

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)

Minutes from the meeting of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, held on Thursday 4th December 2014, 1pm – 4pm at Riverside House

In attendance:

Steve Ashley – Chair	Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Kirsty Booth - Minutes	Standards and Development Business Officer
Kevin Stevens - Advisor	Safeguarding Quality Assurance Officer for Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board and Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Richard Burton - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Phil Morris - Advisor	Business Manager, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Sue Cassin - Member	Executive Lead for Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Dawn Peet - Member	Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Tracey McErlain-Burns - Member	Chief Nurse, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Sherif El-Reftee - Advisor	Designated Doctor, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Deborah Wildgoose – Member	RDASH
Maryke Turvey - Member	Assistant Chief Officer, Rotherham/Doncaster Cluster , The South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company
Sam Newton representing Shona McFarlane - Member	Director of Health and Wellbeing, 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)
Jason Harwin - Member	Chief Superintendent, District Commander for Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police
Tracy Holmes - Advisor	Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing, Environment and Development Services, Rotherham Council
Paul Grimwood - Member	Youth Offending Services Manager, Rotherham Council
Sarah Mainwaring - Member	Assistant Chief Officer for North East Division, National Probation Service
Dorothy Smith - Member	Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, 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
Rachel Nicholls - member	Assistant Principal, Rotherham College of Arts and Technology
Robin Williams – Advisor	Service Solicitor for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Richard Williams - Member	Principal, Thomas Rotherham College
Cllr Beaumont	Cabinet Member for Children and Education
Chrissy Wright	Strategic Commissioning Manager
Carole Lavelle	Assistant Director of Nursing, Patient Experience
Jo Abbott	Public Health Consultant

Apologies:

Louise Blanc	
Pete Horner - Member	Public Protection Unit Manager, South Yorkshire Police
Nick Whittaker - Member	Head Teacher, Hilltop and Kelford Schools
Zafar Saleem - Advisor	Community Engagement Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Performance
Sue Wynne - Member	Rotherham Women's Refuge, Voluntary Sector Consortium

Agenda item:1. Welcome / apologies and introductions

Mr Ashley welcomed the group and introduction and apologies took place as above.

Introduction to the meeting

Mr Ashley gave an introduction to the meeting by talking about the recent realignment of responsibilities agreed by the Executive of the LSCB. The focus of all the LSCB sub-group meetings from now on needs to be how to move forward given the outcome of the Ofsted report. There needs to be a clear idea on areas that need improvement in Children's Services and the LSCB subgroups need to look at how agencies can do this together whilst highlighting areas that are still missing. This will be the new focus of the agenda of this meeting, with less presentations and more discussion about key issues and improvement progress; with the Executive Group picking more of the business management (e.g. budget).

Mr Ashley informed the group that he has today attended the Rotherham Chief Executive Officers Group with a request for additional funding for the LSCB. This funding will help to oversee an increase in Quality Assurance and Audit activity in response to verbal feedback from the inspection team and the inspection report. Mr Ashley confirmed that this additional funding request was passed by the Local Authority and the CCG, and that other partners who contribute via the LSCB funding formula have also been written to formally. Mr Carratt noted that it is highly likely that the next inspection of Children's Services in Rotherham will be under the auspices of the multi-HMI inspection process, and therefore all agencies will be held accountable for their resourcing of the LSCB by their regulator.

It was reported that the Executive Group had agreed to a number of changes to the Chair roles of the sub-groups, as proposed by the Independent Chair following the publication of the OfSTED report. None of the changes were reflective of poor chairing, but are instead to refresh governance of the Board's subgroups. Mr Ashley has taken over from Mr Harwin as Chair of the CSE sub-group. The reason for this is practical and will be advantageous to have an independent Chair, who has been charged with responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the CSE Strategy.

Other changes are that Ms McErlain-Burns will now Chair the Performance sub-group and Mr Harwin will be taking over from Ms Wildgoose as Deputy chair. Ms Parfremment will take over as Chair of QA subgroup, and Mr Carratt will chair the L&I subgroup.

Mr Ashley also put a proposal to the Board that the quarterly LSCB meetings be open to members of the public and media. The meeting will be in two parts where part one is an open agenda and part two will be closed to deal with issues that require confidentiality. A clear message would be given out to the public as to why there is a part two that they would not be able to attend.

Mr Ashley told the group that he was aware how this may be challenging to implement given he was not aware of any other LSCB who held open meetings for the public and press, but that there was a need to rebuild public trust in Rotherham services, and by including them in discussions and showing an open and transparent approach, hopefully this will assure the public that work is being carried out to tackle problems.

