

# MINUTES

## Subject: Dudley Safeguarding Children Board

Venue: Saltwells Education Centre

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Attendees	Agency	Apologies	Agency
Roger Clayton	Independent Chair	Viv Townsend	Probation
Ian McGuff	CSS – Q&P	Pam Smith	Dudley Group Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Anne Harris	DACHS	Nicky Campbell	Cafcass
Rachael Doyle	DUE		
Jane Connelly	Probation CRC		
Rosie Musson	DWMH		
Julie Winpenny	West Mids Fire Service		
Mike Galikowski	Dudley YOS		
Andy Parsons	West Mids Police		
Andy Proctor	West Mids Ambulance Service		
Angela Whitaker	West Mids Police		
Pauline Sharratt	DCS		
Christine Ballinger	DCS		
Angela Young	NHS England		
Joyce Fletcher	BCPFT		
Marie Bissell	Special & Primary Rep		
Helen Ellis	Integrated Youth Services		
Sue Haywood	Community Safety		
Gill Coldicott	BMET Stourbridge campus		
Su Vincent	Dudley CCG		
Michelle King	Castle High School		
Annette Callear	DCS		
Karen Palk	Lay Advisor		
Jackie Jennings	Safeguarding & Review Service		
Rebecca Gennard	Young person		
Natasha Brookes	Young person		
Rebecca Bartholomew	Dudley CCG		
Tim Crumpton	Lead Member, Children's Services		
Michaela Hoxley	Young person		
Stacey Foster	Young person		
Nicki Burrows	DCVS		
Jassi Broadmeadow	Safeguarding & Review Service		
Martine McFadden	Safeguarding & Review Service		

**NEXT MEETING**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
9.30 am – 4.30 pm  
At Saltwells EDC

1.	<p><b><u>Introductions &amp; Apologies</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting</u></b></p> <p><i>Page 2 – Private Fostering:</i> Sue Vincent advised she had not received the materials from Kathy</p>
----	---

	<p>Jobber, but had sent a reminder for them.</p> <p><i>Page 4 – S11 Report:</i> amendment to minutes, second line should read: “.....completed at the end of 2013 with scrutiny of the findings commencing in January 2014.”</p> <p>Joyce Fletcher advised she had agreed to meet up with the person who had raised concerns in respect of paediatric liaison, but this had not been reflected in the minutes.</p> <p><i>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting with the addition of Joyce Fletcher’s comment above.</i></p>
2.	<p><b><u>Action Tracker Review</u></b></p> <p><i>The Action Tracker was updated:</i></p> <p><i>Domestic abuse</i> is an ongoing item for the Quality Assurance &amp; Communications Group in December. The CAADA letter suggested that the number of children likely to be at high risk of domestic abuse in Dudley would be 100 children, but figures from MARAC show this figure to be higher. The CAADA effective practice report was shared briefly at the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group which incorporates the Strategic MAPPA Group, but will be a full agenda item for the next meeting. Andy Parsons pointed out that most referrals are where police have attended, so the figures could actually be higher. <b>Action: feedback to future meeting of DSCB – Jassi Broadmeadow/Sue Vincent/Andy Parsons</b></p> <p>Sue Haywood confirmed that the audit from the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) which screens cases using the Barnardos Tool and police calls out where a child is a member of the household, had not been taken into account when looking at numbers for Dudley.</p> <p>Chris Ballinger has the data on the number of referrals – around 3000 cases are screened each year. A further meeting of the DA Strategic Group is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> December, additional data can be linked to Sue Haywood’s figures – <b>Action: agenda item Quality Assurance &amp; Communications Group – feedback to DSCB as soon as possible.</b></p> <p><i>Independent Chairs – Circulation of analysis of Ofsted Findings:</i> A briefing pack is in the process of being prepared which will be circulated to DSCB members prior to Christmas. <b>Action: Roger Clayton</b></p> <p><i>Audit of the CAF findings:</i> Figures on the numbers of CAF for the first two quarters of this year appear to give an incorrect picture. The majority of CAFs are carried out by the Early Intervention Team. 15,000 contacts to Children’s Social Care in the previous year resulted in only 4,000 actual referrals. CAFs are being undertaken by Health professionals, but the CAF team are not necessarily being informed. Some work is required to ensure that CAF figures are collated on a quarterly basis from each agency.</p> <p><i>CCG Independent Safeguarding Review:</i> The Interim Report has now been received by the CCG which is in the process of developing some workshops for partners to determine which model will be used. Workshops are likely to start around April 2015.</p> <p><i>West Midlands Fire Service:</i> Future agenda item – colour Amber.</p> <p><i>Safeguarding Website</i> – ongoing agenda item – maintain amber.</p> <p><i>Annual Report 2013-14</i> – Completed.</p> <p><i>Private Fostering Annual Report</i> – completed – now on website, link will be circulated to Board members <b>Action Martine McFadden.</b></p> <p><i>DSCB Member Annual Appraisal:</i> ongoing item – will form part of the induction pack - to be completed as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>CDOP Deputy Chair</i> - Deputy Chair to be appointed at next meeting of the Group in December.</p> <p><i>Development Day – DSCB:</i> Training Sub needs to identify a Chair, also education representative</p>

