be used to establish whether the improvements have worked.

Ms Imray stated that, while it is right for the RLSCB to plan a schedule of audits, the results can only be interpreted correctly if the reporters can understand potential anomalies in terms of agency performance. Ms Imray added that the Performance and QA Sub Groups can legitimately review the multi-agency reports, and that she would be happy to submit single agency audits whenever necessary. There was some discussion at the last meeting of the RLSCB Executive Group about whether or not the Performance and QA Sub Groups should revert to being one group; Mr Ashley stated that this idea, which will be reviewed in more detail at the next Development Day, is likely to go ahead. Both of the sub group chairs have already given their agreement, although Ms McErlain-Burns will need to hold another meeting in order for the Performance Dashboard to be signed off before the merger can take place.

Mr Ashley stated that he had recently accompanied an Inspector for a Regulation 44 visit to a local children's home: he was very impressed by the inspector, who carefully checked the premises, and the temporary manager, who made it clear that his primary role was to care for the children and improve their lives. The environment in the home was very positive, and the young people who lived there seemed happy – one girl, who had previously

**Action:**

Action 2 –  
Steve Ashley

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been at risk of child sexual exploitation, told Mr Ashley that she felt safer there than she had in any of her other placements. He staff at the home were very impressed by a local PCSO who had been working with a young resident, but the manager felt that some teachers tend to 'label' looked after children and to attribute any negative behaviour to the fact that they have been placed in a children's home. Mr Ashley is hoping to carry out a similar visit, this time to a children's home outside Rotherham, very soon. Mr Horner stated that he had been asked to seek reassurance from the RLSCB about the future arrangements for return home interviews for children who have been missing from home; he understood that the current arrangement with Safe@Last was due to end, and asked if the interviews would continue to take place. Ms Imray stated that the long term arrangements are currently under review, but that two youth workers have been seconded to carry out the interviews, under the direction of the Lead Officer for Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation, until a decision is made. The Lead Officer is supervised by Lynne McIntosh, and is therefore embedded at the heart of the CSE Team. Mr Harwin, who stated that he was happy to provide extra resources to help Ms Imray, was concerned that there would be duplication of work, because his officers interview children as soon as they are found. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed further, and that Mr Morris will arrange a meeting between Ms Imray and Mr Harwin.

In the summary of the Improvement Report, Mr Ashley stated that he will seek Commissioner Newsom's advice on the development of a local neglect strategy. This idea was first raised in the summer of 2014, and the RLSCB arranged for a peer review around neglect with a view to drawing up the strategy, but unfortunately the peer review had to be cancelled. Both the commissioners and Mr Ashley are determined to draw up a neglect strategy, but first they will need to understand exactly how the problem manifests itself in Rotherham. Mr Ashley has met with Ms Abbott and Commissioner Roach to discuss the possibility of forming a task and finish group that will draw up a problem file, and it will also be necessary to analyse case conferences, police data, domestic abuse and alcohol issues; he has asked Commissioner Newsom for more resources with which to develop the strategy. Mr Thomas welcomed the idea of focusing on neglect, while emphasising that there was no question of the RLSCB ignoring child sexual exploitation; he noted that exploited child initially came to the attention of Social Care as a victim of neglect. Mr Thomas will speak with Commissioner Newsom to discuss funding for the neglect strategy. Ms Nicholls asked if the Prevent strategy should be included in the report, possibly in the form of an objective around preventing young people from being radicalised, noting that this was an important part of safeguarding and should therefore be included in the improvement plan and the strategic objectives. Mr Ashley stated that the RLSCB's priorities will be discussed in more depth at the Development Day.

Mr Thomas touched on the Early Help Strategy, stating that David McWilliams would be taking forward the improvement plan and evidence based practice. Mr Harwin recognised that there were vulnerabilities in this area for the police, and stated that he was keen to discuss joint strategy and resources.

It was agreed that any updates for the Improvement Plan should be sent to Mr Ashley, who will be compiling an update report for government ministers over the next week.

4. RLSCB Sub Group verbal update reports:

At future meetings, Mr Ashley will ask each of the sub group chairs to give a short verbal report, highlighting key issues that can be dealt with by the RLSCB.

