

**MINUTE**

***Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland***

***14 June 2013 13:30, Assembly Buildings, Spires Centre***

**MINUTE - RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title &amp; Organisation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apology</b>
Hugh Connor	Chair Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland	✓	
Neil Anderson	National Head of Service for N. Ireland NSPCC	✓	
Ashley Boreland	Chief Executive Ards Borough Council		✓
Dr John Devaney	CMR Panel Chair	✓	
Paul Douglas	Lay Member	✓	
Kieran Downey	Executive Director WHSCT	✓	
Dr Brian Dunn	Clinical Lead for East Antrim Primary Care		✓
ACC George Hamilton	Assistant Chief Constable PSNI		✓
Liam Hannaway	Chief Executive Banbridge District Council	✓	
Dr Carolyn Harper	Director of Public Health		✓
Pat Cullen	Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professions		✓
Paula Jack	Chief Executive Youth Justice Agency	✓	
Paddy Kelly	Director Children's Law Centre	✓	
Pauline Leeson	Chief Executive Children in N. Ireland	✓	
Dr Clare Mangan	Chief Executive BELB	✓	
James Marshall	Lay Member	✓	
Fionnuala McAndrew	Director of Social Care and Children HSCB	✓	
Brian McCaughey	Director PBNI		✓
Carmel McKinney	Lay Member		✓
Paul Morgan	Dir. Children & Young People's Services SHSCT	✓	
Max Murray	Northern Ireland Prison Service		✓
Dawn Shaw	Operational Director Action for Children NI	✓	
Ian Sutherland	Director of Children's Services SEHSCT		✓
Marie Roulston	Director of Children's Services NHSCT		✓
Una Turbitt	Safeguarding Nurse Consultant PHA	✓	
Lynda Wilson	Director Barnardo's NI	✓	
Cecil Worthington	Director of Child Care BHSCCT		✓
Koulla Yiasouma	Director Include Youth	✓	
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Sharon Beattie	Director of Operations SBNI		
Margaret Burke	Professional Officer SBNI		
Stefan Curran	Minute Taker		
Dr Bridie Pilkington	Independent Safeguarding Panel Chair		
John Toner	Independent Safeguarding Panel Chair		

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### Summary of Actions

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### **I. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair thanked all for attending and welcomed Mr Colin Reid from the NSPCC.

Apologies were noted.

The Chair informed the Board that as Dr Brian Dunn's term at the NIGPC had ended he is no longer a member of the Board. Additionally, ACC Hamilton has moved to Rural District and therefore no longer a member likewise for Mary Hinds who has moved to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. Ms Pat Cullen will take her place.

The Chair thanked the three members stating Mary Hinds was of real support to him as Chair and that ACC Hamilton had made real efforts to attend the Board despite a competing agenda and that Dr Dunn introduced the Board to many important individuals.

### **II. Minutes**

The Chair asked for any amendments of which there were none.

### **III. Matters arising**

A written update on Matters Arising had been included in the papers. The Chair asked for comments, Ms Yiasouma wished to raise an issue. The Chair was already aware of this and stated that Ms Yiasouma would be given an opportunity to address this in item three.

### **IV. Declarations of interest**

The Chair asked for any possible declarations of interest, of which there were none.

### **V. Complaints**

The Chair confirmed there were no complaints.

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### **VI. Chairman's Business**

#### **a) CDOP Update**

The Chair informed the Board that work was being undertaken with the PHA for data collection in order for the PHA, under NIMACH, to include deaths of children under the age of one. The Chair confirmed that this had been discussed with the Department who will bring forward the regulations for the Child Death Overview Panel in 2014.

#### **b) CMR Team Recruitment**

The Chair updated the Board on this item within the confidential section.

The Chair informed the Board that the selection process for the CMR Team Chairs had finished and that he was very pleased with the calibre of candidates who would receive training beginning 17th June 2013. Those selected as CMR Team Chairs are, Lynne Peyton, Ken Wilson, Ronnie Williamson, Noel Rooney, Bill Lockhart, Alister Wallace and Andy Thompson.

#### **c) Professional Officer recruitment**

The Chair informed the Board that another post of Professional Officer had closed at noon and the interviews would take place in July.

### **1. NSPCC Four Nation Conference**

The Chair highlighted the NSPCC's report 'How Safe Are Our Children?' and asked Mr Reid to the meeting to present the report.

The Chair introduced Mr Colin Reid from the NSPCC.

Mr Reid gave a presentation to the Board on the NSPCC Report including a three minute video.