	<p>required – <b>Action: anyone wishing to be included, please contact <a href="mailto:jackie.jennings@dudley.gov.uk">jackie.jennings@dudley.gov.uk</a></b></p> <p><i>Development Day – DSCB – Safer Recruitment: Completed – change to green.</i></p> <p><i>Review of CAMHS Service (Tier 4) – not yet commenced – remain amber. Pointed out that Tier 4 is when someone requires specialist care. There has been an issue in accessing beds in a timely way and having to be commissioned from the region rather than locally. In-patient beds are not always available and young people sometimes have to be admitted to Adult Mental Health wards or acute wards. Rebecca Bartholomew advised work is ongoing with providers to address the issues.</i></p> <p><i>Ofsted Preparation: Briefing back being prepared</i></p> <p><i>Ofsted Preparation: Review of Assessment services in relation to a potential MASH ongoing.</i></p> <p><i>Feedback from CSE hotel training: Following the training delivered in June to hotel receptionists, a receptionist refused a room to a man with a young girl and reported the man to police. Her actions resulted in the prosecution of an offender and a child made safe.</i></p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Participation – the young persons view</u></b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Michaela Huxley and Stacey Foster to the meeting.</p> <p>Several young people are involved in the Participation Task Group and both Michaela and Stacey have been involved in a review of services for young people and have received training to help them collect and collate information and share their recommendations with the DSCB.</p> <p>The young people feel that professionals talk about putting the child or the young person at the centre, but very often this is not the reality. A document was circulated showing how the young people intend to collect information, provide feedback and share their findings with staff, volunteers, service users and their communities. Stacey explained that the icons on the left of the chart represent the children and young people of Dudley borough each of whom will access a range of services. All of the agencies collect information from the children and young people about various topics. All of the agencies or volunteers are represented on the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board and its sub groups and every Chair should ensure that the voice of the child or young person is a standing agenda item on all groups.</p> <p>Each member of the DSCB was requested to find out what engagement or participation takes place with children and young people in their organisation and who is responsible. Two options are then available: 1) Ask the person responsible to share the feedback from the engagement with the representative who attends the board or sub group to provide an update under the standing item agenda and 2) Julie Winpenny has agreed to collect information for the young people and carry out some analysis. A template has been drawn up (circulated to Board members) which can be e-mailed directly to <a href="mailto:Julie.Winpenny@wmfs.net">Julie.Winpenny@wmfs.net</a>. The template will be circulated electronically once the details have been agreed at the next Participation group.</p> <p>Stacey and Michaela pointed out that everyone needs to commit to be a “doer” not a “donter”. Every opinion will be made to count and information shared. Early findings from research carried out by the young people include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people want to be taken seriously</li> <li>• Children and young people want the person they share a concern with to respect them and to be child/youth friendly.</li> <li>• Children and young people do not want to be sent away, but want the first person they speak with to be knowledgeable about services across Dudley and how to access them.</li> </ul> <p>Through their research, the young people had found that there are many services available, but children and young people do not know about them. Young people preferred the option of an app on their phone and want information instantly via one child/young person friendly website rather than having to visit several.</p> <p>Children and young people want to feel safe, protected and know there is someone who cares. They appreciate that the members of the Safeguarding Board do the jobs they do because they</p>