**Action:**

Action 3 – Phil Morris

Action 4 – Steve Ashley

Action 5 – Ian Thomas

Action 6- All RLSCB

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Performance Sub Group – Tracey McErlain-Burns

Mr Ashley stated that the Performance Sub Group has had long standing problems with attendance, and that he will therefore be looking for reassurance that every agency is sending a suitable representative to these meetings. In order for the Performance Dashboard to make progress, the representatives must be senior enough to both provide updates on their colleagues' actions and make decisions on behalf of their agencies; this will be even more important if the Performance Sub Group merges with Quality Assurance.

Ms Imray stated that Ms McErlain-Burns had expressed her concerns about attendance in a letter to Mr Thomas; in response to this, Ms Imray attended the June sub group meeting, and has since agreed to sit as a representative for the group. There was a helpful discussion at the last meeting, which led to the group agreeing on a way forward, and they have agreed to meet at a later date in order to populate the dashboard so that it can be signed off by the end of August. Mr Ashley stated that he was pleased with the dashboard, but also disappointed that requests for information were not being responded to within the given timescale. Ms Imray urged the other attendees to notify her if they were waiting for information from Social Care, because most of the indicators that appear on the dashboard are part of her team's core business.

Mr Harwin stated that he had also received an expression of concern from Ms McErlain-Burns, and that they would have a conversation about membership with the managers of the Public Protection Unit.

Action 7 –  
Jason Harwin

Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group

Mr Ashley stated that the CSE Sub Group last met on the 11/06/2015, when they discussed the new strategy and delivery plan. The delivery plan, which has since been circulated in an updated version to the entire RLSCB, consists of a list of objectives and milestones; the milestones must be assigned to the right people, because there isn't a simple list of tasks for the sub group representatives. The updated plan also contains the names of the documents that can be used to evidence the fact that a milestone has been achieved, although Mr Ashley noted that many of the objectives are underway, and that there will be no need to provide reams of documentation or lengthy monthly reports. Any further updates should be emailed to Mr Ashley by the new deadline of 01/07/2015.

Mr Ashley reported that the CSE strategy has been sent out for consultation to councillors and MPs, as well as being published on the RLSCB website for public comment, and that he has asked a group of social workers on a practitioners board to review the document. The RLSCB members and advisors were encouraged to circulate both the delivery plan and the strategy with their organisations. Mr Ashley advised the board that the strategy should be signed off by the end of June, and that the delivery plan can be put in place from July onwards.

Mr Thomas stated that he has also met with groups of social workers, and that it is important for the RLSCB to continue seeking the views of front line staff and absorbing their ideas. Mr Ashley stated that Mr Carratt is drawing up a matrix of recommendations from both local and national reports and panels, showing where and how they are covered in the strategy and delivery plan, in order to ensure that the sub group's actions triangulate with the ongoing national enquiries. Mr Ashley also informed the group that he and Mr Carratt replied individually to everyone who sent in comments about the strategy and that they have kept a matrix of all the responses; this means that the sub group can show who responded, what their comments were, and how they were incorporated into the strategy.

Action 8 – All  
RLSCB

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Quality Assurance Sub Group

Ms Parfremment gave a brief update about the Quality Assurance Sub Group. At the last meeting on the 17/06/2015, the group signed-off a new multi-agency challenge process, which will provide guidance to professionals about how to challenge and raise concerns during the child protection process. The new procedure will be added to Tri-X

The group discussed the MASH and children missing from homes audits in some detail, identifying good practice and giving feedback while also identifying the aspects of practice that still require improvement. There was a brief discussion around Mr Morris's proposal that the sub group should merge with the Performance Sub Group, and it was agreed that Mr Morris will take this idea forward.

Future agenda items for the sub group include a domestic abuse audit, which will involve a number of agencies, and an audit of the timeliness and quality of professional reports to child protection conferences.

Mr Ashley asked the rest of the agency representatives for reassurance that their organisations will submit their own audits to the Quality Assurance Sub Group, reminding them the RLSCB will need to know which audits are being completed by agencies in order to avoid duplicating them; if necessary, the RLSCB audits can be timed and tailored to complement single agency reports. Ms Parfremment asked everyone to send in their annual audit schedules.

Ms Lodge asked if any themes were emerging from the existing audits. Mr Ashley stated that any specific issues can form part of the QA plan, and that agencies should pass on any requests or ideas to Mr Morris so that he can incorporate them into the process. As the RLSCB is expected to both seek and give assurance around how practice is improving, it is reasonable for people to expect to see these audits discussed in the RLSCB minutes, along with an assessment of the difference that the policies and audits have made.

