



Record of Meeting

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| | NEL Safeguarding Children Partnership Assurance Executive |
| | <p>Venue: Crosland Suite, Grimsby Town Hall Date: Thursday 22 February 2024 Time: 13:30 – 15:30</p> |
| | <p>Attendees: Chris Cook – Independent Chair of NEL SCP Ann Marie Matson - Director of Children’s Services, NELC Paul French – Chief Superintendent Divisional Commander South Bank, Humberside Police Helen Davis – Place Nurse Director, North and North East Lincolnshire Places, HNY ICB Helen Willis – SCP Manager, NELC Cllr Margret Cracknell - Portfolio Holder for Children and Education Julie Poole - Head of Children’s Strategy, Vision and Evaluation, NELC Nikki Alcock - Deputy Service Director Practice, Standards and Principal Social Worker Charlene Sykes – Service Director Safeguarding, Youth Justice and Early Help Adele Harty – Strategic Lead Safeguarding Partnerships Jenny Swann – CHC Complex Case Nurse Lydia Golby – Deputy Director of Quality and Nursing, Integrated Care Board. NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)</p> <p>No apologies were given for today’s meeting.</p> |
| | Note Taker – Katelynn Wilkinson SCP Business Specialist |
| 1. | Introductions and apologies |
| | All introductions were made. |
| 2. | Minutes/Actions from Assurance Executive 17/07/2023 |
| | <p>Minutes from the previous meeting on 16/11/2023 agreed by all attendees.</p> <p>Action 33: Write a joint letter on behalf of the SCP and SAB to the Chief Executive Rob Walsh, to raise the issue of both boards being charged fees by the LA for accommodation, IT finance etc Update: Complete. The recharges are no longer shown in the budget.</p> <p>Action 34: Add finance and budgets as a standing agenda item to the SCP Assurance Executive Update: Complete</p> <p>Action 35: Provide J Spencer with detail of the LA income and expenditure in respect of safeguarding training Update: Complete</p> <p>Action 36: Send a copy of the SCP Training Strategy to the SCP Assurance Executive members Update: Complete</p> <p>Action 37: The SCP Assurance Executive to consider the learning and development training plan and to identify what further details are needed to then agree the identified resources requirements re trainers etc Update: Complete. Training arrangements are currently being rereviewed and a proposal developed.</p> |

Action 38: Provide an update from Jamie McMahon on identifying the Children’s Social Care action for the SCP 6 P Plans **Update:** This was fed back during the meeting.

Action 39: Speak to Phil Booker in respect of DCI Leanne Murthy chairing the joint CSA/ Exploitation group **Update:** Complete

Action 40: Raise issues re NAVIGO attendance at the SCP operational board, with the service **Update:** Will be addressed as part of current SCP restructure.

Action 41 Review Children’s Social Care representation at the right level for the subgroup meetings **Update:** Will be addressed as part of current SCP restructure.

Action 42: Provide a brief to Janice Spencer on the proposed use of the LA apex system to house the cordata set **Update:** The SCP dashboard is now housed in PowerBi.

3. Development Delivery Plan Update:

The SCP Assurance Executive held a development session on the 12/01/24, following the publication of Working Together 2023 to consider how best to deliver the key changes. A number of actions were agreed, and a delivery plan developed.

SCP dashboard

A Harty and L Goldby presented the draft SCP dashboard: Discussion included:

