

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)

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

In attendance:

Steve Ashley - Chair	Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Susan Zielinski - Minutes	Administrative Officer, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Stacey Attenborough	Administrator, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
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
Councillor Paul Lakin – participating observer	Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Sue Wilson – in attendance to present agenda item 3	Performance and Quality Manager, Rotherham Council
Zafar Saleem	Community Engagement Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Performance
Phil Morris - Advisor	Business Manager, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
John Radford - Member	Director of Public Health, Rotherham
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
Pete Horner - Member	Public Protection Unit Manager, South Yorkshire Police
Sherif El-Reftee - Advisor	Designated Doctor, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Chris Prewett representing Deborah Wildgoose – Member	Head of Quality Standards Humber NHS Foundation Trust (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
Joyce Thacker - Member	Strategic Director of Children and Young People's 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
Jayne Parfremment - Member	Interim Director of Safeguarding Children and Families, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Tracey Slater - Member	Patient Experience Manager, Nursing Directorate, NHS England (South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw)
Ian Phillip	Executive Director, Dearne Valley College
Paul Grimwood - Member	Youth Offending Services Manager, Rotherham Council
Sarah Mainwaring - Member	Assistant Chief Officer for North East Division, National Probation Service
Sue Wynne - Member	Rotherham Women's Refuge, Voluntary Sector Consortium
Dorothy Smith - Member	Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Nick Whittaker - Member	Head Teacher, Hilltop and Kelford Schools
Warren Carratt - Advisor	Service Manager for Strategy, Standards and Development, 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

Apologies:

Catherine Hall - Advisor	Head of Safeguarding, Rotherham CCG
Robin Williams – Advisor	Service Solicitor for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Richard Williams - Member	Principal, Thomas Rotherham College

Agenda item:1. Welcome / apologies and introductions

Introductions were made with apologies and attendance recorded as above. New members were thanked for attending the RLSCB meeting and Debra Wadsworth, Lay Member, was welcomed back.

Mr Ashley stated that there will be no in depth discussions about Professor Alexis Jay's CSE Inquiry Report at this Board meeting, this will be discussed at the Extraordinary meeting of the Board on Wednesday 17th September.

The recommendations from the report will be discussed at the CSE Sub Group prior to the board meeting taking place. Mr Ashley did want to acknowledge that there have already been offers of support in terms of development and assurance and these include ACPO and the National Working Group.

Mr Ashley asked for any initial comments. All Board members agreed that support for the victims was the highest priority, in addition to the need to review historical cases and bring perpetrators to justice.

Mr Burton, Lay Member, asked whether there were enough resources to meet this demand. Mr Harwin confirmed that a resource for both support for victims and the pursuit of perpetrators was currently being discussed. This is requiring an assessment of the impact on services, and an assurance that any new cases are dealt with to keep children and young people safe.

Mr Burton, Lay Member, stated that there are numerous issues being reported in the press. There were 1400 victims cited in the Inquiry Report and also reports that some young girls who had been exploited had had their babies removed from their care. Mrs Wadsworth, Lay Member, also stated that the report had said that over a third of the victims were already known to child protection and welfare services.

Mr Ashley stated that the information and historical cases will need to be reviewed in a systematic manner and identify those who need help and support. This will be discussed in the Board meeting devoted to the Inquiry Report next week.

Ms Thacker advised the board that the Minister of State for Children and Families, Edward Timpson, had written to the Local Authority seeking assurance that children are safe and that a letter of response had been submitted. These will be circulated to the board.

Mr Burton, Lay Member added that the LSCB Practice Review Meeting held yesterday had reviewed an audit on a recent neglect case; the case was quite shocking in terms of the neglect that the children had suffered; the audit included, as evidence, observations of the foster carers, with whom the children are now living.

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2. Previous RLSCB minutes from 05.06.2014 and matters / actions arising

It was agreed at the previous RLSCB meeting that any amendments to RLSCB minutes must be submitted within one week of the circulation of the

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draft copy. After this period, the minutes are approved and uploaded to the RLSCB website. The minutes from the previous meeting 05.06.2014 were agreed.

