



Meeting	Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive Board
Date	Wednesday 23 rd February 2022
Present	<p>Elaine Coleridge-Smith, ECS (<i>Independent Chair, Warwickshire Safeguarding</i>) Jackie Channell, JC (<i>Coventry & Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group</i>) Pete Hill, PH (<i>Warwickshire Police</i>) John Coleman, JCo (<i>Warwickshire County Council</i>) Jo Galloway, JG (<i>Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group</i>)</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u> Amrita Sharma, AS (<i>Business Manager, Warwickshire Safeguarding</i>) Kiran Mahal (<i>Minute Taker, Warwickshire Safeguarding</i>)</p>
Apologies	Nigel Minns (<i>Warwickshire County Council</i>)

Item	Discussion	Action Required (if any)	Owner
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>The Independent Chair of Warwickshire Safeguarding welcomed members to the meeting with apologies as noted above.</p>		
2.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting and Action Log</p> <p>Members agreed the content of the minutes with any outstanding actions to be covered in today's meeting or to be carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AS confirmed the LLB for Tom has been developed into a 7MB as requested. WCC Legal Team and Children's Services will have oversight of this to ensure it communicates the desired message. - Regarding Mason, AS noted that there will be a LLB produced instead of a full report. The content of this will be shared with WCC Legal Team and Children's Services. - It was shared the Children's Services Ofsted report was published on 1st February 2022. - The Business Team have developed an infographic which highlights the emerging themes from reviews and referrals. AS confirmed that this will be presented to the Safeguarding Reviews Subgroup for approval and will then be brought to the Executive Board. 		
3.	<p>Covid 19 update</p> <p><u>Police</u> PH shared that there has been an increase in absences within the Police due to Covid-19 related sickness. PH advised that his service is still asking staff to isolate if they test positive for Covid-19, despite changes to Government guidelines. PH added that they are waiting for guidance from the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).</p> <p>PH highlighted there has been an increase in incidents/ reports relating to children and young people. PH</p>		



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	<p>advised that other areas of Police work have been business as usual.</p> <p><u>Social Care</u> JCo reported that the current picture is similar to Police and confirmed that the service is stable with regards to its current response to Covid-19.</p> <p>It was noted that the two cases, Arthur and Star have caused a significant increase in referrals in the last few weeks and also caused professional anxiety across the service. ECS commented that this is understandable, as case reviews that gain national attention will unavoidably cause anxiety to professionals.</p> <p><u>Health</u> JC reported that Covid-19 related absence is causing issues around capacity however, despite this, services have continued to deliver business as usual in majority of cases.</p> <p>JC stated there has been a recent spotlight on how 'friendly' services are to those service users with Learning Disabilities. There is now a focus on this alongside the recently released NHS England guidance.</p> <p>JC highlighted there has been a marked increase in the use of the escalation process involving both internal and external agencies. She believed this is as a result of the continuous publicising of the escalation protocol to help improve the quality of safeguarding decision making and interventions and outcomes for individuals.</p>		
4.	<p>Safeguarding Reviews Decision Making</p> <p>JCo advised he is hoping to achieve a more robust process within his service area, which will include reports being reviewed earlier in the decision-making process, clearer version control, evidence of requests for changes and clear responses where changes are/not agreed.</p> <p>JCo recognised that his service needs to improve their processes to ensure the review process runs smoother and within timeframes. JCo apologised to AS and the Warwickshire Safeguarding Team for delays caused and thanked them for their patience and support.</p> <p>Due to the national media interest in safeguarding reviews, JCo felt the Partnership should act mindfully and consider the wider impact of publication and plan in advance to manage this. All agreed.</p>		



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	<p>Family M JCo commented that from a WCC perspective, the review should be published and should include reference to the fire.</p> <p>AS advised that it was suggested at a recent panel meeting to publish the report anonymously via the NSPCC website. AS explained that she has drafted a letter which will be sent to the National Panel explaining the rationale for this decision. AS added, that should this progress, then the report would be published at the earliest opportunity in consultation with the NSPCC.</p> <p>Prada & Jordan AS confirmed the review work had now concluded with final changes to the report having now been completed. The report was due to be published next month.</p> <p>Charlie JCo explained that there are several suggested changes regarding the report, which he felt would not take away from the learning but instead would ensure publication is done safely.</p> <p>AS advised that the Partnership Team are due to meet with Mother the following week to share the report. Publication likely to happen end of March.</p> <p>AS pointed out that there are 3 further reports which are likely to be ready for publication soon. AS assured Partners that sign off/ publication will be staggered to align with capacity.</p> <p>A discussion was held around Independent Reviewers and JCo commented that different reviewers have different strengths, and each dictate their reports and learning differently. JC agreed but pointed out that the panel should steer the reviewer to manage the content of the report. JC suggested some training for panel members in how to effectively partake in the review process, if it is felt this is not being managed effectively. ECS agreed.</p>	Safeguarding Reviews Panel Members training to be explored	Amrita Sharma
5.	<p>Mental Health Provision</p> <p>PH explained that there are several concerns from a Police perspective surrounding the Mental Health provision and in particular in reference to the use of s147</p> <p>PH advised that there are often extensive delays due to lack of beds, which means patients are spending longer periods in Police custody – which PH described is not the right environment for those with acute Mental Health needs. PH explained these delays can leave the</p>		