	<p>care – Stacey and Michaela requested all members to be doers.</p> <p>Cllr Crumpton was concerned that despite an 8000 name petition the previous year asking that youth services should not be cut, had not prevented the cuts being made. He was concerned that children and young people had sometimes been denied access to meetings. .</p> <p><b>Actions:</b>  <b>Information can be sent direct to Julie Winpenny by children and young people.</b>  <b>Every sub group to have a standing item re capturing the voice of the child.</b></p>
4.	<p><b><u>Chairs Regional and National Update</u></b></p> <p>Roger Clayton had recently attended a National Conference for LSCB Chairs. 60 of the chairs attended. MP Edward Timpson attended as a guest speaker.</p> <p>Points from Edward Timpson’s speech included 3 particular areas of challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to minimise the likelihood of events in Rotherham and how to address the weaknesses in response from local services</li> <li>• Secondly, how the quality of SCR’s can be improved, and</li> <li>• Thirdly how LSCB’s can be more effective.</li> </ul> <p>Portsmouth and North Yorkshire were highlighted as areas where good work was being done in relation to CSE. The message from the Minister was that local authorities and LSCB’s need to find alternative and inventive ways of dealing with the issues rather than expecting to use additional funding.</p> <p>Edward Timpson also spoke about the role of the LSCB’s which are increasingly vital, but exposed. The role of the LSCB Chair is to be recognised and accountable for all the work of the board – Roger pointed out this is difficult for chairs who have no resources to direct and no budget to spend.</p> <p>Two members of the national panel appointed by the government to review SCR’s had attended the conference. Two issues of concern have been noted by the Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-notification/initiation of SCR’s</li> <li>• Non-publication</li> </ul> <p>In respect of the first concern, the Panel feel the “bigger picture” in a case should be explored. A single issue standing alone, may not meet the criteria for an SCR, but looking more widely at the family may increase concerns. For example a dog bite may not be a reason for an SCR, but looking wider could expose neglect issues.</p> <p>SCR’s should have a proportionate focus and should not be overlong. They need to be more precise, explain how and why the incident happened. If an independent author is commissioned and the report is not considered good enough, LSCB’s are being advised they have the right to challenge. The LSCB Chair has the responsibility for the quality of the SCR report.</p> <p>Edward Timpson questioned how good LSCB’s are at getting information about serious incidents from the agencies. He asked how confident LSCB’s are that all such incidents are reported in for consideration.</p> <p>Chris Ballinger pointed out the Dudley has guidance re serious incidents and that it might be beneficial to re-circulate. Dudley was aware of 4 serious incidents during the year and it is important to ensure that the only the right things are reported in. <b>Action: Chris Ballinger to re-circulate the sections from the manual which explain what a serious incident is and how to report it.</b></p> <p>Roger Clayton advised that from recent inspections, LSCB’s judged as good have clarity and responsibility between the Chair, the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive. Roger feels Dudley already has this. In addition, the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board is proposing to develop a formal protocol between Adults and Children’s Boards and itself.</p> <p>LSCB’s being judged as good have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their priorities agreed and share resources (including people) for the work of the Board - Roger</li> </ul>