- The dashboard has been in re-development since June 2023. Work has been undertaken with the local authority who agreed the SCP could utilise PowerBi to house the dashboard
- The previous indicators identified by the subgroup chairs have been utilised which were agreed last year via the SCP Assurance Executive Group
- There is recognition that the dashboard is just the start and there is further work to be done, including broadening the indicators to include, dog bites to children and domestic abuse
- The dashboard has overarching data indicators from key partners to indicate what is happening across the partnership
- The commentary element of the dashboard is to enable narrative and analysis and exception reporting
- A workshop of the Quality Assurance Group was held in January where data leads were identified from the police and the ICB (as well as the LA) to gather the data and input this on the dataset
- There will be a template for the data leads to input their data into, which will be uploaded into PowerBi and will be reviewed bi-monthly
- There is a date and time on the dashboard homepage to ensure we know when this has been updated as this is a live document
- Elements of Children’s Service data are being further developed including the GRAFT and early help data
- It was agreed that further checks are needed to ensure all the key statutory core data is covered in the dashboard. The focus needs to be on the overarching core data first and on the indicators related to the SCP priorities and subgroup functions
- The 3 key partners need to be part of the analysis of the dashboard in translating it in to meaning for practice. The availability of the Police data has been an issue, P French confirmed the police vulnerability tracker is held in PowerBi and can be aligned to the SCP dashboard on PowerBi

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Arrange for the police vulnerability tracker to be aligned to the SCP dashboard on PowerBi | P French | 08/03/2024 |

- The Quality Assurance Group identified the need for additional resources and support with data analysis
- There is a need to ensure the data analysis of the dashboard is informed by the voice of the child and what we understand around quality of practice through the Scrutiny Assurance Framework It was agreed that data in respect children in care needs to be incorporated within the dashboard

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| A meeting to be held to agree changes needed to the core data set and analytical support requirements | H Willis | 22/03/2024 |

Delegated Safeguarding Partner proposal to Lead Safeguarding Partner

H Willis presented a paper, discussion included:

- Working Together 2023 identifies that the head of each statutory safeguarding partner agency ,Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs), need to play an active role in local safeguarding arrangements and to assure themselves that local arrangements are effective
- Delivery of multi-agency safeguarding functions and processes should be delegated to enable the LSPs to focus on their joint functions and maintain strategic oversight
- A letter has been drafted to the three statutory safeguarding partners (Chief Constable Police, Local Authority head of paid service and integrated Care Board Chief Executive), proposing the Delegated Safeguarding Leads are the Director of Childrens Services, the Place Nurse Director for the ICB and the Temporary Chief Superintendent of Humberside Police
- It Is a requirement that one of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) chair the partnership arrangements, it has been proposed that AM Matson will undertake the DSP chair role for the first annual rotation
- The letter provides accompanying guidance which sets out the role of the LSP and DSP. It is proposed there is an annual meeting between the LSPs and DSPs
- It is also proposed that a quarterly report to be provided to the LSPs to provide assurance in respect of the implementation of local arrangements to assure the 3 leads on the operational delivery SCP arrangements.
- H Davis is awaiting confirmation regarding whether the Integrated Care Board Chief Nurse will be appointed to Steven Ames or Tereasa Fenech
- There is a single ICB safeguarding committee chaired by Tereasa Fenech, who is the Chief Nurse, there will be a natural line of sight into the committee which H Davis attend

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Confirm the details of the Lead Safeguarding Partner for the Integrated Care Board | H Davis | 01/03/2024 |

The proposed letter was signed off within this meeting.

Proposed Governance Arrangements

- The need to revise the SCP governance structure was identified at the SCP development session in order to meet the requirements within Working Together 2023
- It reduces the number of strategic boards from three to one Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, with similar membership to the SCP Assurance Executive with the addition of subgroup chairs

- The new structure reduces the number of subgroups and introduces two core groups, one responsible for analysis of the dashboard, agency intelligence, and the other responsible for the delivery of the scrutiny and assurance framework and quality of practice
- The LSP function is reflected in the proposed structure
- It is proposed that the Safeguarding Practice Review group meets as required to undertake rapid reviews and practice reviews
- It is proposed that there is a safeguarding practice thematic group, which focuses on Child Sexual Abuse Group and Child Exploitation Group. The Early Help Strategic Group will remain in place
- The next steps will be to revise the terms of reference, identify the membership, review the 6 P plans and identify the correct chairs to drive the groups. There is an understanding that the Child Exploitation Group should be led by the Police.
- C Cook recommended the Tri Board meeting is reviewed to ensure it is functioning effectively, and it was confirmed it will be reviewed going forward
- N Alcock suggested that the proposed structure includes the independent scrutiny requirement
- It was noted the structure also needs to reference the School Child Protection Forum Action

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Add the independent scrutiny function and CP Coordinator forum to the new SCP governance structure | H Willis | 01/03/2024 |

Signed off within this meeting.

