

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children
Board meeting held on 27th April 2017**

Present		
David Peplow Andrew Bourne	Independent Chair Head of Service for Warwickshire, Warwickshire Probation, CRC	
Mandy Braimbridge Jenny Butlin-Moran Councillor Les Caborn Jackie Channell John Coleman Martin Cowan Leanne Dagger	Assistant Director of Nursing, CWPT Service Manager, People Group, WCC Health Portfolio Holder, WCC Designated Nurse, Safeguarding for Warwickshire, CCGs Service Manager, MASH Housing Advice Manager, Stratford District Council Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children, SWFT, Deputising for Helen Lancaster	
Craig Dicken John Dixon Victoria Gould Sarah Harris Cornelia Heaney Jackie Kerby Helen King Tom Kittendorf Louise Mohacsi Kate Morrison Michelle Norton Simon Powell Stephen Quinn Dr Peter Sidebotham	Equality and Safeguarding, Nuneaton and Bedworth Strategic Director, People Group, WCC Young People Legal Services Manager, WCC Principal Social Worker, WCC WSCB Development Manager, Safeguarding Team WSCB Learning and Improvement Officer Deputy Director of Public Health, WCC Sports and Recreational Manager, Rugby Borough Council Headteacher, St Nicholas CE Primary Director of Volunteering, WCAVA Director of Nursing, GEH Assistant Director (Leisure & Community Development) NWBC Detective Superintendent, Warwickshire Police Consultant Paediatrician Designated Doctor Child Protection, South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	
Sally Taylor Lesley Tregear Beate Wagner Alison Walshe	Interim Head of Service for Education & Learning Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Manager Head of Service, Children and Families, WCC Director of Quality and Performance, NHS South Warwickshire CCG	
Councillor Chris Williams Diane Woliter Polly Sharma Rosie Smith Paula Mawson Rachel Webster	Lay Member WCC Senior Equalities Adviser Corporate Research Team CL-PMHS Named Nurse LAC, SWFT	
		ACTION
	Apologies for Absence	
	The following were noted: Rebecca Bartholomew, Director of Nursing, NHS Warwickshire North CCG Sue Ingram, Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Development Manager, WCC	

	<p>Andrew Jones, Deputy Chief Executive, Warwick District Council Adrian Over, Education Safeguarding Manager Minakshee Patel, Corporate Equality and Diversity Advisor, Rugby BC Andy Wade, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Warwickshire Probation Deborah Saunders, Lay Member Katrina Symonds, Lay Member</p>	
2.	Minutes and matters arising	
	<p>Links have been formalised with Border Force and the Chair has signed MOU on behalf of the Board, they are not a statutory member so won't attend all meetings. We now have a link with their safeguarding lead which includes arrangements around asylum seekers, and they have provided key names for safeguarding and trafficking.</p> <p>With dissolution of Parliament, Children's Social Work Bill should get royal ascent today. It is unclear whether there will be any immediate commencement of any part of the act.</p> <p>Minutes of 31st January agreed as an accurate record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 5 - John Coleman informed the meeting that Police within MASH no longer have a backlog of historical domestic abuse cases <p>Action Matrix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 8 – work plans for SCRs not concluded at WSCB Business Group meeting will continue at next meeting • Item 3 – integrated working with adults Board, the Chair, John Dixon, Mike Wood and David Carter did meet on 28th March and identified a couple areas to do some further detailed work on • WSAB Business Manager has off been sick so not much progress made • John Dixon is calling a further meeting with some of the new strategic partnership, primarily CCG, Police and District Councils 	
3.	Diversity in Warwickshire - presentation by Rosie Smith, Corporate Research Team and Polly Sharma WCC Equality and Diversity Team.	
	<p>The chair introduced this presentation by reminding board members that Diversity and Equality was a strategic priority for the board.</p> <p>Two presentations were given. The first was given by Rosie Smith, WCC Insight team.</p> <p>Rosie presented information held about the diversity characteristics of the Warwickshire population, broken down by age. A key characteristic is that the older population is growing at a faster rate than the younger population which has implications for service delivery.</p> <p>Overall, Warwickshire is less diverse than the National picture and between 2001 and 2011 Warwickshire became a more diverse county with Rugby and Warwick having the most diverse populations.</p> <p>The key BME communities are 'other white'/Eastern European and Indian and key countries of origin are Poland, India and Romania. Main</p>	