Mr Ashley has written to the Secretary of State for Education regarding elective home education and is waiting for a reply.

3. Safeguarding Children Performance update report – Sue Wilson

Mr Ashley stated that he would continue to chair the Performance Sub Group for the time being, in order to ensure that performance information in relation to key areas is monitored robustly by the Board.

Ms Wilson presented the performance report and also tabled additional commentary on three lines of enquiry arising from the performance sub group held recently.

Councillor Lakin asked if CSE Risk Assessments are on all relevant children's files. Mrs Parfremment responded that all the risk assessments have been completed using the assessment tool, which gives a numerical indicator, but this also uses professional judgement. This would take account of young people presenting lots of vulnerability issues who moved to residential, where the care plan would provide for intervention for the young person's self-esteem/self-confidence.

Councillor Lakin went on to question the sufficiency requirement in relation to Looked After Children. Ms Parfremment stated that Paul Dempsey, Service Manager is working on the sufficiency. Ms Parfremment added that this is reported to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Cllr Lakin asked Joyce Thacker what the self-assessment was indicating in relation to safeguarding children against the Ofsted criteria under the Single Inspection Framework. Ms Thacker replied that considering the self-assessment of services against the Ofsted framework indicated that Rotherham was not inadequate.

In relation to the high numbers of Children on child protection plans, Mr Ashley suggested that extra investment in early help would not necessarily see an immediate impact on the number of children on a child protection plan, as these are at the high end. Ms Parfremment stated that there is potential to work more closely with partners to manage risks and prevent children needing to be subject of a child protection plan.

Mr Morris challenged that the indicator relating to strategy meetings was not correct, as using the data for joint investigations could not be used as a proxy for measuring whether strategy discussions were multi-agency in nature. Ms Wilson replied that further work was being undertaken to develop this indicator.

4. Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report – Jane Parfremment - Cllr Lakin

Ms Parfremment examined the figures provided reflect up to the end of march

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2013-2014. There are 400 LAC Children. This puts Rotherham in the range with comparable authorities. We have 67.8% of Children in foster care and 10% in adoption.

The rate of recruitment of new foster carers in Rotherham is a positive as compared to other authorities who have struggled with this. The plan going forward is to review children who are currently in residential care who could have their needs met in foster care.

Rotherham received a GOOD judgement for adoption on the Ofsted Inspection last year. St Edmunds Avenue was inspected by Ofsted recently and achieved a GOOD judgement.

We currently have 184 Rotherham Foster Carers, this has been increased by 20 and the local authority is really impressed with the fostering service. There are 31 new adopters approved, this is an increase from 18. In part this is thanks to the hard work of Paul Dempsey, who has transformed the service. Paul is really positive, he has introduced a foster plus scheme aimed at people skilled to deal with vulnerability and challenging behaviour, this will be a good step forward. Rotherham is currently recruiting adopters that are being utilised by other authorities at a cost.

LAC performance in Education is 88.9% Personal Education Plans in place. 71% of schools attended by LAC are good or better. School care leavers who are in suitable accommodation is now 99.4% this been raised to those who are 21 years which is more challenging. 53.6% care leavers are in work. There are improvements of stability and educational progress in permanent care. Improvements need to be made for care leavers with employment and training.

Ms Wadsworth, lay member, asked how in house Foster Carers are paid. Mr Ashley stated Foster Carers are paid in the placement; Fostering plus carers will be salaried as a good match is needed for the first placement.

Ms Wilson explained that it was a recommendation in 2010 that the corporate parenting annual reports had no targets, next year these will be set.

Councillor Lakin stated that the pupil premium for Looked After Children has changed this year and questioned if a report be taken to the corporate panel to identify how this funding is being utilised to the benefit of Looked After Children.