	<p>feels Dudley already does this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Board is judged good if development takes place to actually improve services for families.</li> <li>• the quality of professional practice should be developed via training and be monitored and continually developed.</li> <li>• learning from practice should be clear and case audits should result in clear change.</li> <li>• learning from SCR's should be regularly disseminated to staff to improve practice.</li> <li>• chairs should hold partners to account for poor practice.</li> </ul> <p>To assist Board members, a briefing pack will be prepared. Work will continue to develop a greater understanding of training and development to identify any shortfalls. The website will continue to be developed.</p> <p>Through board meetings and board minutes, the LSCB should be able to demonstrate and prove that it is doing what it says it is doing – if there is a heated debate and someone disagrees and challenges, then the minutes should reflect this.</p> <p>Roger recognises there is a frowning upon of professionals using social media to gather intelligence and evidence. For example, social workers are told they should not investigate a family via a Facebook page – the chairs were advised it should be encouraged and that LSCB's should encourage it. Roger gave some examples of where using social media had resulted in successful outcomes of their investigations.</p> <p>Andy Parsons pointed out that these situations need to be considered on a case by case basis due to the varying levels of intrusion. Some will require authority to use this method, others will not. People putting things on an open Facebook page are making it public. Professionals need to be careful of what they do and how the information gained is used and this method should only be used for the necessary discharge of duties.</p> <p>Rachael Doyle pointed out that some professionals had been dismissed due to inappropriate use of social media. Guidance from the board says professionals should have a professional page and not use their personal Facebook pages.</p> <p>Pauline Sharratt advised that routine “fishing” does not take place, but where something significant was brought to Social Care’s attention, the social worker may seek permission to access and this would need to go through IT Services.</p> <p>Chris Ballinger agreed and advised training is provided to ensure people are aware of their responsibilities. Use of social media is mentioned in intermediate, advanced and e-safety training. <b>Action: this item to be remitted to Workforce Development Group.</b></p> <p>Helen Ellis asked agencies to look at their messages to children and young people. The use of images guidance is currently being updated to make clarify the implications and repercussions of using inappropriate images.</p> <p>There has been some concern nationally about differing accounts of practitioners, particularly those going into homes of the people who are suspected of abusing children. Families use intimidation methods against professionals and there is an increasing practice of displaying and threatening violence or use of dangerous dogs as a weapon against a professional. Sometimes this is done via more subtle methods which undermines the work being done. With the change in working conditions such as “hot desking” and working from home, practitioners are at risk of becoming more isolated. Roger Clayton feels further discussion is required in respect of including practitioners in the Participation group. It was noted that Dudley has some good practice guidance in the procedures manual in respect of working with difficult, dangerous and hard to reach families.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>Communications</u></b></p> <p><i>Communication Strategy:</i> this has been circulated for board members to look at and feed back to Martine McFadden so that it can be completed for the next DSCB meeting in January 2015.</p> <p>It contains some messages for the board and recommendations for the safeguarding networks and around supporting practitioners. Martine requested that all members should consider the strategy for their own organisations and advise her if anything needs to be added. Board members were also requested to give consideration to how they inform their workforce and get out messages from</p>

the board.

The Strategy contains an action plan which will be updated at every board.

**Action: all comments/feedback to be forwarded to [Martine.McFadden@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Martine.McFadden@dudley.gov.uk) as soon as possible.**

Rebecca Gennard was welcomed to the meeting. She had been requested to give her ideas on effective communication and she had chosen to give some options for communication with young people and young adults.

Rebecca had often found it difficult to access some websites and there was not always sufficient information contained on them. She suggested posters with bold colours to show perhaps the board in the middle with the sub-groups around it to show young people the structure of the board and what it does. There should be an Annual Report for young people which is short and concise and includes only key items.

It was agreed that it is a real challenge to get messages across to children and young people in an appropriate and effective way. An example of a previous campaign for road safety using a hedgehog was given which had been considered to be very effective. Ways of raising awareness in all families need to be explored to ensure there is an impact via local television, radio, posters etc.

A proposed newsletter for young people was shown on screen. Key messages will be included via the Participation Group. This will be published and circulated quarterly and needs to include information from board membership. Chairs of sub groups were requested to give some thought to what they would want people to know about their group and suggest ideas for inclusion in the Newsletter.

It was noted that Rebecca had used the term "safeguarding" in her presentation. Rebecca confirmed that she knew the term because of previously being in care, but agreed that most young people would not.

Nicki Burrows feels children and young people should be taught about signs of abuse and what they as young people can do about it. Although some of this is done via pshe lessons in school, additional work is required to ensure key messages go out to children and young people in an effective way.

Gill Coldicott pointed out that posters are a good idea and a good way to provide information. However, consideration needs to be given to where posters are located, especially for young people in college who may not wish to stand in a public area taking information from the posters. Some organisations put posters on the back of toilet doors, for example.

Rebecca suggested the LSCB could work in relationship with West Midlands travel to get information on buses.