	<p>languages after English are Polish, Punjabi and Gujarati and almost 1 in 10 pupils at Warwickshire schools do not have English as first language. Further information can be obtained from insight@warwickshire.gov.uk</p> <p>The second presentation was given by Polly Sharma, Senior Equality and Diversity Advisor WCC.</p> <p>Polly presented some information explaining reasons why BME families may be overlooked for services:</p> <p>BME cultures</p> <p>A strong emphasis is placed upon the expectations of the extended family. Difficulties for LGBT people identifying themselves as such within BME communities. Language can often present as a barrier to communication.</p> <p>Culturally Competent Workforce/Staff</p> <p>Polly asked when dealing with a BME child if whether staff understand their needs which can include language barrier and being placed with extended family as their carers which can be difficult and challenging. Polly stated that officers are not asking and or recording the equality monitoring questions and we need to find out why they are reluctant to ask. The service provided and the processes are not always fully explained about what is going to happen and that it is not a permanent measure for the child but a temporary basis.</p> <p>Polly suggested a number of things for the Board to consider :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural awareness input so that it is explicit in addressing basic knowledge • Data collection needs to be much more robust and much more consistent across the range of organisations concerned with child welfare • Lack of progress in finding solutions represents a failure on the part of decision makers to properly understand issues relating to ethnicity • Often with issues of child protection and ethnicity, the challenge is not that we do not have the right tools necessarily, but that we do not always use them in the right way • Need to understand precisely how ethnicity, culture and religion factor into child protection <p>Jackie Channell asked for a breakdown by gender for those who didn't speak English fluently – Rosie thought this could be provided The chair thanked Polly and Rosie for attending.</p>	
4.	Q4 Performance data: end of year evaluation – Sally Taylor	
	<p>Sally Taylor, chair of the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation sub-committee presented her report which identified some questions arising from the Q4 data.</p> <p>The chair suggested discussion today to decide which of the particular areas identified in the covering report the Board want to see addressed in the annual report</p> <p>It was noted that charts 1.3 and 2.3 recorded a decrease in the number of BME with records that have been completed, and the reasons for this were considered. Training issue across agencies in terms of confidence to be able to feel that they can report things in a way they are perhaps not currently. It was agreed all board members would look at what the reasons for this were in their own agency.</p>	<p>All agencies to make a response .by 27th May why there are</p>