5. Peer Review on Neglect – Joyce Thacker

The Peer Review has been postponed until the new year due to the forthcoming Ofsted visit.

6. RLSCB Sub Group progress reports

Serious Case Review Sub Group

6.1

Mr Horner stated that we are currently awaiting the second draft of the report

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and that there could be a delay in publication of the report due to the ongoing criminal proceedings. If any Board member would like further information please contact Pete Horner as chair of the SCR sub group.

Child Exploitation Sub Group – Annual Report – Jason Harwin

6.2

The report has been published and gone to the cabinet, the action plan continues to be refreshed when there are updates available. There has not been any media interest in the CSE annual report. Updated actions for the delivery plan need to be submitted for next week. There are 15 recommendations from the Jay report which have been added in. Ms Thacker added that this included a review of licensing.

Quality Assurance Sub Group – Tracey McErlain-Burns

6.3

The quality assurance sub group meeting held yesterday was well attended and a multi-agency case study was presented to the group by the named nurse of TRFT. This was a difficult case for practitioners who took part in the review but it provides evidence of challenge to practice in such cases. The findings and recommendations from this case are to be submitted to the learning and improvement sub group. Mr Burton, lay member, stated that the impact of the parental care on the children in this case was concerning and it was a thorough audit of the case.

The Quality Assurance sub group had also recently received a wide range of reports detailing how children's voices are being heard and acted upon. Mr Burton supported this. This included the work of the Looked After Children's Council .

Mr Ashley explained that there were some concerns with regards to understanding what children say through comments and complaints and promoting this opportunity to them. Although he went to add that he had never worked anywhere that offers this level of engagement

Performance Sub Group – Steve Ashley

6.4

There are 2 papers which have been provided to this meeting, which were brought to the performance meeting. It follows the child's journey, bringing together information for different boards and meetings.

Mr Ashley added that work is still progressing for quarter one contact referrals. The key elements have been summarised and put before the sub group.

The Assessment framework has recently changed, going live on 9th June, with a pilot for the new assessment. 89.5% of assessments are completed within 35 working days. Any issues are being reported, to ensure the glitches are resolved. The upper national is 45 days which shows really good

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progress.

6.5 Learning & Improvement Sub Group – Jane Parfremment/Warren Carratt

Ms Parfremment stated that a Learning and Improvement sub group has not been held since she started, however when she chairs the next meeting it will be considering the findings from any audits or reviews and how to take them forward.

6.6 Child Death Overview Panel – Annual Report – John Radford

Dr Radford stated that the work of CDOPs began 6-7 years ago and since then no child has died from abuse or neglect in Rotherham. Work is in progress in relation to premature babies and work with key hospital staff is taking place to review these at joint meetings. This work has been extended for deaths of babies at birth.

The discussion at CDOP of suicide deaths has resulted in the development of a community plan to respond appropriately and proportionately in such cases. Mr Ashley asked that this be sent out to board members for any final comments before approval.

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Dr Radford reported that although the CDOP annual report only contains reference to one death in 2013-14 from sudden infant death there have been 3 further deaths this year which include the factor of poor sleeping position/environment. Dr Radford explained that although safe sleeping advice and assessments are undertaken this needs to be reinforced with all frontline professionals who are in contact with families. Some multi-agency safe sleeping training has been delivered but this needs to continue.

Dr Radford also stated that work is to be done with the community engagement manager in relation to the prevention of babies being born with congenital abnormalities. It was acknowledged that Bradford had already undertaken research in relation to this, and follow up is required. Dr Radford went on to explain that whooping cough and flu vaccinations are to be integrated into the care pathway for pregnant women.

Dr Radford asked for views in terms of whether there was any benefit from CDOP reviewing near misses. It was agreed that further discussion and a proposal would be needed on this for Board members to consider.

3

Mr Burton, lay member, questioned if Dr Macfarlane was retiring and asked if the chair could on behalf of the board write to Dr Macfarlane at an appropriate time to thank him for his excellent contribution to CDOP in Rotherham.