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LSCB members agreed that this was an innovative approach to take. Ms McErlain-Burns and Ms Cassin both reported that their experience in the NHS of their respective organisations' holding public board meetings was progressive and a better means of assuring the public of transparency.

Mr Carratt agreed to progress the booking of a venue suitable for this approach.

Action:

WC to arrange meetings – action 1

2. Previous RLSCB minutes from 04.09.2014 and matters / actions arising

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated with comments made below:

Page 1 – Ms Hall noted that she was down as in attendance and also as having sent apologies. Ms Hall confirmed that she did not attend the last meeting. Ms Booth to update the minutes

KB to action – action 2

Action 1 from the June meeting: Mr Ashley has written to the Secretary of State regarding elective home education. There has been no response so far and therefore Mr Ashley is going to follow this up and make further contact using the case study used at the last Sub Group.

SA - action 3

Actions raised on 04.09.2014

Near misses: Mr Ashley reported to the group that John Radford has now retired. The near misses action is not in scope but are looking at moving it forward.

Suicide community plan – Mr Carratt clarified that this was a community plan coming out of a recent suicide incident in one of the Rotherham communities, and that this was to be circulated to Board members for information. Mr Carratt reminded the LSCB that this plan was not a Board plan, nor was it in response to any review conducted or commissioned by the Board. Mr Ashley concurred with this view, and thanked Mr Carratt for providing clarity for the minutes.

Executive Group Terms of Reference – These have been circulated.

Action 15 for Paul Grimwood and Pete Horner: Mr Harwin agreed to chase this up and feedback to the group.

JH - action 4

3. Update on current CYPS Commissioning Strategy and Consultation for Commissioning Strategy 2014 – 17 – Chrissy Wright

Ms Wright presented to the group the Commissioning Strategy 2014-17. This draft commissioning strategy has been developed for RMBC CYPS and aligns with other plans and strategies already in existence whilst trying to develop a framework to ensure quality assurance. This has been put together to meet the requirements of Ofsted. This document will be refreshed and then come back for further consultation as it needs to reflect better the position we are in now.

There has been a strategy developed for Adults and Children's but this has been put on hold due to current work pressures.

Ms Cassin asked whether the document is going to the list of people identified

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for consultation as there is at least one person on the list who hasn't had sight of it.

Ms Wright confirmed that everyone on this list should have seen a copy and doesn't know why there has been one person omitted, but will ensure this is actioned. Ms Wright to ensure the document is sent to Sarah Whittle of Rotherham CCG.

Ms McErlain-Burns asked if the document benefit from being more outcomes focussed, and if there was an intention to publish an executive summary or other version for the people of Rotherham to understand as it has a lot of jargon included,

Ms Wright confirmed that it is the intention to create a user friendly publication. Ms Wright stated that the principals on page 6 cover the outcomes, under the title of the vision. Board members felt this wasn't clear, and asked Mrs Wright to amend the strategy to make this clearer.

Ms Cassin asked how this plan aligns with joint commissioning plans.

Mr Ashely reminded the group that this board isn't a commissioning body so can't commission services but must ensure the process is child and family focused. Mr Ashley reminded Board members that the LSCB needs to reassure itself that children are being listened to and the commissioning process includes their thoughts.

Mr Ashley requested that people read and comment on the document and email Ms Wright with additional questions/suggestions. The refresh won't be starting until the middle of January 2015.

Action:

CW – action 5

All – action 6

4. RLSCB Sub Group progress reports:

4.1 Performance Sub Group

Mr Ashley updated the group. The agenda for the Performance sub-group concentrated on the assessment process focussing on how quickly assessments are being completed and the range of time it is taking for these to be carried out.

This performance has been a problem for over a year and is still on-going. There's a lot of work being done through the social care "front door" to try and rectify the failings and a full report is being put together for the Board, by the Local Authority Performance Team and responsible Director, and the LSCB are undertaking systematic audits and escalating concerns identified to the Acting Strategy Director. This report is to be finalised and then will be circulated.

The other main issue that will take longer to rectify is around visits of children who are on care plans. Upon investigation it is clear that there are major lapses in the system which has shown that in some cases children haven't been seen for months. One of the reasons for this is the IT system that is currently in use, as this does not allow for factual reports to be created without intensive validation work required. This is currently being reviewed.

Mr Ashley then spoke about the Police data problem. There is a meeting on Tuesday 9th December with all 4 South Yorkshire LSCB representatives to look at and review Police data. Mr Ashley said that the Police should send the same data to each of the 4 Boards and needs to agree with South Yorkshire Police

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what the performance information should cover and look like. Mr Morris will be representing Rotherham.