The Chair thanked Mr Reid and informed the Board that he was keen for the Report to be shared with them to highlight how information was gathered and used. The Chair and Ms McAndrew have had a conversation on how to link in on this.

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The Chair opened the floor to comment.

Mr Marshall stated that it was a complex picture and that he found it particularly interesting that physical abuse was on the increase.

Ms Turbitt welcomed the reports emphasis on prevention.

Mr Downey commented that he found the information on suicides disturbing, particularly that Northern Ireland was the only region that had shown an increase which was of concern. The SBNI would need to consider this disproportionate increase. Mr Douglas highlighted the positive news on homicides and mortality.

The Chair underlined that the Northern Ireland system appeared to be working harder (ie assessing more children) and that all regions were in overdrive. The Chair introduced a wider issue of how the SBNI should set about establishing performance data.

Ms Kelly emphasised a perennial problem with the difficulties of collecting data from different agencies as they collect information in different ways. Mr Reid agreed that data was gathered in different ways and stressed there were particular weaknesses with high risk cases such as children with disabilities. However, he stated that there were ways to draw inferences.

Ms McAndrew stated a benefit for the Board was the ability to gather data from the agencies of the Board. The Chair agreed and informed the Board that it was likely there would be funding made available which could be put to use for this purpose. The Chair emphasised that the key issue would be the ability to present the picture on a multi-agency basis to the public.

The Chair asked for Board members to forward any ideas for funding.

Ms Jack left the room.

Mr Reid suggested investing in in a good data analyst. The Chair thanked Mr Reid.

## **2. Section 12 Duties**

Ms Burke introduced the item and opened the floor for comment.

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The Chair welcomed comment from Dr Mangan and Mr Hannaway stating that work was being done with the virtual college on a self-audit tool.

Dr Mangan stated that she would check what currently existed in the 5 Education & Library Boards in relation to reporting mechanisms on safeguarding.

**Action 1:**

Dr Mangan to report on reporting mechanisms within the 5 Education and Library Boards.

**Action By: Dr Clare Mangan**

Ms Yiasouma left the room.

The Chair stated that it would be important to encapsulate what Member Agencies were currently capturing and that there was a target to bring a self-audit tool to the next meeting. Mr Morgan stressed that there would need to be a clear steer on what was being asked. The Chair agreed.

Ms Yiasouma returned to the meeting.

Mr Hannaway emphasised that while there would not be a council that does not have child protection processes there was much more to the work of a council and there would be limitations to their resources even from one council to another. However, Mr Hannaway stated it would be useful to have a template to present to the different offices. The Chair agreed.

Ms Jack returned to the meeting.

Ms Yiasouma highlighted that police and community safety partnerships would have significant interaction with children and queried if they would form part of the Section 12 audit.

Ms Leeson emphasised that RCPC had developed a self-audit tool which SBNI confirmed they had received.

The Chair informed the Board that the intention was to build a system and a process for the audit areas that most organisations had in place. The Chair

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suggested that Dr Mangan and Mr Hannaway may want to invite him for further discussion on this matter.

The Chair proposed an item for the next meeting to present an audit based on the tool RCPC developed.

### **Action 2:**

Draft Self Audit Tool to be brought to next meeting (item for next meeting)

**Action By: Stefan Curran/ Director of Operations**

Ms McAndrew asked if Section 12 audit applied to all community and voluntary agencies that Member Agencies contracted with or just those on the Board. . The Chair stated that it would only apply to Board members but he would clarify with the Department. Ms Shaw stated that her organisation already had evidenced the eight criteria to make them eligible to sit on the Board and this could be utilised. Ms Kelly agreed with Ms Shaw that there was a need to perform an audit but that it would not apply to voluntary members on the Board.

Dr Mangan left the room.

The Chair reiterated that he would confirm with the Department.

### **Action 3:**

Chair to clarify how the Section 12 duties apply to voluntary and community groups on the Board and those which Statutory organisations contract with

**Action By: The Chair**

### **3. Business Plan**

The Chair stated that the Strategic Plan was to be finalised in September and would cover from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2013 to 31<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Ms Beattie informed the Board of changes that had been made. The objective on Information Sharing would be amended as the Department were taking this forward following the Judicial Review on 3/96. The Department were also to

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review the SBNI guidance on thresholds as it conflicts with the Children's Improvement Board objectives. Ms Beattie opened the room for discussion.