**6. Performance Management and Audit**

**Dataset:** Ian McGuff advised that the dataset is put together by the Social Care information analysts within the Directorate of Children's Services as part of a whole range of data work carried out by 1 part time and 1 full time worker. During a discussion at the last Quality Assurance and Communications meeting, a number of members were concerned about gaps in information and that it appeared there should be more up to date information available in certain areas, certainly from the Health services. Ian therefore requested that if anyone is aware of additional or more up to date information being available to let the QA&C group know. **Action: all members to notify Ian McGuff of any additional or more up to date information available for the dataset.**

The dataset gives an insight into what is happening in the borough plus information about the experiences of children and young people. Roger Clayton pointed out that analysis of the data is carried out via the Quality Assurance & Communications group which then provides recommendations to the board if something is clearly going wrong. Ofsted state that successful/good boards have a mature approach to datasets and quality assurance. Roger had been particularly concerned to note that the voice of only 8% of children aged 4 -17 contributed to their latest child protection conference. Roger questioned whether young people often attended

conference and if so, how their views were captured and recorded. Jassi Broadmeadow confirmed that young people contribute to their child protection conference via the review and assessment process and this is represented in the conference. However, work is required to improve on actual attendance and how the voice of the child is captured on the dataset. There are no current mechanisms in place in children's Social Care to do this.

Tim Crumpton advised he would like to see some indicators, perhaps along the lines of a RAG rating to indicate to the board if it is of concern.

Some concern was expressed over the timeliness of core group meeting. Chris Ballinger advised a new way of recording core groups had been developed and figures should therefore improve. There was usually a delay factor in getting data onto the system, but Chris was unable to say this had affected the figures on this occasion.

Roger Clayton pointed out that the DSCB makes the decision on what data to collect, the format and how it is to be used. Rachael Doyle noted that LSCB's were being told to reduce the amount of data it collects and therefore consideration should be given to what is a priority and to look at the "so what" factor of the information – what does the data tell the board and what impact does it have on anyone.

Mike Galikowski noted an absence of youth justice criminal information. He also noted there is a range of social care information, but felt there needs to be indicators in respect of neglect and CSE. There is information about numbers of cases and assessment, but he was unable to determine from the data what the trends are and whether there is any impact on reducing neglect and CSE. In addition, there is no information around the numbers of young people who are victims of crime.

Chris Ballinger commented that this is a complicated dataset and there may be some benefit in having a single front sheet with highlights of trends and outcomes. It was generally agreed that it is important to concentrate on the dataset information that relates to the priorities of the board.

Roger Clayton suggested the Quality Assurance & Communications group should continue to develop the dataset to turn it into a more multi-agency, meaningful document to meet the baseline of what the board wants. The board can then decide on format, content, size and how the information is used.

**Action: Quality Assurance & Communications group to explore potential models and table at the next meeting of the DSCB.**

Ian McGuff pointed out that although it is desirable to narrow down the data collected and focus on the priority information, the board also needs to bear in mind that the DSCB can be criticised by Ofsted during inspection if it is not collating all the information deemed necessary. It is for the board to determine content, but there are real challenges in terms of presenting and providing data because of the capacity within the directorate. Ian wished to flag up that it is not possible to respond very quickly to radical changes to the way information is presented due to the capacity of a very small team who are under huge pressure due to other demands. Ian therefore suggested this should be an ongoing project until the dataset is changed to a final version suitable for the board.

Roger Clayton noted that every board member has the right to see a full dataset and in addition, the board needs to prioritise to get what it wants to do something about. In relation to capacity, Ofsted had said that a good board is one which shares resources and works together across the partnership. He therefore questioned what resources might be available from within partner agencies. Rebecca Bartholomew feels there may be untapped resources from unemployed graduates who may be willing to take this on as a project.

It was also suggested that other LSCB's may have something which could be used and "Dudleyised". **Action both suggestions to be explored.**

**Section 11 Audit:** A training day was held for partners in November, but not all were able to attend. Martine McFadden will circulate some potential dates to those who missed the session to provide a "catch up" session on the tool. Martine pointed out that the audit needs to be completed by the end of January 2015.