4.2 Serious Case Review Sub Group

Mr Morris updated the group that the Serious Case Review meeting took place on 19th November 2014. The recommendations from the SILP were discussed with comments going back to the author.

Within the next 2 weeks the final draft will be available and time needs to be scheduled in for the LSCB to approve. There has been no timescales for publication as the criminal investigation is still going ahead.

Mr Carratt reported that there had been media enquires around the content of the SCR and IMR.

Mr Burton raised a concern about when agencies don't turn up to these meetings and therefore can't go ahead. This happened at the October meeting, which was not quorate and so was adjourned.

Mr Ashley's response to this was that the October SCR group was in the days following the Jay report and key people were called to attend urgent meetings elsewhere, and that on this adjournment had not impeded multi-agency working in relation to the SCR, nor slowed down the SCR process itself. If it had, Mr Ashley would have written formally to all agencies to challenge this.

4.3 Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group

Mr Harwin informed the group that since the last LSCB the following reports have been published:

1. Communities and Local Government Select Committee report
2. Ofsted thematic inspection report
3. Ofsted inspection of RMBC

The actions from the reports are being picked up and Mr Harwin felt that the LSCB needs to make sure that there is one plan that encompasses all the recommendations. Mr Ashley concurred, and assured Mr Harwin that he would be driving that action forward as incoming chair of the CSE subgroup.

Mr Harwin said that one of the key issues in relation to partnership is about clarity of the team in MASH. There is work underway and already commissioned to look at this in more detail.

Mr Harwin highlighted 3 main areas of concern and gave a brief update:

Multi agency safeguarding hub – resources for this are still co-located and are not yet integrated. On-going work to remedy this is taking place.

Management oversight – The management structure is currently getting reviewed in both CYPS and centrally in SYP.

Communication – There is work on-going with the voluntary sector. A CSE conference took place in November and a number of other events are due to take place. These events will hopefully achieve consistency of message and quality assurance.

Mr Harwin updated the group that there is currently work in place for looking at support to victims. Sue Greig is working with this for the short, medium and

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long term with a needs assessment to come from the piece of work.

Mr Harwin stated that this is a national issue as well as in Rotherham and work is taking place with the victims themselves to make sure that their voice is heard.

Ms Nicholls spoke about the Rotherham Standing Together campaign and that she found out about this through Twitter but would have liked to have supported this when first launched.

Mr Harwin fed back that the campaign is an initiative led by the Deputy Leader to assure the public that positive action is being taken. There was a very short turnaround time for this to be launched and with no additional resources or investment for training or advertisement, and that the Deputy Leader led on the engagement with partners beforehand, though the tight timescales may have impeded the comprehensiveness of this.

Mr Carratt advised that a report has been pulled together on the take up of the e-learning resource (which is free) developed by the e-academy and PACE and circa 1100 people have signed up who fall under the Rotherham postcode area. A more detailed report is going to the next CSE Subgroup on 10.12.14.

4.4 Quality Assurance Sub-Group

Ms McErlain-Burns reported to the group that the last sub-group met on 11th November 2014 and that they listened to a presentation on an excellent case study regarding a child who is electively home educated. This case study will be brought to the attention of Ministers by Mr Ashley.

The group discussed the 11th recommendation in the Jay report and agreed to ask the Chair of the CSE sub group for clarity regarding the scope of work to be commissioned.

Ms McErlain-Burns reported that the annual CCG Safeguarding Report has been received and this was well written and presented.

4.5 Learning and Improvement sub group

The report was received without discussion due to the late arrival of Ms Parfremment.

4.6 Child Death Overview Panel

There was no update provided. Mr Ashley explained that John Radford had left his post as Director of Public Health, and asked for thanks to be recorded for his contribution to the LSCB over many years of working in Rotherham.

4.7 Minutes from meeting of RLSCB Executive Group

Mr Ashley reported that he thinks the focus of the group works well and if people have agenda items to be discussed then email him directly.

No questions were raised from reviewing the minutes of the last meeting.

5. RLSCB Ofsted Report and Improvement Plan

Mr Ashley informed the group that this would be the improvement plan that the Children's Improvement Board would be looking at and there is a meeting to

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be held with the Chair of the Council Improvement Board to check how Mr Ashley will report to them and this will be standing agenda item.

Mr Carratt informed the group that the areas for improvement are taken from the Ofsted Improvement Report and the actions are from Ofsted recommendations.

Mr Ashley informed the group that the purpose of the improvement plan being brought to the LSCB is to get clarity and will eventually be presenting at the Improvement Board, though asked that Board members approve the plan at this meeting.

