

Devon Safeguarding Children Board

Chairman: A J Wooderson

Development Workshop Minutes 11th March 2011

Exeter Racecourse
Kennford



Attendees:

Alan Wooderson	Independent Chair	Devon Safeguarding Children Board
John Davey	Director of service delivery	Careers South West Ltd
Helen Nicholls	Headteacher of South Brent Primary School	DAPH (Devon Association Primary Headteachers)
John Clements	Detective Superintendent	Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
Jim Wood	Area Manager for Exeter, East & Mid Devon	Devon County Council Youth Offending Team
Anne Whiteley	Director of Children and Young People's Services	Devon County Council Children and Young People's Service
Jennie Stephens	Director of Adult and Community Services	Devon County Council
Rory McCallum	Director of Early Years and Families	Devon County Council Children and Young People's Service
Judith Johnson	Director for Learning and Schools	Devon County Council Children & Young People's Services
Chris Dimmelow	Head of Safeguarding	Devon County Council Children and Young People's Service / Devon Safeguarding Children Board

Liz Davenport	Director Operations	Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Julie Mitchell	Performance Improvement and Quality Assurance Lead Officer	Devon Safeguarding Children Board
Jennie Hamilton	In attendance for Sarah O'Shea	Further Education
Kate Gurney (Dr)	General Practitioner	Local Medical Committee
Stephen Richardson (Dr)	Named Doctor NHS Devon	NHS Devon
Carolyn Mills	Director of Nursing	North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Geoff Gurney	Service Manager	NSPCC
Em Wilkinson-Brice	Director of Nursing and Patient Care	Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital Foundation Trust
Michele Thornberry	Nurse Consultant Safeguarding Children	Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital Foundation Trust
Jacqui Warne	Head Teacher Ellen Tinkham School	SHAD (Special Head teacher Association Devon) Vice Chair
Heather Parker	In attendance for Liz Childs	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Mark Goodman	Manager	Voluntary Youth Services

Apologies:

Vicki Heywood	Service Manager	CAFCASS
Brenda Bartlett	Assistant Director Children s Services	Children and Young People's Services
Charlotte Coker	Assistant Chief Officer Local Delivery Unit	Devon and Cornwall Probation Trust
Andrea Davis	Lead Member and Councillor	Devon County Council
Sarah O'Shea	Head of Student Service, Exeter College	Further Education
David Fitzsimmons	DASH Representatives / Principal	Holsworthy Community College
Kevin Finan	Director of Communities	Mid Devon District Council
Helen Hyland	Designated Nurse Child Protection	NHS Devon
Alison Allen	Named Nurse Safeguarding	NHS Devon
Charles Holme	Designated Doctor Child Protection Devon	NHS Devon
Virginia Pearson (Dr)	Director of Public Health and Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team Chair	NHS Devon / Devon County Council
Mandy Cox	Programme Lead CYP	NHS South West Strategic Health Authority
Liz Childs	Director of Nursing	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