	<p><b>Section 175 audit:</b> Training for schools has been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> December and schools will be requested to complete the online S175 audit by the end of January to start collating findings to report in the DSCB Annual report in April. Key issues will emerge as the audits are completed and a baseline understanding of safeguarding within Dudley schools will be obtained. A few schools have agreed to pilot the audit tool.</p> <p>Marie Bissell pointed out that December is an extremely busy time for schools and as the audit tool is lengthy and time consuming, it is unlikely that the audit can be completed by the end of January. Schools still need reassured on why they are carrying out the audit and that the tool will be updated regularly to meet Ofsted requirements. <b>Action: update at next meeting.</b></p>
7.	<p><b><u>Signs of Safety</u></b></p> <p>A document was circulated on behalf of the Signs of Safety Strategic Group. Some discussion had taken place at the last meeting of the DSCB in respect of how SOS can be re-embedded and handed over from the board and the agencies. To date, £9625 has been spent on training and 313 practitioners have attended, although the understanding was that this should have been a higher figure. The board needs some discussion on how to progress this.</p> <p>Roger Clayton questioned whether there was any evidence of the method being used and if so, how widely it was being used. Chris Ballinger confirmed that in Children's Social Care, SOS was embedded into the assessment tools used by practitioners. It is used in reports presented to child protection conferences. However, with the turnover of staff in CSC, there needs to be additional training and also, training is needed for staff in all agencies.</p> <p>Jackie Jennings advised case studies are included in training, thereby re-skilling practitioners attending multi-agency training. Consideration can be given to providing more training or to put in champions. Children's Centres are already using Signs of Safety in their work.</p> <p>Signs of Safety needs to be offered in training, but there also needs to be a transfer in training (embedding in practice). Signs of Safety was initially brought in to specifically target neglect. People who were originally trained and remain within Dudley are using it, but use is not consistent. The board needs to make a decision on whether the focus remains on neglect or whether it should be on cases at the early intervention stage with the aim of having an impact because it reduces the number of referrals into CSC.</p> <p>Chris Ballinger feels there is a real need to focus on which members of the workforce need to be more clued in. Signs of Safety is an approach to working with children and families looking at the protective factors and danger signs. Some parts of the police force for example would need to be trained, but not the entire workforce. Chris suggested there needs to be some discussion at the strategic group in respect of the issues and where to focus SOS.</p> <p>Some concern was expressed about using SOS only in early years because it is a multi-agency approach and all agencies need to give consideration to how it can be embedded within their workforces. Some debate is needed within the strategic group.</p> <p>Angela Whitaker advised she will speak to the police child abuse lead regarding where he would see this approach fits in. She felt there is a definite need for front-line officers and PPU staff to have enhanced training.</p> <p>In respect of the Fire Service, Julie Winpenny advised officers undergo training and cascade down to the crews. Many officers sit on several boards and have done training in other areas. She questioned whether this could be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Mike Galikowski was aware of some funding from government to a number of local authorities to implement Signs of Safety as part of their transformation. Although Dudley had not applied, he questioned whether there was anything that could be done with the other authorities to assist with implementation here. Martine McFadden responded that the authorities chosen by the government were chosen by the SOS agency because they already had a network of practitioners using the methodology. Funding was provided to explore their models and to carry out audit work to see how successful it was. Martine had questioned whether Dudley could be included in some way, but this was not possible. However, the SOS agency will publish the findings from the pilot areas.</p>



For clarification to board members, Jackie Jennings explained that some years earlier, the board had held discussions on whether the neglected in Dudley were being neglected. Front-line practitioners from several agencies attended a workshop and it was discovered there were a number of tools being used. Practitioners requested to have one tool kit for use by any agency. The Task Group looked at various national tools and the board accepted the Signs of Safety tool which is a way of working rather than a checklist. This approach involves engaging families working on positives as well as the risks indicated and the family are involved in decision making. The initial rounds of training were particularly well received and the board concluded that this approach would ensure neglected children were not being missed. Unfortunately the approach had not been embedded as quickly as had been hoped.

Given that one of the DSCB's key priorities is around early help, Annette Callear felt there is good rationale to keep within the current remit of the board, but to identify what it wants to achieve from signs of safety, put as a short term target and then drive forward to actually achieve it.

The document circulated contained 5 proposals for board members to consider. Roger Clayton questioned whether board members felt informed enough to make a decision or whether they required further information.

Jassi Broadmeadow pointed out there was no funding to provide additional training and Chris Ballinger advised doing nothing was not an option.