Mr Ashley asked that if anyone had individual thoughts on the plan then to contact him directly.

6. Local Authority Ofsted Report and Improvement Plan

Ms Parfremment arrived to the meeting at the start of this agenda item and reported to the group that a huge amount of work is underway way in terms of restructuring and resourcing. The immediate priorities are really clear; Ms Parfremment is focusing on data quality, capacity and skill levels of workers and there is a lot of work to take place to ensure that the skill ratio in the workforce is right.

Ms Parfremment said that social care “Front Door” issues are a major concern. Improvement is further impeded by the increase in referrals and the demand this is creating on an already stretched workforce. Ms Parfremment is reviewing resource requirements as a matter of urgency to address this.

Ms Parfremment spoke briefly around the impact of ICT on social work practice and recording, and explained that this is an area subject to scrutiny by the Service. Ms Parfremment talked about timescales for moving the IT system forward and seeing improvement. She is aware that initially this will create higher capacity and demand issues on staff but in the long term it will be highly beneficial.

Mr Ashley said that he was looking for reassurance where there is poor performance in terms of timescales. The challenge has to continue and auditing needs to increase, and the LSCB would not accept the current pressures and issues as means of excusing poor performance. Ms Parfremment agreed with this approach, as it is essential the LSCB provides constructive challenge of all agencies.

Ms Parfremment told the group that a bid had been submitted to the Government for a substantial amount of grant funding for additional resource to roll out the actions in the improvement plan. This bid had been successful however this decision has not been held in abeyance pending completion of the Louise Casey led Corporate Governance Inspection of RMBC. It is expected that a final decision will be made in April.

Mr Ashley welcomed his pending meeting with the Chair of the Corporate Improvement Board, to be clearer about governance and lines of accountability for the LA’s improvement plan. Mr Ashley was clear however that the LSCB should be kept fully informed of developments.

7. Health and Wellbeing Board feedback

Ms Abbott informed the group that she had gone back to her substantive role yesterday after an 11 month secondment so didn’t attend the Health and

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Wellbeing Board. Interviews took place for the Director of Public Health role but no one was appointed, and Ms Abbott was unclear what was happening with interim arrangements for the DPH.

Mr Carratt advised members that, as a key, named statutory member and the identified LSCB liaison with the Health & Wellbeing Board, it was essential that the LSCB had assurance about the status of the DPH. Mr Ashley agreed and stated that he would write to the RMBC Chief Executive to get an urgent update.

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For information:

- 8.1 Minutes from the Rotherham Safeguarding Adult Board
- 8.2 Minutes from the Safer Rotherham Partnership
- 8.3 Minutes from Corporate Parenting Panel

The minutes of the above meetings were circulated and no comments were made.

9.

Any other business

Mr Ashley asked for any comments on the new meeting dates to be fed back to him.

Mr Williams raised a query around action 13 (BME representation) and the deadline being November 14.

Mr Ashley answered that this isn't completed but work is in place. Mr Carratt commented that the Board is reflective of what is required in statute rather than the ethnicity of officers and the Board is currently exactly where it should be, though how the Board interfaces with community leaders is a piece of work being progressed with Zafar Saleem's RMBC Community Cohesion Team.

Mr Burton raised a question for South Yorkshire Probation attendees regarding the recent probation case that was in the media and whether this happened due to lack of staff and split in services. The case was in relation to Probation Officers being quoted as finding the national restructure of services challenging and creating a climate of unmanageable caseloads.

Ms Turvey replied by saying that there isn't a definitive answer in this case and that it may or may not be directly linked to service issues, and that the split between National Probation Service and Community based companies has created some pressures. Ms Parfremment suggested that probation officers should provide a formal report to the LSCB to update the Board on the changes being implemented, risks in relation to reported unmanageable caseloads (in the national printed press etc). Mr Ashley concurred and asked for this to be a recorded action, given the next LSCB will be after the formal structure changes on 1.2.15.

It was agreed that there does need to be better communication in situations where organisations are split. There was the potential for this change in probation services to have caused the infrastructure to go but the work and service provision requirement to continue. Ms Turvey wanted to assure the group that work in Rotherham is still going ahead and all efforts are being made to keep the service running effectively and are currently looking at the systems in place to ensure more direct client work can be carried out. Mr Burton challenged Mr Harwin about the options South Yorkshire Police have in regards to the recent political marches, and whether the Police can stop these from happening?