	<p>Chart 1.2 shows increase in number of CAFS initiated overall and diversity of agencies initiating CAFS. This was felt to be a good thing overall, still low number initiated by Children’s Centres and Health Visitors – Helen King can look at Health Visitors, eg whether help is happening at a lower level and not being escalated. Smart Start programme has now become mainstream and a wider piece of work for children and young people transformation programme. Helen King to have discussion with Emma Walker (CAF) and bring back information Chart 1.9 depicts whether professionals initiating a CAF are generally holding the early help plan? Beate Wagner stated that it might be concerning if there was too much change in lead professionals but have no data which flags this, to ask CAF team to do piece of work to analyse this Chart 1.11 shows and increase in Family Group Conferences which reflects investment in the Family Group Conferencing service for under 5s. Chart 1.12 reflects a decrease in number of families accessing Triple P To ask Sally Lightfoot to provide data around number of families accessing Triple P as only have data around evaluations. Smart Start looking at making use of other parenting programmes to provide a bit more diversity. The Board is interested to know about access to all parenting programmes, not just Triple P. Chart 1.13 reflects significant increase in children reported missing and to understand reasons behind that and questions it raises. John Coleman stated that missing children are now being recorded better and that Nigel Jones (Police CSE lead) is working on a piece of work about how we get a true picture from social care and Police who both hold information in relation to missing children Chart 3.7 depicts provision of accommodation to homeless 16/17 year olds and there was a brief discussion around the fact that statutory guidance states that B and B is not considered suitable accommodation even in an emergency for homeless 16/17 year olds and Calvin Smith, Social Care, has been doing some work around this. Martin Cowan explained that B and B in an emergency is often the only accommodation available for any one and that properties are not waiting available for emergencies to happen and it would be impractical to aspire to never use B and B. That it was better to place a vulnerable young person in a B and B rather than a 1 bedroom flat where they are completely on their own and need to be more realistic about the benefits of using B and B for short period of time in emergency whilst assessment takes place is probably the best outcome. Martin to come to an agreement around wording with all other district/borough councils to reflect that view in annual report and the challenges that district/boroughs are faced with. Chart 3.8 CAHMS waiting times – data has just been produced for CQC preparation so Mandy Braimbridge will make this available Chart 4.2 reduction of children with CP plans – Change in the profile with increase of 16 and 17 year olds and those under 1 Peter Sidebotham stated that he was not convinced there is change in pattern in terms of the age, Jenny informed the meeting that IRO duty officer will always have a discussion when convening case conference whether child protection is the best way forward and now have revised dual status policy. Chart 4.3 reflects that repeat plans have increased to 11.6% compared to 6.4% last year. Concerns were raised around children being on plans for</p>	<p>blocks to recording this information</p> <p>Helen King</p> <p>Beate Wagner to ask CAF Team to do a piece of work</p> <p>Sally Taylor to ask Sally Lightfoot for data</p> <p>District and Borough Councils</p> <p>Mandy Braimbridge</p>
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	<p>2 years means something is not going right. Peter Sidbotham stated that there is likely to be a proportion of families that you cannot resolve things for in a short term plan, large number of families where there are long term issues and a CP plan is the best way of dealing with it but it will require long term intervention.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>MASH data: referrals resulting in a service - presentation by John Coleman</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arising from previous discussions re data around an 80/20 split John explained actually it's an 85/15 split in terms of outcomes from MASH • 85% leaving need an early help support • 15% need statutory intervention • Data is provisional will not be confirmed until July • Final version of MASH annual report gone to print will be circulated through the Board • MASH received about 23,000 contacts and referrals in total which is 6% lower than last year • Contact record is information, advice and signposting • Referral record for purpose of MASH is something which is triaged would normally lead to a single assessment • DfE only require MASH to report on referrals • Number of referrals has increased and out of sync with our statistical neighbours • Re-referral rate about 10% higher but reduction in contacts • 45% of everything which comes into MASH has had multi- agency sharing of information, decision making and outcome • Other LA in their first year have experienced referrals going out of kilter • Caseloads since 1st March have massively reduced and are an average of 15 per social worker • 25% of referrals into MASH are from Police • Backlog of domestic abuse referral, lot of work done and backlog has gone down completely • 20 outstanding which all took place in last 24 hours • Only 7% has led to an outcome of Early Help Single Assessment • 43% led to information, advice and signposting need to try and use other avenues to obtain this information • Board need to be aware that when MASH make a recommendation for early intervention that often is not happening • Where 7% need early help single assessment now have a process in place where 6 – 8 weeks later MASH will call professional to ask if they have initiated early help assessment, getting about 50% response rate but only evidence 30% started • John Dixon stated recently had meeting with MASH strategic group and concerned about it as it indicates breakdown step up step down arrangement and it is not clear as to why this is happening, 30% is a concerning figure • John Dixon and Beate Wagner have met with Claire Burgess children's regional coordinator in West Midlands • They could fund a bit of work to come in and work with us to find out what it is holding them back from doing the work • It was agreed for John Dixon to accept this offer on behalf of WSCB. <p>Re-referral Audit Report</p>	<p>John Dixon</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-referral families not getting right support at the right time • Re-referral rate in Warwickshire since 2012 has been out of kilter nationally • This year re-referrals is about 33.2%, last year was about 24.8% • Raised as an issue across the year so in February did an audit of re-referral cases • February 2017 there were 411 re-referrals • 62% of cases, the auditors felt when the case had been re-referred to MASH there was no evidence that it had been escalated, most were same referrer and same issues and nothing had changed • Do have action plan and to monitor over next year <p>John Coleman informed the meeting that they will be running 50 workshops over the rest of the year which will focus on transformation of what has already been done in MASH, threshold document and steps to intervention, share learning from SCRs.</p> <p>John stated that capturing pre early help that is going on, is not always communicated to MASH or clear what has already gone in with the family Diane Woliter questioned whether there is a correlation between professionals holding the early help plan and whether they are the right person to do it and is that the barrier in the first place?</p> <p>John Coleman stated to make sure MASH get it right they need to have the history from agencies of their involvement in the child's life included in the referral form.</p> <p>Have reviewed multi-agency form to make sure it is clearer, that parents are informed, when safe to do so, that referrer is making referral to the MASH and to give clearer information around what their agency has previously done.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Safeguarding Warwickshire's children looked after</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WCC priorities for service improvement 2. Health priorities for children looked after services 3. Suicide prevention for children looked after (paper attached) Helen King and Paula Mawson 	
	<p>The chair introduced the item explaining that we realised when considering SCR around child T that as a Board we are not so well sighted around how children are being looked after.</p> <p>WCC priorities for service improvement Placement stability is central to ensuring the well-being for children looked after by WCC.</p> <p>Short term placement stability, defined as 3 or more placements within a year, has been deteriorating with 16% of children looked after reported to have had 3+ placements in the last year.</p> <p>Where there is a risk of a placement ending in an unplanned way, meeting is to be convened within 5 days to review arrangements and need to raise importance of maintaining placements.</p> <p>Long term stability, defined as children who have been living in same placement for at least 2 years or more has decreased from 69% to 56.7% An audit to be undertaken to improve our understanding of long term stability. Taking into account learning from child T, to look into improvement work around the fostering service and focus on foster carer recruitment and provide enhanced support to foster carers.</p> <p>Audit for further discussion at WSCB Business Group to see if there is a multi-agency aspect.</p>	

