

MINUTES OF MEETING



Meeting title: Strategic Leadership Group
Date and time: Wednesday 22 August 2019 from 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Location: Meeting Room 3, (CH4.286) Fourth Floor, County Hall, West Bridgford

Present:

Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director, Children and Families, Nottinghamshire County Council
(Chair)

Rosa Waddingham, Deputy Chief Nurse and Director of Quality & Governance and Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS Nurse (Deputising for Elaine Moss)

Nicola Ryan, NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group, Chief Nurse, Executive Lead Quality and Safety, NHS Bassetlaw CCG

Andrew Gowan, Detective Superintendent, Head of Public Protection, Nottinghamshire Police

Chris Few, Independent Scrutineer

Steve Baumber, Service Manager, Partnerships and Planning, Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement Group, Nottinghamshire County Council

Ann Fisher, Business Support, Nottinghamshire County Council (minute taking)

Apologies:

Elaine Moss, Chief Nurse and Director of Quality and Governance, Mid Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups

Action

Introductions and declaration of interests

Colin Pettigrew welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the SLG and introductions were made.

Apologies noted from Elaine Moss – Rosa Waddingham deputising.

It was noted there were no 'declarations of interest'.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 April 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2019 were reviewed for accuracy and actions.

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Action for Colin Pettigrew and Steve Baumber to pursue SharePoint for external partners outside of this meeting.

Action

It was noted that IT are undertaking a pilot and the NSCP has been put forward to be part of this; work is still in the early stages.

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Action for schools to be informed of their Partnership Forum representatives.

A letter will go out to school giving this information in September.

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Action for Nicola Bramhall to provide update on how cross-border medical assessments are now managed as some see children on a geographical basis and some on GP registration.

As Nicola Bramhall has now left Rosa Waddingham informed the group that interim arrangements are now in place and have been notified to relevant practitioners. Work is ongoing to find a more long-term solution.

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Action for Colin Pettigrew to contact City colleagues re a joint Cross Authority Strategic Leadership meeting once a year.

Alison Michalska from the City agreed this was a good idea.

Action: Steve Baumber to arrange a mutually convenient date. (NB post meeting arrangements have been made for joint meeting on 17th December and invitations sent out)

SB (done)

The minutes of 11 April 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

Publication of Partnership Minutes Policy

Steve Baumber asked the group to consider whether minutes from this meeting should be published on the NSCP website.

After discussion it was agreed that it would be good governance and an act of transparency and openness to publish, however, due consideration should be given to redacting any confidential issues prior to publication.

Risk Log

Steve Baumber talked to the first draft version of the Risk Log, hard copies of which were provided at the meeting. The intention is that the overview of the Risk Log will be managed at this meeting, but the governance will be at the SAIG.

Risk 1 – ineffective use of multi-agency strategy discussions – Colin Pettigrew noted it was not clear from the log whether there had been improvement since 2015. Andy Gowan said anecdotally there has been improvement. Steve Baumber replied there has been an improvement in the number taking place and feedback however the available data does not allow for a definite figure on this. It was noted a report will be going to the SAIG on 11 September 2019 showing the current situation and plans going forward.

Action

Risk 2 – availability of CAMHS services for Looked After Children – Rosa Waddingham noted that this has been addressed as extra funding has been provided and felt that any ongoing risks were of an operational nature, not strategic.

The group then went on to discuss the scoring mechanism used; Steve Baumber gave an example of the current scoring and noted that this was still work in progress to find the best means. It was noted all partners need to agree the scoring and if this risk log is to be published alongside the minutes the risk owner's view would be needed. It was therefore agreed to retain the log in draft format at the moment.

Action: Steve Baumber to send Colin Pettigrew an electronic version of the risk log for further evaluation.

SB (done)

Safeguarding Arrangements

Safeguarding Arrangements Annual Report (Appendix A)

Chris Few noted that previous iterations of Working Together required annual reports to be published; the 2018 statutory guidance continued this but re-badged as a yearly report giving a summary of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements.

Chris Few then went on to say that the report in front of the SLG showed a very positive story and he felt a phenomenal number of things had been achieved.

Colin Pettigrew thanked Chris Few and Steve Baumber for all the work they had put in to the report.

Action: One typographical error to be corrected – page 17 'The new Hopwood Unit' should read 'Hopewood'.

SB (done)

The report was approved.

Action: All partners to share through their respective governance arrangements as described in the NSCP safeguarding arrangements.

All

Action: Final version of the report to be published.

SB

Steve Baumber noted publication would take place in October/November after the report had been shared with partners.