Action:

SA – action
7

MT/SM –
Action 8

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Mr Harwin agreed to have a conversation around this outside of the meeting, as this had been discussed openly at other public meetings, but wasn't a question relative to LSCB business..

Mr Burton challenged Ms Parfremment about the figure for out of authority placements and why is it the highest (nationally) in 25 years?

Ms Parfremment replied by saying that 25 years ago Foster Carers didn't have limits for how many children they can take. In terms of out of authority placements the vast majority of children are placed in their own area but the reality is we don't have enough foster carers and residential capacity, and this is subject to targeted work within the Local Authority.

Ms Parfremment informed the group that in terms of residential there is work taking place around this, which is referred to as Team around a Residential Unit, to keep children in Rotherham. There will be one unit that is being moved from short term emergency to a medium to long term unit.

Ms Parfremment explained that in the last 3 years the number of Foster Carers has increased and there is currently a marketing strategy in place to encourage more Carers to sign up. Also, Rotherham has got through to the final stage with a South Yorkshire bid for innovation funding to develop a specialist fostering resource for CSE.

Mr Burton asked why Jayne Senior – the recently appointed advisor to Rotherham MP Sarah Champion - doesn't attend any of the LSCB meetings.

Mr Ashley stated that MP advisors are not typically co-opted to LSCBs, and that all statutory Board members are included in the LSCB membership.

Debby Wadsworth, Lay Member, wasn't in attendance but had asked for clarity around the current situation with Abbey special school. Mr Ashley agreed to raise this directly with Ms Smith (who had left the meeting prior to this point) to seek clarity on this matter. In terms of immediate safeguarding, Ms Parfremment explained that the Local Authority are consulting close with Abbey School and the Dfe and Ofsted are satisfied with the interim measures that have been put in place, which should in turn assure the LSCB.

Mr Ashley closed the meeting by acknowledging what a difficult year this had been but wanted to pass on thanks for all the support that has been received from agencies, and reminded colleagues that even more industrious efforts will be expected next year from all partners as services evidence their capacity to deliver improvement.

Action:

SA – Action
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Appendix One

Actions Points Raised / On-Going as at 04.12.2014

No:	Owner:	Details:
Actions raised on 04.12.2014		
1. Warren Carratt	Warren Carratt to find suitable venue for the open meetings as discussed in the minutes.	
2. Kirsty Booth	Kirsty Booth to correct the minutes from the September meeting to reflect Ms Hall's apologies	
3. Steve Ashley	Contact Secretary of State again regarding elective home education (this is also in the 'on-going' actions box)	
4. 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.	
5. Chrissy Wright	From the question that was raised re: should everyone on the distribution list have received a copy of the commissioning document. Ms Wright confirmed that everyone on this list should have seen a copy and doesn't know why there has been one person omitted, but will ensure this is actioned. Ms Wright to ensure the document is sent to Sarah Whittle of Rotherham CCG.	
6. All members	To read and feedback comments from the CYPs commissioning strategy.	
7. Steve Ashley	Mr Carratt advised members that, as a key, named statutory member and the identified LSCB liaison with the Health & Wellbeing Board, it was essential that the LSCB had assurance about the status of the DPH. Mr Ashley agreed and stated that he would write to the RMBC Chief Executive to get an urgent update.	
8. Maryke Turvey/Sarah Mainwairing	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.	

No:	Owner:	Details:
9. Steve Ashley	Steve Ashely to speak to Dorothy Smith re. The current situation with Abbey Special School and seek clarity in order to feedback to the Board.	

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
Actions raised on 04.09.2014			
4.	Joyce Thacker	Distribute letters from DfE and response	Discharged – 04.12.2014
5.	John Radford	Distribute Suicide Community Plan to board members for comment.	Discharged – 04.12.2014
6.	Phil Morris	Executive Group final Terms of Reference to be distributed to board members	Discharged – 04.12.2014
Actions ongoing as at 04.12.14			
7.	Steve Ashley	Councillor Paul Lakin stated that a change in legislation was required in relation to elective home education. He therefore asked that Steve Ashley write a formal letter to government ministers to this effect – this was agreed.	Discharged 04.09.2014 A letter was sent by Mr Ashley no reply has been received at this stage Update from 04.12.2014 SA still had no response from the letter and will make contact again using the case study discussed at the last Sub Group
8.	John Radford	Prepare a draft proposal for CDOP to review near misses, to be presented at the next RLSCB meeting.	On-going
9.	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.	04.09.2014 New Action: To be added to December board agenda Update from 04.12.2014 Action to be carried forward
10.	Paul Grimwood/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.	Jason Harwin to follow up (in replacement of Pete Horner)