Independent Scrutineer Proposed Advert and Role Profile

The need to develop an advert and role profile for the independent scrutineer role was a key action coming out of the development session on the 12 January 2024.

- Working Together is very clear on what is required in respect of independent scrutiny.
- Rather than having one independent scrutiny, it is proposed that there could be a number of independent scrutineers with areas of specialism.
- The role(s) will provide independent scrutiny and evaluation for thematic assurance events
- They will have a direct interface with front line practitioners in order to have an informed perspective on practitioners' skills, knowledge and practice which enables them to fulfil their responsibilities within the local arrangements
- N Alcock advised she has looked at the role of Special Rapporteurs who are independent officer(s) which monitor human rights. The role is part of the Hertfordshire scrutiny and assurance arrangements
- AM Matson felt the Special Rapporteur principles could be adopted and applied to the front door, alongside other independent scrutiny functions, as this will support early help and globally reducing the demand for children. It was agreed that a proposal be developed to see if this is plausible, and that we could utilise the £47,300 to fund this work

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Develop a proposal to the SCP Board informed by the Hertfordshire scrutiny and assurance framework and Special Rapporteur model of independent scrutiny in respect of the Integrated Front Door | N Alcock J Poole H Willis H Davis | 15/03/2024 |

Neglect Training Needs Proposal

J. Swann presented the proposal.

- There was a recent rapid review which highlighted the risk of neglect in our area and the need for neglect awareness training to support in recognising and responding to neglect
- The recommendation is that Jane Wiffin delivers a number of basic sessions in respect of neglect including signs and symptoms and based on local learning from reviews to practitioners across the partnership by the end of April. We have a further meeting to look at costings and to fully plan the training
- Neglect has been incorporated into the TAF workshops and the learning from the recent rapid review
- J Swann will be liaising with another authority to incorporate neglect into Lite Bite Sessions
- An initial neglect briefing has been sent to partner agencies and will be followed by regular briefings
- There is a proposal we hold a conference on neglect. Hull SCP recently held a conference on neglect and worked alongside Hull University where there was a focus on professional curiosity and the voice of the child
- Discussions have been held with the NSPC,C and Lisa Smith has spoken about national campaigns in other areas which have had a positive approach to neglect which we could learn from
- We had previously championed the GCP2 tool, though this hasn't really been a focus in NEL and it had been mooted that it may be appropriate to utilise or develop another tool. However, it was acknowledged that GCP2 is an evidence based, peer reviewed and psychologically tested tool, which would be difficult to replicate
- It was mooted that we are proposing to re-establish the GCP2 tool, in the context of a wider toolkit. We have looked at Middlesborough neglect toolkit, as they have incorporated the GCP2 and wider information and resources, which have been influenced by Jane Wiffin's report. We have drafted a screening tool based on six key questions developed by Jane Wiffin, which we would like alongside the GCP2 and potentially a workbook
- The GCP2 has lifetime licencing with NEL, the costing for trainers of 25 trainers is £5.000.
- Going forward neglect training will be part of SCP training and education programme.
- Relaunching the GCP2 needs to be done as a partnership and with a high level of ambition.
- GCP2 is accredited nationally, which helps to identify where to focus on the family and looking and the main caused early on
- P French would like the Police staff to be part of receiving the neglect training
- The plan for the use of the GCP2 needs to be aligned to and part of the Early Help Strategy

AM Matson advised that the tool cannot be launched or used in a way which it is perceived as a referral as we cannot create more demand and need in the Children's Social Worker system, it must be whoever is in that moment to identify the need to act within that moment.