Mr Ashley stated that Children and Young People's Services are no longer taking reassurance from partner agencies at face value, and are putting a plan in place to ensure that the findings from audits are acted upon quickly.

Learning and Improvement Sub Group

Mr Morris stated that the Learning and Improvement Sub Group recently published new, updated prospectuses for both RLSCB training courses and Early Help workshops. The new courses include a two-day ASIST (applied suicide intervention skills training) course about self-harm and suicide, and a series of workshops facilitated by Zoe Lodrick, who has experience of both the behaviour of the perpetrators of child sexual exploitation and the impact that it has upon victims.

The RLSCB has invested in an online audit tool that should encourage schools to engage with Section 11 audits – this will be presented at the next Education Safeguarding Forum.

Mr Morris stated that bi-monthly action learning sets for Group 5 and 6 will be running from autumn 2015; the learning sets will focus on learning lessons from audits, serious case reviews and national best practice, and will include delegates from all of the RLSCB's partner agencies.

Cathy Phillips is currently reviewing the LSCB manual, and will refresh the content in order to make it more user-friendly.

Mr Ashley explained that the RLSCB's training provision has never been criticised, and can therefore be seen as an area of strength. By the end of autumn, Mr Ashley would like Mr Carratt to provide an overview of what training is being provided, what difference it is making, and what else the board should be doing to facilitate learning and improvement. There is a danger that the board is duplicating the training that is provided by other organisations, such as education, because it has relatively little information

**Action:**

Action 9 – Phil  
Morris

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about single agency training courses. Mr Di'lasio suggested that the overview could be pulled together through the Education safeguarding Forum, and that it might be more productive to focus on induction and training new members of staff.

Mr Harwin expressed concerns about the lack of capacity for child sexual exploitation training courses, stating that some of his officers have been struggling to find places on these workshops. Mr Morris stated that, while there were capacity issues in 2014, the RLSC is now able to provide online training for those who choose not to attend a face to face training course, and that this should form part of the CSE delivery plan. Mr Harwin stated that the officers are receiving single-agency training, but they need to know what is taking place in other agencies.

Mr Watson stated that, in his experience, online training is less effective than face to face training, because some members of staff will complete the online training as quickly as possible without taking in any of the material. Mr Di'lasio stated that he quality checks all online training within his school. Mr Ashley was concerned to hear that pharmacists were being encouraged to take the online course, because they will be critical in some of the ongoing work around child sexual exploitation, but Ms Hall reassured him that they have been trained very recently, and that their understanding is always checked after online training.

It was agreed that training should form part of the audit document.

Ms Hall reminded the group that the RLSCB had once worked with Sheffield University to ensure that their student teachers were properly trained in child safeguarding; this took place within the last few years, and involved Mr Carratt, Ms Hall, a police officer and a teacher.

5. Strengthening Families Framework (presentation and report) – Rebecca Wall

Ms Moody gave a brief update on the new Strengthening Families Framework for Child Protection Conferences, which will change the way in which conferences are organised and will affect every agency that takes part in the child protection process.

In May 2015, an independent audit concluded that the delivery of child protection conferences was not SMART, and that the existing template meant that child protection plans were overly general, long and repetitive. As a result of these findings, the RLSCB agreed to adopt the Strengthening Families Framework model, which has been found in other areas to encourage deeper engagement in the child protection process by both practitioners and families.

Under the Strengthening Families Framework model, the family meets with the Chair prior to the conference and is seated in the meeting room before the professionals arrive; the meeting room itself is set out in a horseshoe shape, and contains a whiteboard showing headings such as danger, risk and grey areas. In another local authority, the evaluation forms that were distributed at the end of every conference showed that 98% of parents understood what they needed to do as their part of the child protection process.

Mr Ashley asked if anyone had any questions, noting that this would be a fundamental change in the way in which conferences are organised. Mr Harwin stated that he would need to refer the report to the Public Protection Team, but could reply within a tight timescale. Ms Moody explained that she has already spoken to Delphine Waring from the PPU, and that they are due to meet within a fortnight. Ms Lodge stated that the Strengthening Families Framework model is similar to the care plan approach used by Mental Health Services; she was very supportive of the new model, but suggested that the practitioners should be given more information about