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	<p>person suffering from a Mental Health crisis in a vulnerable position.</p> <p>PH described incidents where Officers arrest an individual in the community and there might be physical injuries as well as signs of Mental Health. In this instance, the Officers will take the individual to A&E for their injuries and are being encouraged to remove the Section 136, which PH highlighted would be unlawful. PH advised that this poses high risks to the individual and the community.</p> <p>PH explained that there are often individuals with Mental Health needs who have committed serious offences, however it can take up to 18 hours for them to be assessed. PH pointed out that this can have an impact on the inquiry and can potentially result in dangerous individuals being released back into the community on bail.</p> <p>PH also raised concerns around access to 'places of safety' local to Warwickshire which have in cases led to delays due to criminals having to be transported outside of the county. He referred to a specific case whereby the local CCG had refused to provide the necessary support, redirecting the individual to be taken to Birmingham.</p> <p>PH felt that Police are often left in an untenable position with regards to Mental Health, he expressed his concerns that given the number of issues, there is likely to be a serious incident in the near future which could reflect poorly upon the Police and Mental Health Trust.</p> <p>ECS commented that this is very concerning and will have adverse effects on the Police's ability to carry out their roles and duty effectively.</p> <p>JG thanked PH for bringing this matter to the Partnership's attention. JG asked for some tangible examples of incidents that have occurred recently so this can be reviewed with the Mental Health Commissioner.</p> <p>JG acknowledged this to be a serious issue which needs to be addressed and there needs to be a clear escalation process around this.</p> <p>PH agreed to put together a list of examples and will share with JG, JC and Nigel Minns.</p>	<p>PH to share examples of incidents</p>	<p>Pete Hill</p>
6.	<p>Police Inspection - HMIC</p> <p>PH briefly reported on the outcome of the recent HMIC Inspection, which involved 8 inspectors looking at the Police response to child protection.</p>		



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	<p>PH advised that the final report will be released in 7-8 weeks which will provide a more detailed insight into the key findings, good practice and areas for improvement.</p> <p>PH reported that the inspection noted that Warwickshire Police are on a journey, given their exit from the alliance 2 years ago. PH felt the feedback was fair given this as well as the ICT issues they have suffered.</p> <p>PH found the inspection helpful because the service had not received a health check from the perspective of the child for a considerable amount of time.</p> <p>JC stated that when she met with the inspectors, she had praised PH and his work ethic, and the inspector shared that he had heard much admiration from PH's colleagues across the Partnership and from within the Police.</p> <p>PH thanked Partners for their input and support with the inspection.</p>		
7.	<p>Partnership Funding 2022/2023</p> <p>AS confirmed that there is still a shortfall in the funding for 2022-2023. It was agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting and AS would seek an update on the shortfall amount from Finance.</p> <p>ECS advised that she intends to approach schools and academies.</p> <p>JCo confirmed that advice from the Chief Executive to the Director in this matter was that the Partnership seek to present their proposition to the Schools Forum in the first instance to gage overall agreement from an education perspective. ECS agreed to do this.</p>	<p>Seek update on budget shortfall sum from Finance</p> <p>Request partnership funding to be added to the School's Forum next agenda</p>	<p>Amrita Sharma</p> <p>Amrita Sharma</p>
8.	<p>Safeguarding Reviews update</p> <p>JC pointed out there have been a number of referrals and where there has been sufficient learning identified through the rapid review process to produce a comprehensive Lessons Learned Briefing (LLB), however if not then the group will consider an Alternative Review, CSPR or SAR.</p> <p>JC provided a brief overview of ongoing reviews and decisions emerging from recent Rapid Reviews and action subsequently taken.</p> <p><u>Adult</u> AS confirmed that this case was referred prior to the pandemic however it did not meet the threshold for a full review. AS proposed for the Business Team to progress the development of a Lesson Learned briefing</p>	<p>LLB to be progressed</p>	<p>Warwickshire Safeguarding Team</p>



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	<p>from the rapid review to gather the key themes and learning. All agreed.</p> <p>JG questioned the motive behind not carrying out full reviews and whether this is influenced by the volume of ongoing reviews and financial challenges. JG asked if Partners were doing the right thing or were making resource driven decisions. ECS confirmed that decisions are not being made based on finance, instead the Partnership are working to merge themes and utilise the alternative type reviews where appropriate. JC added that members of the Safeguarding Reviews Subgroup are not aware of budget issues and therefore this does not impact on decision making.</p> <p>JC assured JG that they have considered each case carefully and within the Safeguarding Reviews Subgroup there is scrutiny to challenge. There is additional scrutiny as ECS sits in the meetings. ECS confirmed that she does not actively participate in the meetings but does attend to observe decision making.</p>		
9.	<p>Draft Strategic Plan</p> <p>AS to bring re-drafted Strategic Plan to future meeting.</p>	Add to forward plan	Warwickshire Safeguarding Team
10.	<p>Rapid Review Decisions & Review TORs</p> <p>Copies of recent Rapid Review decisions were shared with members in respect of cases referred into the partnership for review. This is in keeping with the recommendations of the Wood Review requiring Executive Boards to take more ownership of safeguarding reviews.</p>		
11.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>JG congratulated colleagues on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection and the IICSA report. It was agreed it would be helpful to receive an update on the key findings and understand action planning against any areas requiring improvement. ECS suggested that the Ofsted report findings are shared at the next meeting.</p> <p>JCo confirmed work is currently underway between Children's Services and the Police to develop a partnership action plan to respond to key areas of learning identified within the IICSA report.</p>	<p>Ofsted report and action plan to be shared with partners</p> <p>Add Ofsted & IICSA report findings to the forward plan for March</p>	<p>Nigel Minns</p> <p>Warwickshire Safeguarding Team</p>
Date of next meeting: Friday 11 th March 2022			