- H Willis advised there are currently 5 people trained on the GCP2 which we can build on this for the future
- Jane Wiffin will need to be made clear on the contract requirements in respect of training delivering and timescales/ deadlines
- On the 6 March there is a meeting to review the draft neglect toolkit
- The timeline for the completion of the delivery of the neglect training if the end of timeline agreed the Last week in April 2024

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Develop and add local recommendations to the neglect thematic report by Jane Wiffin | J Swann H Willis N Alcock J Poole | 08/03/2024 |

All attendees have agreed to take forward the GCP2 within NEL.

Neglect Review Findings

J Swann presented the key findings from the Jane Wiffin local thematic neglect review:

- Jane Wiffin was commissioned to undertake a review of local cases which had been subject to a rapid review or line of sight review where neglect was a feature, with the aim of identifying key themes for practice. The review featured eleven families
- Jane Wiffin’s report emphasises that neglect is a relationship issue. Neglect was often described as a ‘thing’ that existed outside of parental relationships or children’s needs
- In over half the cases there were concerns about children’s health needs not being met or that they were not brought to necessary health appointments. The impact on the individual children was not assessed or understood
- The use of the Graded Care Profile seen as a task, it was only used in two of the cases and did not make an impact and did not lead to an analysis of concerns or of understanding of the child’s circumstances
- Across the 11 cases there was a lack of attention paid to why children were being neglected by their parents and therefore what interventions were needed. There was little discussion of the “why” parents neglect their children despite knowledge of parental vulnerabilities and factors that were likely to have an impact on parenting
- Jane Wiffin highlighted that children who have experienced neglect are five times likely to be subjected to sexual abuse
- Compensatory care by agencies was identified as an issue within several of the cases.
- Families need to be made aware of what the expectations are of them from agencies
- Where there were large families, the needs of the children were not explored or understood individually
- C Cook advised there was an action from the Continuous Improvement Board to share the report will with Anthony Douglas.

Attendees agreed to sign off the report. H Davis asked why there were no recommendations from this report

- H Willis advised it was suggested that a set of questions be developed which would help the SCP Assurance Executive in terms of taking the findings forward
- AM Matson suggested we draw out suggested recommendations based on the findings that Jane Wiffin could incorporate into her report
- P French advised the challenges and recommendations from the report could inform the work of the subgroups within the revised Governance structure

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Share the Jane Wiffin neglect thematic report with Anthony Douglas when the recommendations have been added | J Swann H Willis | 08/03/2024 |

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Anonymise the Jane Wiffin neglect thematic report removing children’s names. | K Wilkinson H Willis | 08/03/2024 |

5. Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings Government response 2023

N Alcock provided a summary:

- This agenda item is in relation to the National Practice Review Panel review based on the abuse and neglect experienced by children in three residential settings run by the Hesley Group in Doncaster
- The government have now responded to the review. The national panel made 9 recommendations, of which the government have only accepted 2 (as follows), the other 7 were accepted in principle.
 - Recommendation 1 – The aim is that children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings should have access to independently commissioned specialist advocacy. There has been a national consultation looking at statutory guidance for advocacy which considers non instructed advocacy from advocates with specialist training to actively safeguard the children and respond to their communication and other needs
 - Recommendation 2 – Feeds into the pathfinder work being completed on stable homes built taking into consideration specific needs of the children. Local and sub-regional initiatives to improve the quality and range of provision in the community and in schools for children with disabilities and complex health needs should be priorities for inclusion in the government’s pathfinder programmes in children’s social care and SEND
- A cross ministerial letter was issued in December 2023 alongside the report asking safeguarding partners to consider the effectiveness of their arrangements in relation to children with disabilities and complex care needs living in residential settings
- There is a list of expectations for Safeguarding Partners to consider, including the duties that Integrated Care Board and Local Authorities have to work together to commission the right care and education support for disabled children in need, how Safeguarding Partners work together when a residential placement is being considered and how we assure ourselves that the provision of commission for disabled children is good quality
- N Alcock proposed that a task and finish group is established consisting of key leads, for the purpose of assessing the local position against the recommendations and responding to the letter with action needed