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their new responsibilities for preparation and attendance at conferences. Ms Nicholls suggested that the final report should include some narrative about communication between agencies and the decision making process, while Ms Mainwaring, who thought that the principals of the model were excellent, stated that Probation Services will need to be sure that they are contributing in an effective way, and asked how they would receive information. Ms Imray stated that the model of working will extend beyond child protection conferences. A programme of multi-agency training, which will advise practitioners of their obligations and expectations under the new model, has already begun. Mr Burton asked if all of the conference chairs are employed by the local authority, and Ms Moody reassured him that interim staff will only be recruited if they have background knowledge of the Safer Families Framework. Mr Richmond noted that the written briefing states that all of the audited child protection plans were inadequate, and asked whether this was being dealt with. Ms Imray explained that the audits were undertaken using the standards that could be expected using the Safer Families Framework model, and that the results reflect the way in which the plan was written, not the quality of the work that was undertaken with the child. Ms Moody stated that 32 of the 36 plans were judged as requiring improvement, with the other four being inadequate. Mr Ashley stated that Mr Richmond was right to raise this issue with the RLSCB, as one of the board's main functions is to challenge poor practice. It was agreed that Mr Ashley should ask one of the audit officers to write a report explaining how practice will improve from inadequate to good under the new model, and that a further audit will be carried out when the new system is in place.

**Action:**

Action 10 –  
Steve Ashley

6. Prevent Briefing and Update – Chief Superintendent Jason Harwin

Mr Harwin gave a brief presentation about the current Prevent activity and delivery within Rotherham, along with recommendations for continued improvement and optimisation of this work. The objectives of the Prevent strategy are to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism, to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring that they are given appropriate advice and support, and to work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

There was a brief discussion about local practitioners will be trained on the Prevent strategy, as Mr Harwin's report had identified gaps in training, awareness and commitment from partner agencies as a key issue. Mr Morris stated that the Prevent e-learning course will be available on the RLSCB website from the week beginning the 22/06/2015, and that he would be sending out a flyer to promote the course. Each agency should contain some people who have already been trained on the subject, and they can assist their colleagues if necessary. Mr Harwin stated that Chief Inspector Richard Butterworth is carrying out a gap analysis, which will include Health, and that he can present it at the next RLSCB meeting. It was agreed that the RLSCB needs to monitor training and awareness in this area, because there will almost certainly be a radicalisation case in Rotherham at some point; while the town is not one of the national priority areas, the movement of people within Yorkshire and the Humber makes it vulnerable. Ms Mainwaring asked if it will be necessary to carry out a large scale training programme, given that the new guidance hasn't fundamentally changed, and suggested that training should be focused on new employees. The e-learning programme will not tell practitioners what to do if they suspect that someone is becoming radicalised; that information will be delivered through the agency's pathways. Ms Mainwaring suggested that Chief Inspector Butterworth should attend

Action 11 – Phil  
Morris



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the Prevent workshop that is taking place in Sheffield during the week beginning the 22/06/2015. Ms Mainwaring is currently mapping the services that are provided by Probation agencies, NACRO, the CRCs, and the counter terrorism unit, and will share her finding with the RLSCB when the mapping exercise is complete.

Ms Lodge stated that Health practitioners in Dewsbury have been successful in delivering the strategy because they worked in partnership with four counter terrorism officers, which shows that engaging with specialists is crucial.

Ms Nicholls stated that the Prevent agenda has been led by the police in the past, with little engagement from the local authority; this will need to change in the future, when the local authority will be expected to take the lead role. Ms Nicholls stressed the need for the Prevent strategy to appear in the improvement plan. Mr Thomas agreed to allocate the strategy to a senior member of staff, who can ensure that the local authority links with the existing partnerships and takes the agenda forward. The Prevent strategy will also be passed through all levels of the RLSCB's partner agencies.

Mr Burton asked Mr Harwin if the police have sufficient resources to meet the demand that is created by people who are moving to Rotherham from other areas. Mr Harwin reassured him that, while diverse communities bring complexity and place extra demands on services, the police are still committed to safeguarding the public.

Mr Ashley stated that the RLSCB can start to develop an action plan when it receives the gap and needs analyses from Chief Inspector Butterworth. This should be a priority for the RLSCB, which must be satisfied that sufficient protocols and training are in place. The board will need to decide what degree of governance it should take over the agenda, and how this will tie in with other issues, such as children on care plans being taken abroad.

Ms Parfremment stated that the RLSCB should not underestimate the dangers posed by far-right extremism: many of the far-right extremists have themselves been radicalised, and the risk of radicalisation in other communities increased when there is more activity by the far-right. Mr Richmond stated that far-right extremism was a key issue back in the 1990s, and suggested that the methods that were used for targeting extremism back then could be reused. Communities for Cohesion produced a report in 2009 that examined approaches such as peer mentoring programmes and values teaching within schools.