Safeguarding Funding Arrangements (Appendix B)

Steve Baumber talked to the report distributed prior to the meeting. Issues considered:

Action

Member Subscriptions – agreed not to subscribe to the new Association of Safeguarding Partners at this stage; reconsider when further details are available on what they can provide/benefits for the partnership.

Home Start Contribution – historically this has supported connectivity with the third sector; noted we don't pay other organisations for undertaking similar connectivity and CCGs already have strategic links.

Action: Rosa Waddingham, Nicola Ryan and Steve Baumber to discuss outside this meeting what connectivity health have with third sector.

RW/NR/SB

It was agreed to retain the money in the budget but further consideration to be given as to how this amount can be best utilised, not necessarily Home Start.

Target Reserve – agreed a target for the reserve of £60,000.

Potential areas for use of accrued Reserve – agreed to consider commissioning a campaign to reduce domestic violence and abuse targeting areas of high prevalence. Agreed, in principle, to supporting work on contextual safeguarding through a partnership conference, however this will probably be a contribution to the cost, not standing the full cost of the conference. Also agreed in principle to support the response to IICSA; Colin Pettigrew noted that a better understanding of what this might entail should be available by the next meeting of the SLG in October 2019. Chris Few queried the commitment that had been previously made re cross authority review of historical abuse, prior to IICSA.

Action: Colin Pettigrew asked Steve Baumber to make this an agenda item for the forthcoming joint Nottingham City/Nottinghamshire County Strategic Leadership Group.

SB

Future Funding – it was agreed that safeguarding partner contributions for 2020/21 remain at the same level as 2019/20 but with the proviso that there is opportunity to review at the end of this year if not all funding is spent.

Access to Multi-Agency Training – Agreed that NSCP face to face training is fully costed and then provided to schools as a sold service for 2020/21. Also agreed that further consideration be given to an appropriate charging structure for e learning with a view to expanding availability to other organisations. It was noted that as we now use the local authority system we pay for a set number of licences, not just a flat rate; discussion followed about the use of these licences.

Action: Colin Pettigrew to raise the utilisation of e learning licences outside this meeting.

CP

Child Death Review – agreed that the outcome of the CDOP support review be reported to the Child Death Review Partners via the SLG.

Independent Scrutineer (Appendix C)

Steve Baumber talked to the report which provides a brief on the requirements for the safeguarding arrangements, including independent scrutiny. It was noted Chris Few has agreed to continue as independent scrutineer for this year.

After discussion it was agreed to follow the timetable outlined for recruitment of an independent scrutineer who would be appointed initially for a three year term. The interview panel to consist of three out of the four current members of the SLG who will recommend who to appoint to the lead representatives of the three partner agencies (Chief Executive NCC, Chief Constable, Accountable Officers for the CCGs).

Expansion of relevant agencies

Engagement with Faith Groups – Steve Baumber reported some work had already been undertaken but this is still very much work in progress.

Action: Rosa Waddingham will ask engagement leads about multi-faith contacts and feedback.

RW

Action: Andy Gowan will liaise with his Derby counterpart and feedback.

AG

Nottinghamshire Women's Aid – agreed to invite Lauren Bingham to participate.

Role of Police and Crime Commissioner's Office – Steve Baumber met with Kevin Dennis, Chief Exec, and explained the structure; he asked to attend the SAIG.

Action: Colin Pettigrew and Steve Baumber to meet with Kevin Dennis and offer a place on the SAIG.

CP/SB

Emerging Issues

IICSA Report Review next steps (Appendix D)

Colin Pettigrew talked to the report which was published on 31 July 2019; noted concern with the statement on page 139, para 26 re continued weakness in current foster care practice in both councils. It was noted that the phrasing had changed from recent to current between the draft and final Inquiry Report.

Chris Few noted that the County has an annual report from the LADO re managing allegations against professionals which historically went to the NSCB and now goes to the Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement Group of the NSCP.

Colin Pettigrew informed the group that recommendations for local authorities, as institutions, will be published in a subsequent report.

Action

Work is currently underway in conjunction with the City to respond to the recommendation re assessment of residential care staff and foster carers provided by external agencies.

An initial report on the Authority's response to the findings of the Inquiry will go to Policy Committee in September; this will be followed by a further report to Children and Young People's Committee within the next three months which will include a comprehensive action plan in respect of the key issues raised, together with the Council's detailed response to the one IICSA recommendation that relates specifically to the County Council.

Action: Colin Pettigrew to share the report to Policy Committee with this group. CP

Andy Gowan stated he would be taking the lead for the police going forward, will be discussing with the Chief Constable and Kevin Dennis, and should have more of an update at the next SLG re police internal procedures for dealing with non-recent abuse. In connection with the second recommendation for the City, the Police will be part of an independently commissioned review. Nottinghamshire Police have received seven new referrals quoting the publication of the report as the reason for making a referral.