7. Annual Report 2013-2014 & Business Plan 2014 -2015

The Chair thanked all those for the contribution of evidence for the annual report and apologised for the slight delay as he felt the need to re word the

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introduction to the report following the publication of the Alexis Jay report. The chair asked for a quick turn round on any final comments for the report before publication. The report will be published on the new LSCB website. A number of board members have provided feedback on wording and formatting issues for the RLSCB website, these points were agreed and noted for amendment. Mr Morris added that the annual report had more emphasis than that of previous years in terms of listening to what children in the borough had to say and how this was shaping services for them.

8 Proposal for RLSCB Executive Group

The chair introduced a proposed terms of reference for an Executive Group for the Board. This would enable the main board meetings to focus on the priorities in the business plan and look at what is changing and what are we doing about it. The chair was keen to point out that the Executive Group was not a closed group with the minutes being submitted to the full Board. The Chair proposed that the terms of reference were adopted with immediate effect and the final terms of reference would be circulated. The Board agreed to this proposal.

4.

The Executive Group replaces the Sub Group chairs meeting.

9. For Information

9.1 Budget Update – Karen Potts – For information only

9.2 Minutes from meeting of RLSCB Sub Group Chairs – for information only

9.3 Minutes from Safer Rotherham Partnership – for information only

10. Any Other Business

Mr Burton, lay member, questioned if a young lay member had been invited to attend future RLSCB meetings. The chair stated that the continuing contribution of young people to the work of the board was being taken forward with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet and he was attending the Youth Cabinet manifesto launch in October. However, due to the meeting taking part during school times, it was not possible for a student to attend the RLSCB.

Mr Burton, lay member, commented that local newspapers are claiming that young people don't feel safe in Rotherham. Mr Harwin replied that work is in progress in relation to the bus interchange, and the police are working with the youth service to understand what young people's perceptions are and the real issues that concern young people.

Ms Wadsworth, lay member, has had a brief discussed with Phil Morris about working with drive through fast food restaurants, such as McDonald's, to assist with developing intelligence and reporting concerns that might be CSE

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related. Members of the Board felt that this was an excellent suggestion that would be taken up under the awareness initiative with local hotels.

Mr Stevens informed everyone that in November he will be sending out the Section 11 audit notification for the assessment to be undertaken in early 2015 in accordance with the biennial frequency agreed previously.

11 Future Agenda Items

None

12. Dates of future meetings
Thursday 4th December

Appendix One

Actions Points Raised / On-Going as at 04.09.2014

No:	Owner:	Details:
Actions raised on 04.09.2014		
1.	Joyce Thacker	Distribute letters from DfE and response
2.	John Radford	Distribute Suicide Community Plan to board members for comment.
3	John Radford	Prepare a draft proposal for CDOP to review near misses, to be presented at the next RLSCB meeting.
4.	Phil Morris	Executive Group final Terms of Reference to be distributed to board members.

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
Actions raised on 05.06.2014			
1.	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
2.	Paul Lakin & Steve Ashley	Councillor Paul Lakin undertook to raise concerns about a lack of safeguarding for children educated at home at the Yorkshire and Humber forum that he attends, and Steve Ashley undertook to raise it at the Police and Crime Commissioner's Meeting as well.	Discharged 04.09.14 This issue will not be taken to the PCC meeting.
3.	Steve Ashley	Jason Harwin asked Steve Ashley to write back to Rotherham Youth Cabinet to thank them for their review of self-harm – this was agreed. Steve Ashley added that he would very much like to meet with them personally as he is very impressed by their work, particularly as they do not shy away from difficult issues.	Discharged 04.09.2014 The report has been published and sent to cabinet.
4.	Jason Harwin (Sonya Chambers to add to September's RLSCB agenda)	The Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group is currently compiling its annual report which will come back to the LSCB.	Discharged 04.09.14 Annual report has been provided at this meeting
5.	All RLSCB members	A new chair is required for the Performance Sub Group - Steve Ashley therefore requested that all LSCB members consider putting themselves forward for the post.	Discharged 04.09.2014 No members have registered any interest. Mr Ashley will continue as chair for the Performance Sub Group.
6.	John Radford	John Radford reported that he had now	Discharged 04.09.14