DSCB Development Workshop

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Agenda Item 1	The Effectiveness of the DSCB 2010/11 - A report on a self evaluation	Presenter Julie Mitchell
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>It was agreed at the December 2010 meeting that the DSCB self evaluation exercise first undertaken in December 2009 would be repeated and members therefore completed the DCSF LSCB Challenge and Improvement Self Assessment Tool. This tool is designed to assist LSCBs in understanding the collective view of their governance effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>24 members completed the self assessment and the results identified areas that required focused improvement activity. The tool contains 7 discreet governance Principles with a number of effectiveness statements. Members were asked to rate each effectiveness statement using the scale of 1 – 6, where 1 indicates 'strongly agree' and 6 indicates 'strongly disagree'. All responses have been grouped according to the type of response and each statement was separately analysed, comparing the current average score against the score achieved in 2010. Similarly each Principle was assessed for improvement since 2010 and the final statements which cause the highest level of disagreement have been identified as they will require focused work for improvement.</p> <p>The Board noted the significant overall improvement of the DSCB governance and the Board's progress in some key areas. The areas of weaker performance are similar to last year's. It was noted that due to membership changes there were a number of questions which were answered as 'don't know' and it is therefore proposed that a DSCB member induction pack is devised to ensure all new members have basic information available and are able to access support by using the DSCB Website. Also the Chair will continue with individual introductory meetings with all new members.</p> <p>Following the findings of the self evaluation the Board were asked to consider the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board notes the overall improvement in governance. • The Board agrees the key areas for improvement for the next 12 months should be prioritised in the DSCB Business Plan. • The DSCB agrees a further self assessment exercise to be carried out and reported on by March 2012. 	
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>The Board agreed to take forward the following seven areas for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the effectiveness of the DSCB engagement with children and families including receiving reliable information (2.10) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSCB to compare its performance with other LSCBs (5.10) • Develop the DSCB communications strategy to ensure engagement with key stakeholders (6.5) • The DSCB to develop its practice in engaging effectively with children and families and key partners (6.3) • Ensure sufficient financial resources are in place to carry out the DSCB functions (5.7) • Improve the effectiveness and quality of the DSCB planning processes (6.6) • Improve the DSCB confidence in complaints systems between all partners (6.7) 	
Action Point	Action Owner	Deadline
Ensure inclusion of improvement targets in the DSCB Business Plan.	Alan Wooderson / Julie Mitchell	
Ensure self evaluation exercise is repeated in December 2011.	Julie Mitchell	By December 2011-03-29

Agenda Item 2	Environmental Scanning - Each 'sector' to provide the DSCB with a brief analysis of the implications of government policy and local implementation of these alongside budget reductions, concentrating on the practical implications for partnership delivery of the safeguarding children agenda and the structure of DSCB beyond 2011/12	Presenters All
Discussion	<p>This item allowed briefing of the DSCB by each of the 'sectors' (e.g. health community) of how government policy is affecting their roles responsibilities and structures and how combined with stringent budget constraints this will impact in Devon on the children's safeguarding system .A full information pack containing detailed information was available at the meeting and what follows is a high level précis only.</p> <p>Children & Young People Services (CYPS) DCC Anne Whiteley (AEW) briefed the Board in respect of changes nationally, the budget cuts and the impact to the CYPS in respect of safeguarding. The national policy has shifted towards focussing on the more vulnerable, supporting early intervention and prevention which is evidence based (potential links to payment by results). Further changes are also anticipated following the final Munro Review report into child protection and the Green Paper on Special Educational Needs just published.</p> <p>The Board noted the recent in year (2010/11) major reductions to the Area Based Grant funding to Devon (24%), the Council's required savings overall of £54M in 2011/12 and CYPS element of these reductions, following a strategic service prioritisation programme. It was noted that the freedom and flexibility of the Early Intervention and Prevention grant will allow services to target early intervention and a strategy to support this approach focussing on CAF, Team Around Child (TAC) and integrated working has been developed.</p> <p>All front line social work investment has been protected with some increases in business support and with the introduction of Advanced Practitioner posts, and £6M has been added to support Children in Care.</p>	

The impact of budget cuts on the CYPS budget from DCC for 2011/12 is £16.9M and includes a reduction in strategic and management capacity across the service, closure of the posts supporting the AXS programme, and the likelihood of increasing fragmentation in services as the emphasis shifts from universal provision to targeting the more vulnerable with inevitable geographical variations dependant in needs. DSCB were provided with main areas of cuts for 2011/12. Despite the grim budget position DCC has agreed an increase of 3% in its contribution to the DSCB and additionally a cash increase of £70k.

Education and Learning (including FE and Post 16 and Careers South West)

Judith Johnson (JJ), John Davey (JD), Jacqui Warne (JW) and Helen Nichols (HN) jointly presented a briefing to the Board on the implications to the education and learning sector of a changing national policy scene, how this is impacting on DCC Learning & Schools (DCC) and finally the FE and post 16 landscape including changes to Connexions/Careers .A further briefing on the implications of the recently published on Special Educational Needs was also given.