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| A task and finish group to be established to assess the local position against the recommendations from the Government response to the second part of the Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential setting report. Once the report is complete then consider what further work and actions are required | N Alcock H Willis | 22/03/2024 |

6. Consideration of Strategic Management Group Action

Line of Sight for Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs living in residential settings

There was an action form the Strategic Management Group in November 2023, to consider undertaking a line-of-sight review in respect of children with disabilities and complex health needs living away from home. This related to the findings from a local line of sight review where a young person had experienced developmental trauma due to their experiences.

- It was agreed work regarding responding to the Government response to the findings of stage two of National Panel review is respect of children with disabilities and complex care needs came first. Following this we can then then consider if we need a wider piece of work

7. Finance and budgets, including 47K plan.

H Willis summarised the finance report, and discussion included:

- A decision was made by the SCP Assurance Executive that the Local Authority recharges for the SCP Team should no longer be shown within the budget which has been removed
- The ear marked reserves currently sits at £17,914 and is projected to sit at £20,903 at the end of the financial year as £2,989 is projected to be left over
- The £26,000 allocated to the independent chair role will be used for independent scrutiny going forward
- From April 2024 the Business Support Specialist role will now sit in a separate budget. This will now not show in the budget also
- Following the SCP development session, the Integrated Care Board agreed in principle to an increase to the SCP budget and agreed to explore this in more detail
- C Cook queried the spend on the independent scrutiny code. It was confirmed the amount also included the cost of the work undertaken by Jane Wiffin in addition to spend on the SCP chair role.

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Further work to be undertaken on the proposal how to use the £47,300 aligned to the Special Rapporteur model | H Willis J Poole | 08/03/2024 |

8. Childrens Social Care National Framework Summary

H.Willis provided a summary, as follows:

- The Childrens Social Care National Framework was published just before Christmas and brings together the purpose of the Local Authority Children’s Social Care, which is to support children, young people families by protecting them by intervening when they’re at risk and provide care
- In addition, it provides the principles by which of children, young people families should be supported
- There are three enablers that should be put in place so that the system is effective
- There are four outcomes that should be achieved so that children can grow up to thrive
- It was agreed that a partnership newsletter / briefing be developed and sent out in respect of the key changes to Working Together 2023 and the National Framework and required practice standards and principles

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Send a partnership newsletter/ briefing out in respect of the key changes to Working Together 2023 and the CSC National Framework and required practice standards and principles | H Willis J Poole | 08/03/2024 |

- The expectation is that we embed the principles, within the national framework and the enablers, particularly the one in respect of “multi-agency working being prioritised and effective”
- Discussion in respect of the need for partnership round table event(s) on Working Together and the National Framework and to launch the threshold model when revised

| Action | Lead | Deadline |
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| Round table partnership event(s) to be organised to launch the revised threshold model and to embed the principles of Working Together 2023 and the CSC national care framework | N Alcock J Poole H Willis | 19/04/2024 |

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| 9. | Any other business |
| | C Cook felt the proposals for the revised SCP framework was fantastic, and he wished all attendees good luck with the future as this was his last board as the independent chair. AM Matson reflected that C Cook for had done a great job in creating a calm and stable steer in his role as chair and thanked him for his support and guidance. |
| <u>Next meeting of the SCP Executive</u> | |
| Current date as follows, though this is subject to change in lieu of the changing governance arrangements | |
| Date: Friday 17 May 2024 | |
| Time: 10.00 – 12.00 | |
| Venue: Crosland Suite, Grimsby Town Hall | |