Rosa Waddingham noted that work has already been undertaken re offering mental/physical support packages; a paper has been produced to address this; the personal health budget offer has been well received. There is now a standard letter available which sets out what is available.

Action: Rosa Waddingham to share a copy of the letter with Colin Pettigrew. RW

It was noted that the HSB Steering Group will increase the profile/priority of this area of safeguarding.

Violence Reduction Unit (Appendix D1)

The report provides an outline of the new unit and the proposed governance arrangements.

Safeguarding in Schools

Five schools have received inadequate gradings from Ofsted over a fairly recent period of time due to safeguarding. This has prompted an in depth review which will commence in October; a report will be available in due course.

CCG Restructure

The new structure will commence on 1 October; all vacancies are currently out to advert. There will be a new head of safeguarding post to provide strategic leadership to the integrated CCG services. Work has also started

to standardise commissioning decisions across the CCGs. Bassetlaw will participate where appropriate.

Engaging with Health Providers

It was noted that there has been tension from some providers re the new safeguarding arrangements due in part to the distinction in legislation between safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. Efforts need to be made to ensure appropriate engagement. Steve Baumber noted that the providers have more involvement through attendance at the SAIG in the safeguarding assurance work than previously. It is understood that Elaine Moss chairs a safeguarding group that will be able to assist with this, however it was noted that there is further work to be done re connectivity with all provider Trusts.

Partnership Conference

Some initial work has been undertaken; the conference will take place on 4 December. The Violence Reduction Unit has become involved and the event will now be cross-authority and involve considerably more delegates than originally envisaged – 300-400. The VRU are happy to contribute to the event. Dez Holmes from Research in Practice will be a key note speaker. A working party is being set up to organise the event.

CAFCASS Consultation with safeguarding arrangements (Appendix E)

It was agreed to consider the issues raised in the letter from CAFCASS.

Partnership Meeting programme

The next partnership meeting is on 19 November 2019 and the venue is Rufford Mill.

The Adults are holding an event at Rufford in the morning with a theme of safeguarding in sport and the supporting officers for the respective arrangements have discussed whether a joint event would be useful. After discussion it was agreed that we would decline on this occasion but give consideration to a joint event going forward.

Feedback from the last partnership meeting was positive. However, it was heavy on input with not much space for discussion.

Consultation re multi-agency strategy meetings and harmful sexual behaviour were agreed as areas to focus on at the November meeting.

Steve Baumber will be meeting with Bob Ross and Trish Jordan to discuss the programme and further information will be provided to the SLG at the next meeting.

Interim Early Help Development Plan (Appendix E1)

Laurence Jones, NCC Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, attended for this item and talked to the report. The plan links closely to the Pathway to Provision and is currently an interim one as many changes are scheduled over the next year; following this a 3-5 year strategy plan will be produced utilising the knowledge gained.

Chris Few queried the targets quoted to measure success; Laurence Jones responded that the targets have been set to show we are aspiring to be better than the national average.

Chris Few also noted a gap is developing with difficulty accessing level 2 mental health services. Nicola Ryan responded that the Mental Health Executive is due to meet in September and she will ask for this to be added to the agenda.

It was noted an updated version of the interim plan was available that had not been distributed prior to the meeting.

Action: Ann Fisher to distribute latest version.

AF (done)

Colin Pettigrew then went on to ask Laurence Jones about Troubled Families; an update is due at the end of March 2020 following completion of the second phase. A paper will be going to NCC CYP Committee in September 2019 re the implications of funding ending in March 2020.

Group Updates (by exception)

SAIG (Appendix E2)

Report distributed prior to meeting – noted.

Learning and Workforce Development

Rosa Waddingham confirmed there were no exceptions to report but added that she would send a copy of the most recent report for information.

Action: Ann Fisher to send a copy of the latest L&WD report out with these draft minutes.

AF

Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Andy Gowan confirmed there are no ongoing SCRs or child safeguarding practice reviews. A Rapid Review was completed in relation to a recent case and this has been submitted to the National Panel but it does not meet the criteria for a practice review.

We are awaiting the draft report in connection with the Waltham Forest SCR we have been involved in.

Action

No issues have been recorded re SINs – cases are being reported as appropriate.

Learning from 'Early Adopters' (Appendix F)

Report distributed prior to meeting – noted.

Any Other Business

No further items were discussed.

Next meeting: - Wednesday 9 October 2019 from 9.30am – 12.30pm, Meeting Room 16, Third Floor, County Hall.