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
	(Sonya Chambers to add to September's RLSCB agenda)	completed the CDOP annual report which he will bring to the next LSCB meeting, although it will go to the Children's Board first.	Annual report has been provided at this meeting
7.	Phil Morris (Sonya Chambers to add to September's RLSCB agenda)	By September this year, the LSCB Business Plan should be finalised and fit for purpose.	Discharged 04.09.2014 The business plan has been freshened up to make it more user friendly. The chair would like feedback from LSCB board members within the next ten days after this time it go onto the website.
8.	Joyce Thacker	Joyce Thacker would like to invite all agencies to the set up meeting regarding Ofsted scrutiny of the LSCB. She will therefore email out the details in due course.	Discharged 04.09.14 Ofsted visit planned
9.	Steve Ashley	Richard Burton asked what would happen with all of his comments, and Steve Ashley assured him that they would be followed up and a formal response can be fed back at each subsequent meeting to ensure this is recorded.	Discharged 04.09.2014
10.	Everyone	Steve Ashley confirmed that he was currently in the process of writing the RLSCB Annual Report, which he was trying to do in a more user friendly style. He put out a plea to all agencies to feed any good news stories to Phil Morris for inclusion, to ensure that positive news is promoted.	Discharged 04.09.2014 The business plan has been freshened up to make it more user friendly. The chair would like feedback from LSCB board members within the next ten days after this time it go onto the website.
Actions ongoing as at 04.09.14			
11.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to bring a proposal back to the next meeting regarding a multi-agency forum for the discussion of neglect.	05.06.14 As there will now be a Peer Review on neglect, this will generate an action plan which means the LSCB will have a clearer idea on progress by September. New action: Sonya Chambers to add this as a standing agenda item for the LSCB. Action for November's Executive Group. Discharged 04.09.14
12.	Joyce Thacker & Pete Horner	The CSE Sub Group has produced a CSE victim profile and there are now plans to produce a perpetrator profile. Pete Horner responded that the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) was currently looking at a perpetrator	05.06.14 There will be a discussion at next week's CSE Sub Ground about profiles. Joyce Thacker reported that

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
		<p>profile so it might be worth contacting them – Joyce Thacker and Pete Horner agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting, as it will be useful to link in and triangulate with any existing work rather than duplicate anything unnecessarily.</p>	<p>Rotherham has offered to be part of some university research but no response has yet been received about this.</p> <p>New action: Pete Horner therefore undertook to chase this up as it would be good to participate in this.</p> <p>Discharged 04.09.14</p>
13.	Steve Ashley	<p>Richard Burton requested that consideration be given to a standing agenda item for the Lay Members, arguing that he currently has to wait until ‘any other business’ at the end of the meeting, when people start to leave. Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.</p>	<p>05.06.14</p> <p>Steve Ashley had considered this but concluded he was happy that Richard Burton’s views were clearly minuted anyway, so there was no need for a separate section.</p> <p>New action: Phil Morris will speak to Richard Burton outside the meeting about including a Lay Member section within the RLSCB Annual Report. Steve Ashley added that the LSCB will shortly be recruiting for another Lay Member.</p> <p>Discharged 04.09.14</p>
14.	Pete Horner	<p>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>	<p>04.09.2014</p> <p>New Action: To be added to December board agenda</p>
15.	Paul Grimwood & Pete Horner	<p>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 Child Sexual Exploitation Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Therefore Paul Grimwood undertook to send Pete Horner the spreadsheet containing full details.</p>	<p>05.06.14</p> <p>It was unclear whether or not this action had been completed.</p> <p>Update: Meeting to take place in October to resolve this.</p>