Children looked after – findings from the care practice diagnostic
In March 2017, WCC invited Care Practice Diagnostic to be undertaken to support sector led improvement. CPD identified a range of strengths and really strong leadership for children in the Leader of the Council and Head of Service for Children and Families.
It was established that both social workers and IROs have very high caseloads and we are now able to recruit 2 further IROs.
Need to strengthen the capacity of the MOSAIC implementation team.
Action plan is being implemented to respond to the areas for improvement.
Now have dedicated support from HR around recruitment.

Children looked after – Elected members corporate parenting responsibility
Paper to look at the ways in which Elected Members fulfil their responsibility as corporate parents to children looked after by WCC.
Elected members regularly meet LAC. The Chair stated he would like further discussion at WSCB Business Group around educational attainment.
Les Caborn stated he was impressed by the enthusiasm of all the teams and staff to lead change

Health priorities for children looked after services – Rachel Webster, Named Nurse Looked after Children
Jackie Channell took over designated lead for looked after children on 1st April 2017
Health Assessments and quality assurance
Rachel explained processes for undertaking LAC health assessments, and the challenges of completing these in a timely way.
Purpose is to bring health and wellbeing of LAC to match children who are not looked after and initial health assessment should take place within 28 days of child being looked after and they are always completed by Paediatrician within Warwickshire.
Review health assessment take place every 6 months until age of 5 and then every year until 18.
Adoption medical is coordinated through looked after children's team based in Nuneaton. Decision can be made at ADM whether that child goes for adoption. Every health assessment done is quality assured against national standards.
About a third of LAC are placed out of County and we need to ensure their health needs are met as well as having a responsibility for those children placed in Warwickshire by another LA.
Councillor Caborn raised question whether training was mandatory?
Rachel informed that they all staff have access to training and encourage clinical leads to make sure staff are trained.
The Chair is interested in impact of the health assessments and as a Board we are, and asked Jackie Channell to update at a future meeting what the impact looks like it so the Board can be reassured that health needs are being met.