Ms Abbott stated that many of the RLSCB's agendas, including child sexual exploitation, neglect, and Prevent, are linked by equality, with people who feel that they are not valued being most at risk.

7

Questions from the Public

Mr Pinto, the new E-Learning officer, outlined his strategy for online communication: he will use community media to communicate with stakeholders, setting up Facebook and Twitter accounts for the RLSCB, and will start an e-safety blog that can provide resources, documents and localised guidance for practitioners. Mr Ashley was concerned that some people might use the webpages to make referrals or ask for help; Mr Pinto replied that, while the pages will contain contact details for relevant services, they will not be a forum for making referrals.

As no members of the public were present at the meeting, Mr Burton was asked to pass on the questions that he has been asked since the last meeting. Mr Burton asked how the RLSCB is planning to attract public attendance at their meetings, explaining that, while he has received enquiries about the meetings at several of the community groups that he attends, he is not sure where the dates are advertised. Mr Burton has also discovered that some members of the public are intimidated by the idea of

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entering the council chambers. Mr Ashley stated that the RLSCB will need to discuss whether opening meetings to the public is the best way of engaging them, because they may feel that their views are not being listed to at meetings. Mr Ashley asked the rest of the group to send him their views so that the RLSCB can debate this issue at a future date.

Mr Burton stated that several agencies have been advertising in the local press for accommodation for foreign exchange students, and asked who would provide safeguarding checks for the host families. Mr Morris stated that the schools in both countries would be involved in checking the hosts. Mr Ashley will find out who is responsible for this.

Mr Burton raised the issue of ongoing cuts to staffing levels in both South Yorkshire Police and the Probation services. Ms Mainwaring stated that resources are being allocated according to risk, while Mr Harwin informed the group that the number of Public Protection Unit staff has actually increased. Mr Harwin also stated that the rise in the number of child protection referrals across the country could be due increased awareness of safeguarding issues, rather than an increase in the number of crimes, and that the police need to concentrate on neighbourhoods and communities where crimes are under-reported. Ms Lovett stated that the cuts have had a negative impact on staff morale, but have yet to affect patients.

There was a brief discussion about the 15/06/2015 edition of Panorama, which included an interview with a young woman from Rotherham who had been a victim of child sexual exploitation. Mr Harwin stated that the police had made a statement for the programme, while being careful not to affect any ongoing investigations, but that they were now concentrating on taking action. Mr Horner has been asked to produce a one-year review that will show how South Yorkshire Police's practice has improved since the publication of the Jay report.

Mr Burton stated that members of the public are very frustrated about the number of teenage suicides in Rotherham, and that he has received a number of comments about an attempted female genital mutilation case in Sheffield.

8

RLSCB Sub Group Verbal Update Reports :

Serious Case Review Sub Group – Pete Horner

Mr Horner stated that the final version of the serious case review for Child R was signed off at an extraordinary meeting of the RLSCB. The review has been sent to the National Panel for Quality Assurance, but the Crown Prosecution Service has requested that it not be published before the criminal case has been resolved.

Mr Ashley has been holding discussions about a number of cases that could be seen as potential serious case reviews; many of these cases were listed in the Jay and South Yorkshire Police reports, and some are still under investigation by the police. Mr Ashley has decided that only one of the cases will be referred to the Serious Case Review Sub Group, and even that case might be dealt with by another type of review. Mr Ashley will write to the Department of Education about the other cases, explaining that they will be dealt with by the commissioners, whose job is to ensure that the issues that were raised by the Jay and Casey reports have been resolved. Mr Ashley stated that nothing will be gained by publishing several serious case reviews about historical cases that repeat the findings of previous reports, and that he will be happy to justify this to the national panel and government ministers.

Child Death Overview Panel Update – Jo Abbott

**Action:**

Action 12 – All  
RLSCB

Action 13 –  
Steve Ashley

Action 14 –  
Steve Ashley

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This update will be deferred until the next meeting, because the sub group does not meet again until July 2015.

9. Notification of serious safeguarding incidents to the LSCB – Draft Protocol – Phil Morris

Mr Morris introduced the draft protocol for referring serious safeguarding incidents to the LSCB, which will provide clarity about how, and under what circumstances, the RLSCB should be notified about a serious incident involving a child. The protocol is based on both statutory requirements and guidance from other LSCBs.