JJ outlined the major changes nationally and detailed the challenges to children's safeguarding which result .Within DCC this is resulting in a high number of service restructurings and 21 programmes of divestment .The CYPS Directorate is to be part of a new strategic 'people directorate 'and this will lead to inevitable structural and staff changes as well as a likely different focus.

There will be a mixed economy of schools across Devon (Academy, Federation, Free, Maintained, Independent and Private). This potentially will impact on safeguarding as this will fragment current systems and arrangements and will challenge developments such as MASH, MARACs and the investment in frontline staff development and training around safeguarding. Risks flagged included potential short-term transition gaps whilst services are reconfigured within the r 'People' portfolio.

There is to be a revised Ofsted inspection regime.

Within schools there are concerns that there will be rises in referrals, and CAF activity at the same time as reductions in training, quality assurance and prevention activity within schools and community settings.

In the FE & Post-16 sector there are major funding changes and changes to curriculum entitlement particularly around personal tutorial support which is to be massively cut and will mean reductions in support for those identified as vulnerable

Connexions/Careers South West are facing being funded at a much lower level at the same time as becoming an 'all age' careers service .Funding through the Early Intervention Grant will be focussed on those with acknowledged vulnerabilities. Work in schools will be funded by the schools with no additional funding It is unlikely that additional activities funded by the customer will be purchased by the vulnerable .Up until now Connexions has been able to provide universal careers advice and universal tracking which has safeguarded all young people. There is a worry that schools and customers will not wish to pay for advice and thus there may be an increase in disaffected young people who disengage.

Special Schools & SEN provision will be subject to reform if the currently published government Green Paper on Special Educational Need is implemented. The consultation ends on 30th June 2011.The Local Authority and the Health services are key in delivering the envisaged changes with a new assessment system, personal budgets and a 0-25 years SEND plan proposed. This has the potential to radically reshape the landscape and will require new monitoring and commissioning, joint strategic working protocols and a strengthening of the relationship between Governing bodies and the DSCB.

Health

Virginia Pearson (VP) presented the planned changes to the Health sector with a 'health warning' that there were still many changes that need finalising and could be subject to alteration. Diagram 1 is a pictorial representation of the current 'health system' and the proposed future 'health system'

VP explained how it is envisaged the new system will work, the importance of new GP Commissioning Consortia, and the role of the new national Commissioning Board. The possible safeguarding 'risks' within this new structure were outlined. During the next period of transition the current 4 PCTs covering the peninsula are to be amalgamated into 2, covering Devon Torbay and Plymouth, and Cornwall. This will lead on to changes in structures, roles and responsibilities. Incremental changes which will take place from April 2011 – 2013. The future arrangements for Public Health are within local authorities and local authorities are required to establish Health and Well Being Boards to provide the governance oversight of needs assessment and health improvement to the population.

The rapidly changing health landscape requires the DSCB to put efforts into creating relationships with new health structures and individuals, at the same time as being able to seek assurance about the new arrangements prioritising children's safeguarding.

The 2 diagrams are located at the end of this documentation.

Criminal Justice

John Clements (JC) and Jim Wood (JW) outlined the impact to this sector and Charlotte Coker provided a written briefing paper in her absence specifically about Probation services

Devon and Cornwall Police

The key impacts outlined for the force included a 20% budget cut from 2011 – 2015, an incremental loss of approximately 700 Police Officers and 500 Police Staff Members, reduced cash budgets, a loss of Senior Management, and a change in the Force's operating style.

The Board were also advised of the potential changes as a result of the new government inspired role of Police and Crime Commissioner from 2012. There will be the closure of some police stations and other facilities and a growth in commissioning services that were previously seen as only being provided by directly employed staff. There will be a maintenance of the priority and importance on public protection and safeguarding with some growth in the number of officers concentrating on this.

The Youth Offending Service are losing 25% of its budget which is targeted at prevention and a further 12.5% reduction in the agreed pooled budget as all partners are reducing contributions. This amounts to a total loss of £450k with obvious implications on capacity and reduced ability to respond. However there are real opportunities as a result of the merging of YOS within CYPS and the People Directorate of DCC to create higher levels of integration with the Youth Services and others.