Ms Yiasouma stated the Strategic Priority on children and young people who were sexual and /or violent offenders had been dropped from the Strategic Plan and expressed her concern. Ms McAndrew stated that there was an intention when RCPC was in existence to take forward recommendations in relation to this group of young people.

Mr Anderson put forward a concern that if the consultation suggested that additional priorities were identified there could be a problem in work load. Ms Yiasouma added that his point was well made but that there is a need for a robust case on why something was not going to be included.

Dr Mangan returned to the meeting.

The Chair stated that the Strategic Plan consultative process would undoubtedly raise some issues which the Board would need to discuss. If new priorities had to be included then others would need to be removed.

Ms Yiasouma expressed that she had campaigned for a strategic framework for this category of children and raised an issue on whether the Board should finish the work that the RCPC started. Ms Yiasouma felt that this could not be delivered through other means such as the Regional CAMHS Child Forensic Service. Mr Morgan concurred with her point. Ms McAndrew agreed to discuss this matter with her staff and find out the position on the RCPC Commissioned Report and who had been identified to take forward the recommendations.

### **Action 4:**

Ms McAndrew to provide briefing paper/background information as to outstanding recommendations from RCPC particularly focused on those children who sexual and violent offenders

**Action By: Fionnuala McAndrew**

Ms McAndrew also expressed concern with the delay in the publication of information sharing protocols and that it was important to receive a timescale from the Department.

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### **Action 5:**

Information Sharing protocols – Chair to confirm Departmental timescales

**Action By: Chair**

Ms Beattie highlighted that the Panels and Committees were developing their work plans from the draft Business Plan. Mr Toner stated that there were on-going workshops within the Panels for this purpose. Ms Pilkington added that the plans are reflecting local differences.

Ms McAndrew left the room.

The Chair thanked Ms Beattie for the work she had put into the development of the Plans.

Ms McAndrew returned to the meeting.

#### **4. CMR Protocol**

Dr Devaney introduced the item and went through the process.

Mr Hannaway and Dr Mangan left the room.

The Chair drew attention to the proposal that those agencies not directly involved in the CMR should hand the report back to the Board and welcomed discussion on this.

Mr Marshall queried when the Board members would receive the Report and what would happen if issues were raised. The Chair stated the Report would be sent out a week before the meeting, highlighted its learning function and that the Report had already been through a rigorous process and the Board would collectively need to sign off on the Report.

Ms Leeson left the meeting.

Dr Devaney confirmed that Reports were approved by the relevant agencies in relation to accuracy checks and were then quality assured by the CMR Panel to ensure that it was fit for purpose and that it had met the terms of reference.

Ms Leeson returned to the meeting.

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The Chair highlighted a need for the system, as a whole, to approve the recommendations in the Report and that it may not always happen in one meeting. Ms McAndrew queried what would happen if the report was not approved by the Board. The Chair stated he would get advice from other Local Safeguarding Children Board's on their process.

### **Action 6:**

Chair to ask advice from other Safeguarding Boards as to their processes when a Serious Case Review is not approved by their Board

**Action By: Chair**

The Chair asked if the Board were content with the CMR protocol to which there was unanimous agreement.

## **5. E-Safety**

Ms Beattie highlighted that there were two new and emerging issues for the Board, Child Sexual Exploitation and E-Safety. There was a lot of work being undertaken by many agencies on e-safety but there was little evaluation. Ms Beattie opened the floor for discussion from the Board as to how to take this forward.

Ms Yiasouma queried whether the work on E-Safety commissioned by the SBNI was from NCB or the Anti-Bullying Forum. Ms Beattie answered that it was the Anti-Bullying Forum. With a further query Ms Yiasouma asked about the procurement requirements to which Ms Beattie confirmed that the amount was below £5000 and therefore required no procurement requirements.

The Chair stated that there had been meetings with OFMDFM at which the first suggestion was to gather information on what is currently being done to discover a baseline. The Chair informed the Board that a mechanism had been found to gather this information in the form of the Anti-Bullying Forum.

Mr Downey expressed that the way in which children are engaged on this issue would be of particular importance. Ms Beattie stressed the need to involve children as it was important to understand their language. Ms Burke added that a link with NCB existed with the Engagement and Communication Committee where there was the opportunity to liaise with children and young people directly. Ms Leeson added that CEOP had also done a lot of work with regard to apps but another element would be to educate the parents.

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Ms Beattie explained that work had been done with the ETI on how they could include e-safety as part of their safeguarding inspections.

### 6. Any Other Business

The Chair asked if there was any other business of which there was none.

The Chair brought the meeting to a close.

Signed by Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_