There was a brief discussion about the protocol, during which it was agreed that that Mr Morris should revise the final version to include a longer timescale for notifying the RLSCB and more detail about which cases should be referred. Ms Hall and Mr Morris will meet to discuss the protocol, as Ms Hall is unsure about some of the details.

In response to a question from Ms Imray, Mr Morris stated that the protocol was a local agreement, but that notification is a statutory requirement in Working Together.

Ms Nicholls suggested that the protocol could link with the MARF forms, as a way of streamlining the process, but Mr Ashley noted that in some cases, the MARF will already have been dealt with before the seriousness of the incident has been recognised. Mr Morris will find out if there is a way of putting down the bureaucracy within the referral process.

10. Allegations against professionals and carers (LADO Annual Report – deferred item)

This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

11. Independent review of actions taken following a group of suicide events in Rotherham and future strategy in tackling the risk of suicide – Jo Abbott

Ms Abbott stated that the independent review and future strategy were discussed at the 18/05/2015 meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. As there was no guidance about teenage and multiple suicide, Rotherham Public Health had taken advice from Public Health England, which advised them to commission an independent review of the actions that were taken after the suicides in Rotherham. One of the recommendations from the review was that local stakeholders should develop community response and action plans; the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Community Response Plan was circulated to the RLSCB, along with the other papers, for this meeting. Ms Abbott stated that Rotherham already has an active Suicide and Self-Harm Group, which has been tasked with implementing the action plan and providing regular feedback to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The board has also tasked Richard Manzie and Ian Thomas with meeting with the head teacher of School A; Mr Thomas confirmed that this meeting is scheduled for 29/06/2015, and stated that the Department for Education should be informed if schools ever refuse to engage with reviews.

Ms Fletcher-Brown stated that the action plan reflects the priorities that were listed in the national strategy and the independent report; the policies are multi-agency, and will be delivered by partners at the Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Group. Ms Fletcher-Brown noted that work has been taking place on this issue since 2013, and that the action plan needs to build on this.

Ms Abbott stated that the community response plan has already been out for consultation, and that it was signed-off by the Health and Wellbeing

**Action:**

Action 15 – Phil Morris and Catherine Hall

**Agenda  
item:**

Board on 18/05/2015 – all of these documents have been sent to the RLSCB for information only. At the request of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Mr Ashley will send the community response plan out to all local schools with a covering letter.

Ms Imray stated that, while she supported the plan, she had recently been told at a meeting of community head teachers that they had received a form letter, intended for the parents of current students in the event of a suicide by a child or young person, with a request for the head teachers to re-word the letter so that it would be more appropriate for use in primary schools. Ms Fletcher-Brown stated that this was an example of a letter that could be sent out if necessary.

Mr Di'lasio suggested that there should be a future audit of provision for the community response plan, and Mr Ashley and Mr Morris agreed to include this in the Section 11 audit. Mr Ashley stated that partners must take responsibility for putting the plan into action, as local information will be required for the audit. Ms Abbott can provide quarterly feedback for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Mr Burton asked if the families of the young people who died are receiving support. Ms Abbott stated that she and Mr Thomas have written to the families of the young people who were mentioned in the report, that they have met with several of the parents, and that all of the families were invited to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The families were all keen to advise the RLSCB on how we can best support families that have been bereaved by suicide.

12. Any Other Business

Ms Hopkinson invited the members and advisors of the RLSCB to attend a Department for Education review on the 07/07/2015, at which the local authority will be asked to report on its progress against the improvement plan. The attendees will be expected to spend 45 minutes discussing their experience of partnership working. Ms Hopkinson will send out invitations to the rest of the RLSCB.

Ms Lavelle stated that General Practitioners and Mental Health Trusts will soon be expected to report suspected cases of female genital mutilation, as hospital trusts have been doing, usually through Midwifery, for some time. Ms Lavelle and Mr Ashley will discuss how information from the NHS steering group on female genital mutilation, which links with the local networks, will feed into the RLSCB.