Suicide prevention for children looked after
Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016 – 2020 presented by Paula Mawson, Commissioning Lead, Public Mental Health
Strategy published last November and in early stages of implementing the multi-agency document.
In Warwickshire 105 people died by suicide in 2013 and 2014 compared

	<p>to 51 deaths in road traffic accidents. 21 aged 15-34, 62 aged 35-64, 17 aged 65+. 80 were males, 19 females and 1 transgender. One third were in contact with mental health services, information supplied by Partnership Trust</p> <p>The strategy outlines 7 key priorities for implementation, with timescales outlined for the work to commence.</p> <p>It outlines that children who self-harm are more at risk of dying by suicide and also children who have been bereaved by suicide.</p> <p>There needs to be more training for front line workers so they understand how to signpost people appropriately for support and need to prioritise children and young people who have been exposed to adverse life events. At the end of the first year an updated report will be produced which Paula will disseminate and share more widely</p> <p>Peter Sidebotham stated that in terms of Warwickshire in the last 5 years there has been 1 death of young person aged 16 by suicide.</p> <p>Further contributions to the strategy requested from board members.</p> <p>Any comments or feedback to paulamawson@warwickshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Paula to send an email to Board to ask if any professionals want a role in the multi-agency group</p>	<p>All Board Members Paula Mawson</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Updates from subcommittees</p>	
	<p>Special Cases – Peter Sidebotham</p> <p>Peter Sidebotham gave an update on the status of the reviews</p> <p>Beate Wagner asked if there were any other ways to extract good learning from some of these cases rather than taking them down SCR route and was concerned about the bureaucracy and the amount of resources which goes into these and is it the best way of doing things.</p> <p>The Chair said it doesn't make any difference if you call it a SCR or learning case review, the key is sharp commissioning so you are only dealing with the bits you want to deal with.</p> <p>Peter Sidebotham explained that Special Cases Subcommittee have been much more focussed around commissioning. He felt that SCRs would be changing in light of Wood review and move to national safeguarding reviews. Beate Wagner stated that most of them were serious injury so there was a degree of choice about whether SCR is the right thing to do.</p> <p>The Chair explained that the increase had come from Working Together 2015 which included the clause that you have to be certain that agencies were working well together which agencies need to demonstrate.</p> <p>The Chair stated that careful commissioning is the biggest problem and avoiding mission creep once review is underway.</p> <p>Alison Walsh suggested a small separate group comprised of CCG, Police and WCC should look at this issue, and the proportion of reviews. John Dixon thought it would be good to follow up Alison Walshe's suggestion</p> <p>Victoria Gould stated that if it is a SCR then you do need to have an independent author which gives us much less control over quality, ultimately the final decision rests with the Chair.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Systems and Procedures – work with Coventry – Sarah Harris</p> <p>Sarah informed the meeting that we are moving our core procedures to Tri-x. After having conversations with Coventry who are keen to work with us, they are renewing their Tri-x contract this year and we are able to piggy back on that with reduced fee. Tri-x are going to waiver out start-up</p>	<p>Alison Walshe to arrange meeting with key players to take forward</p>

	costs, cost is £6800 half of which will be paid by Coventry.	
8.	Updates from Partner agencies and Boards – Stephen Quinn Police – Warwickshire response to changes in bail arrangements (domestic abuse investigations)	
	<p>Stephen Quinn gave an update on new legislation for Police nationally around bail conditions which has been in place since 1st April 2017. Police can still impose bail conditions but first 28 days will be inspectorial authority all based on proportionality and necessity. 28 days to 3 months goes to rank of superintendent, 3 months and beyond will go to a magistrate.</p> <p>No major problems or issues as yet, and any questions can be directed to head of custody for West Mercia and Warwickshire.</p> <p>Will utilise the first 24 hours and try and move investigation in a quicker pace rather than just rely on the bail conditions</p>	
9.	AOB	
	None	
10	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Board 17th May 2017 at 9.30 at St Michael's Centre, Meeting Rooms and Retreat Space, Church Lane, Warwick, CV35 8QL WSCB 25th July 2017 at 2.00pm Northgate House Conference Centre, Saltisford, Warwick, CV34 4JL</p>	