Devon and Cornwall Probation Trust are facing similar budget reductions to others with cuts to staffing numbers (12.6FTE leaving a complement of 84.4 FTE for North and East Devon). Strategically there is a commitment to implementing new integrated offender management teams with partners particularly the police and this will fundamentally change the way the service operates. The new community based IOM model for lower risk cases will comprise of partners from the voluntary sector. It is likely that there will be a reduction in the number and level of accredited interventions. As with the Police the Probation Trust are prioritising public protection and safeguarding.

	<p>The sector overviews provided invaluable information as to the level of reductions, the structural changes already underway and the ‘dislocation’ that is likely to current accepted working arrangements. It also highlighted the likely loss of experienced and knowledgeable staff from all sectors. The ‘protection’ of safeguarding as a priority in such circumstances is welcome but there is inevitably going to be fundamental changes to how partners operate together and to how services are commissioned and provided.</p>
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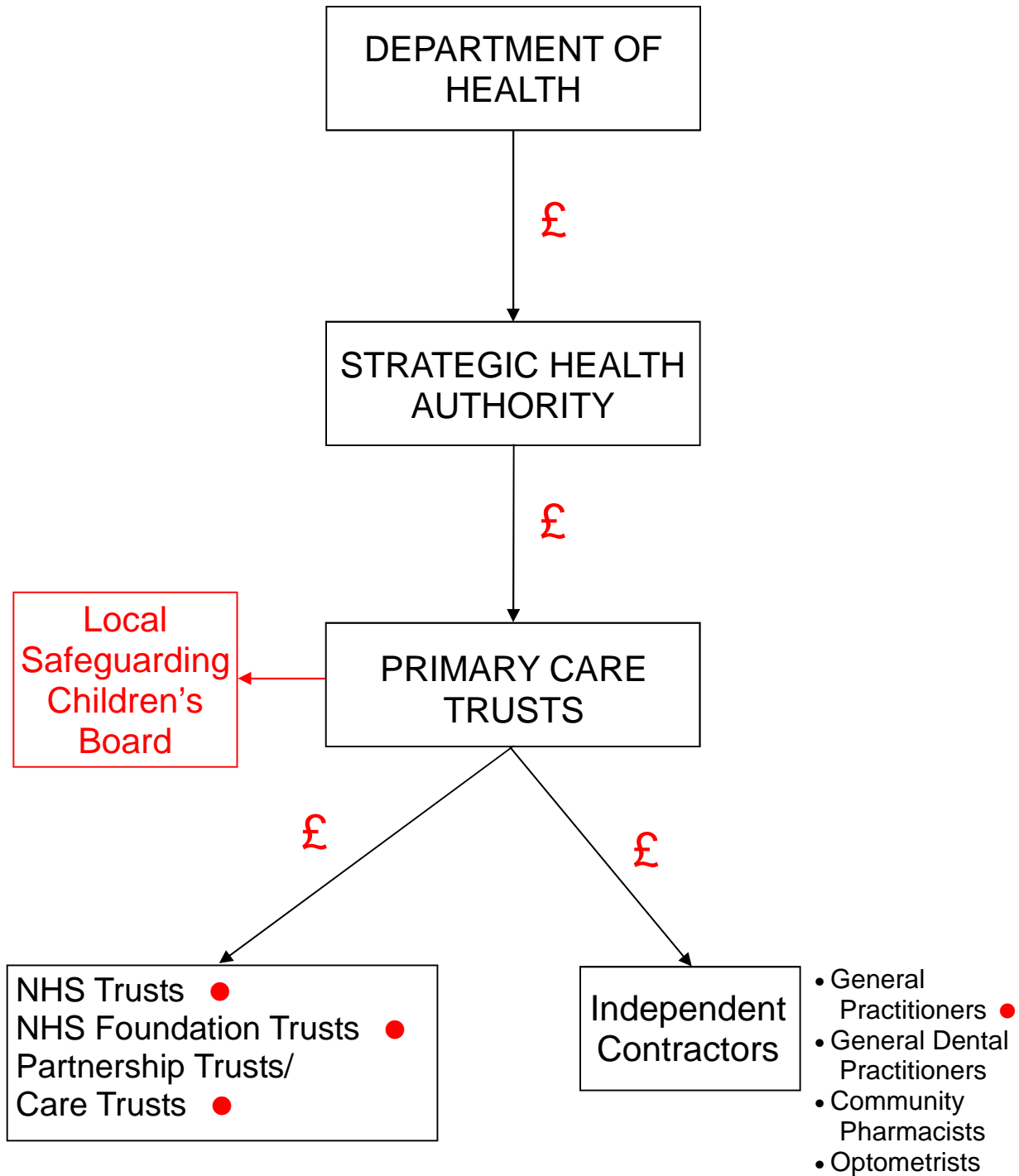
Agenda Item 3	Implications of the Munro Review on the role and structure of the DSCB (Discussion)	Presenters All
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Following on from the sector lead presentations The DSCB discussed the implications of the budget and organisational changes, the self evaluation, and the progress on MACA The potential changes signalled in Munro’s interim report give the Board some clarity that the models of MASH and integrated early intervention are very much in line with national thinking.</p> <p>It is clear that there will be structural and personnel changes required at the DSCB and Executive as changes occur within individual partners. Early establishment of working relationships with new critical partners such as GP Consortia and new arrangements for schools will mean that the DSCB needs to be alert to the pace of changes rather than reacting ‘after the event’. Given the complexity of changes across all partners and the differing timescales it was felt important to establish a ‘road map’/timeline for the next 18 months so that there was awareness of the changes and so that some implications could be anticipated by the DSCB.</p> <p>The Board debated whether the implications of the changes meant that there needed to be a different ‘operating model’ for the DSCB. The consensus was reached that at a time of such uncertainty that the current DSCB, Executive, and sub group structures should remain as a sense of continuity within children’s safeguarding was paramount. However within 12 months this debate needs revisiting especially in the light of the development of Health and Wellbeing Boards.