13. Meeting Dates for 2015

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Action:**

Action 16 –  
Steve Ashley  
and Phil Morris

Action 17 –  
Jane  
Hopkinson

Action 18 – Ms  
Lavelle and Mr  
Ashley

## Appendix One

### **Actions Points Raised / On-Going as at 18.06.2015**

No:	Owner:	Details:
<b>Actions raised on 18.06.2015</b>		
1. Faye Prosser		Ms Prosser will make the corrections requested by Ms Hall to the electronic copy of the minutes from the last meeting, and will ensure that the attendance lists shows that Ray Westley Morris represents the Community Rehabilitation Company, rather than RDASH.
2. Steve Ashley		Mr Ashley agreed to find out how the Business Management Team is monitoring the measures that have been put in place to cover the shortfall in audits for other agencies.
3. Phil Morris		It was agreed that the issue of return home interviews should be discussed further, and that Mr Morris will arrange a meeting between Ms Imray and Mr Harwin.
4. Steve Ashley		Mr Ashley will seek Commissioner Newsom's advice on the development of a local neglect strategy.
5. Ian Thomas		Mr Thomas will speak with Commissioner Newsom to discuss funding for the neglect strategy.
6. All RLSCB		It was agreed that any updates for the Improvement Plan should be sent to Mr Ashley, who will be compiling an update report for government ministers over the next week.
7. Jason Harwin		Mr Harwin stated that he had received an expression of concern about attendance at RLSCB Performance Sub Group meetings from Ms McErlain-Burns, and that they would have a conversation about membership with the managers of the Public Protection Unit.
8. All RLSCB		Any further updates for the CSE delivery plan should be emailed to Mr Ashley by the new deadline of 01/07/2015.
9. Phil Morris		There was a brief discussion around Mr Morris's proposal that the Quality Assurance Sub Group should merge with the Performance Sub Group, and it was agreed that Mr Morris will take this idea forward.
10. Steve Ashley		It was agreed that Mr Ashley should ask one of the audit officers to write a report explaining how practice will improve from inadequate to good under the Strengthening families Framework model, and that a further audit will be carried out when the new system is in place.
11. Phil Morris		Mr Morris will send out a flyer to promote the Prevent e-learning course.
12. All RLSCB		Mr Ashley stated that the RLSCB will need to discuss whether opening meetings to the public is the best way of engaging them, because they may feel that their views are not being listened to at meetings. Mr Ashley asked the rest of the group to send him their views so that the RLSCB can debate this issue at a

No:	Owner:	Details:
		future date.
13. Steve Ashley		Mr Ashley will find out who is responsible for providing safeguarding checks for families that host foreign exchange students.
14. Steve Ashley		Mr Ashley will write to the Department of Education about the other cases that could be seen as potential serious case reviews, explaining that they will be dealt with by the commissioners, whose job is to ensure that the issues that were raised by the Jay and Casey reports have been resolved.
15. Catherine Hall and Phil Morris		Ms Hall and Mr Morris will meet to discuss the protocol for referring serious safeguarding incidents to the RLSCB, as Ms Hall is unsure about some of the details.
16. Steve Ashley and Phil Morris		Mr Ashley and Mr Morris agreed to include a future audit of provision for the community response plan in the Section 11 audit.
17. Jane Hopkinson		Ms Hopkinson will send out invitations for the Department for Education review to the rest of the RLSCB.
18. Carole Lavelle and Steve Ashley		Ms Lavelle and Mr Ashley will discuss how information from the NHS steering group on female genital mutilation, which links with the local networks, will feed into the RLSCB.

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
<b>Actions raised on 05.03.2015</b>			
1. Steve Ashley		Future dates of RLSCB meetings to be published, to ensure the general public have sufficient notification.	18.06.2015  Mr Ashley has decided not to advertise in local papers.
2. Steve Ashley		Provide feedback to the local Police Commander that the Rotherham General Public would like to see him at Board meetings.	18.06.2015  This action was completed during the meeting.
3. Warren Carratt		Produce a proposal for consideration at the next Executive Meeting for a RLSCB Development Day.	18.06.2015  Mr Ashley stated that this action was discussed at the Executive Group meeting. Mr Morris is drawing up a more specific proposal for a development day, preferably using the facilitator who gave a presentation at the Health and Wellbeing board, and Mr Carratt is setting aside money from the budget to cover the costs. The prospective dates will be sent out by the end of summer.
4. Steve Ashley		Write to agencies to request what work has been carried out following publication of the Lifestyle Survey, and to ask what agencies key areas of concern are.	18.06.2015  Mr Carratt has written to agencies as requested; Mr Ashley wants the agencies

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			<p>to show how they have taken the survey into account and what has changed as a result.</p> <p>Ms Lodge stated that this action should have firm timescales, because there is a risk of draft.</p> <p>Mr Harwin stated that meetings around safety are taking place under the direction of Commissioner Kenny.</p> <p>Mr Ashley will make sure that this action is taken forward this week.</p>
5. Warren Carratt		Liaise with health, health and other relevant agencies to understand the position of young carers, with a view to taking this issue forward.	<p>18.06.2015</p> <p>Mr Carratt has met with Janine Moorcroft, Legal Officer from Young Carers, and she is reviewing the current plan.</p> <p>Completed.</p>
6. ALL		Agencies to inform Stacey Attenborrow ( <a href="mailto:Stacey.attenborrow@rotherham.gov.uk">Stacey.attenborrow@rotherham.gov.uk</a> ) whether or not their agency undertakes their own audits relating to safeguarding children and what these are.	<p>18.06.2015</p> <p>This action was covered in main body of the meeting.</p>
7. Steve Ashley		Write to head teachers to establish if they are conducting their own S11 audits, if so, would they be willing to filter the results into the Quality Assurance Sub Group	<p>18.06.2015</p> <p>Mr Ashley stated that the Section 11 audits are under way, and that dates have been set for the reference days. The response has been positive so far, but Mr Ashley can deal with non-compliance by speaking with agency representatives personally, as well as by reminding schools that audits are a statutory requirement.</p> <p>Mr Ashley stated that non-compliance is a national issue and has been raised by association of LSCB chairs.</p>
<b>Actions raised on 04.12.2014</b>			
1. Steve Ashley		Contact Secretary of State again regarding elective home education (this is also in the 'on-going' actions box)	<p>A letter has been sent, but not responded to. Before this can happen Steve Ashely will discuss with Commissioner Newsam.</p> <p>18.06.2015</p> <p>Mr Ashley will circulate the</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			<p>response that he received from the Secretary of State, who is happy with the law as it stands. The secretary did not comment on the case study that Mr Ashley enclosed with his second letter.</p> <p>Mr Thomas suggested that he and Mr Ashley should raise concerns about home education with their national bodies. Mr Ashley has asked the Chairs Association whether anyone else had difficulties, and all of the replies were from Yorkshire agencies.</p> <p>Ms Nicolls stated that Rotherham College of Arts and Technology is holding a joint event with Dearne Valley College to offer support to home educated young people.</p> <p>Mr Ashley pointed out that the home educated children in Rotherham have all been traced; in many areas, these children have not been seen, and no safeguarding arrangements are in place.</p>
2. Jason Harwin		Paul Grimwood fed back a potential risk identified from the recent HMIC inspection of Youth Offending Services, which Steve Ashley said would be worth Pete Horner raising at the CSE Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Therefore Paul Grimwood undertook to send the spreadsheet containing full details (this is also in the 'on-going' actions box). Jason Harwin to follow this action up.	<p>18.06.2015</p> <p>This action refers to the issue of young people who are held in custody while awaiting places of safety. Mr Harwin stated that Mr Grimwood will be taking this action forward; he has been assured that all four local authorities have safe places available, and the plan is for young people not to be held in custody from October 2015 onwards.</p> <p>Mr Ashley emphasised the importance of a partnership approach on this issue, and stated that he is happy to help if there are links to be made.</p>
3. Maryke Turvey/Sarah Mainwaring		Probation officers to provide a formal report to the LSCB to update the Board on the changes being implemented, risks in relation to reported unmanageable caseloads.	<p>18/06/2015</p> <p>Ms Mainwaring and Ms Turvey have sent a letter to the RLSCB explaining the</p>



No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			structure of the new Probation services. All high risk cases will be transferred to the National Probation Service.
<b>Actions ongoing as at 04.09.15</b>			
1.	Pete Horner	John Radford asked whether we are clear on the process for CAMHS level four, relating to children detained under the mental health act, e.g. how long they are detained for, what they are detained for, etc. Joyce Thacker said that she didn't think a clear process was in place and she asked Pete Horner to check the situation, as there is a real need for clarity on this. Richard Butterworth confirmed that a triage process is already in place.	<p><b>04.09.2014</b></p> <p><b>New Action:</b> To be added to December board agenda</p> <p>Update from <b>04.12.2014</b> Action to be carried forward.</p> <p>18.06.2015</p> <p>Mr Horner stated that an audit has been set up to determine how many children have been detained under the Mental Health Act. The police can work alongside the Mental health teams to ensure that vulnerable people are not placed in police cells.</p>