</p> <p>However It was acknowledged that a greater concentration on task and finish activity was required with more emphasis within the Executive and sub group activity on speedily implementing changes and the DSCB Business Plan priorities.</p> <p>Also it was identified that there are real opportunities to further develop joint work across the peninsula with the other LSCBs and across adult and children’s safeguarding activity. There is potential for instance to merging some sub group activity between the DSCB and the Adult Safeguarding Board thus providing vertical as well as horizontal synergies.</p> <p>Examples of potential efficiencies are the development of one peninsula-wide training programme, using the MACA model across the peninsula and with the Adult Safeguarding Board, agreeing one set of agreed performance information and metrics to measure impact and outcomes.</p>	
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>The Board agreed the following :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The production of a timeline/calendar detailing implications of known changes with key dates. • Developing task and finish task group activity to deliver priorities in the DSCB 	

	<p>Business Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential of linking of sub groups, initially with Torbay LSCB and with Adult Services / Peninsular LSCBs, where appropriate. • To develop shared metrics across the peninsula LSCBs, and to seek efficiencies through a peninsula approach to training. • To ensure agencies raise the issue of safeguarding children in all Government consultation opportunities. • Promote the DSCB Multi-Agency Case audit module especially with peninsula LSCBs as a model of good practice. • Prioritise engagement of the DSCB with frontline practise • Prioritise 'hearing the views ' of children and young people • Make early contact with emerging new structures and key individuals such as within GP consortia
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Agenda Item 4	www.ebi	Presenter Alan Wooderson
Discussion	<p>AJW thanked everyone for excellent papers and the sector leads for their presentations which provided the Board with a level of understanding of the impact of very substantial changes underway, structurally, financially and with national policies. DSCB partners were requested to advise the DSCB when in receipt of any Government consultation papers that may affect safeguarding arrangements so that the Safeguarding Office could help in providing supportive information for inclusion in the response on the importance of safeguarding children.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting will be 10th June 2011 at Exeter Racecourse.</p>	

NHS Devon Presentation

NOW



FUTURE PROPOSALS