**Action: more comprehensive discussion to take place at next meeting of the Board.**

8. **Exception Reporting**

**Quality Assurance & Communications:** Ian McGuff advised that the group had met the previous week and the discussion at the group had informed today's agenda. The Communications Strategy was confirmed and the Terms of Reference for the group agreed and some discussion took place in respect of the dataset. An education representative has now been recruited to the group. Further work is still required on the DSCB Quality Assurance Learning and Improvement framework and how this can be delivered on now that the Quality Assurance Officer post has ended with a resulting significant reduction in capacity. A proposal will be tabled at a future meeting of the Board for discussion on how to progress.

**Risk Register:** The Quality Assurance & Communications Group had a discussion about a risk register for the board. It was generally felt to be a good idea providing it focused on what the mitigating actions are as well as the risks rather than just a list of risks. The group felt this will need to be carefully controlled in that risks should be identified through sub groups and discussion at the Board for agreement for the risk to be included on the register. The possibility of including the risk register on the website was discussed and there was some reticence about it going straight into the public domain. A better solution was felt to be a pilot period of 3-4 months where risks are identified and brought to the DSCB to obtain a feel for the kinds of issues and how mitigating the actions are before a decision is made in respect of including the register on the website.

Roger Clayton agreed that the DSCB requires a Risk Register, but agrees that each risk needs a plan of how to put it right. In addition, he feels each risk should have an owner. The Adult Safeguarding Board is also going down this route and there may be the potential to have a common approach. **Action: QA & Communications group to continue discussion in respect of this item.**

**Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group:** When the group last met, it looked at the CSE Strategy and some amendments were proposed to the draft. The final version will be tabled at the December meeting of the group for agreement and sign off. The group also looked at the West Midlands CSE Action Plan and a number of people present at the meeting agreed to include the Dudley context in the Action Plan. One of the actions from the group was for Roger Clayton to talk with John Polychronakis in respect of strategic conversations around a MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub). (Discussion scheduled to take place 26th November).

The Gang Prevention and E-Safety groups Terms of Reference have now been agreed and these two groups will report directly into the Vulnerable Children Strategic Group. The strategic group has agreed to evidence activities and outcomes in respect of sub group activity from the safeguarding minutes 2014/15 and the work plan for 2015/16 will be informed by the priorities of

the DSCB.

Jenny Skyrme will continue to chair the VCSG for the present time.

**Serious Case Review:** Three SCR's are currently in progress, none of which are being led by Dudley.

The Birmingham SCR is continuing and once the final report is received, learning will be disseminated as appropriate.

The Sandwell SCR was shared at the last meeting of the DSCB. The recall day is scheduled to take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Some of the early themes from this SCR are around faltering growth and working with hard to reach and resistant families, similar to the learning points from the SCR completed by Dudley in respect of Child C.

The third SCR is taking place in Lincolnshire in respect of a young man who died at Christmas 2013. He was found on a beach in Cumbria and death was thought to be suicide by drowning. The initial focus of this SCR was from birth to death. This SCR is currently at the stage where individual management reviews are being completed from the time he was involved with Dudley services which ceased 12 months before his death. Learning from the SCR will be disseminated in Dudley.

The SCR Sub has completed a major task in signing off the Action plans for the Child C SCR. Another sign off was the Faltering Growth Pathway which has now been finalised and is included in Part C of the Safeguarding procedures on the website.

**Policy, Procedures & Practice:** The Faltering Growth protocol has been referred to the Training Sub Committee for consideration on how it can be built into safeguarding and child protection training for the DSCB.

A protocol between Children's Services and Adult Mental Health Services has been a work in progress for some time and identified from a thematic inspection by Ofsted. Further work is required on the protocol, but the guidance is located in part C of the procedures on the website.

The other major stream of activity for the PPP is stage 2 of the update of the procedures manual. The majority of the core procedures were revised in stage 1 and were launched with a series of briefing sessions. All of these can be found on the safeguarding board website. Stage 2 revisions should go live in the procedures manual early in 2015.

When a significant piece of work (eg Faltering Growth and Mental Health protocols) key topics are identified and a series of practice learning events/briefings are held.

**Workforce Development:** A small group of people met for the first meeting and began work on creating the Terms of Reference. The learning framework will be explored for the workforce on a multi-agency basis with a 360° approach to learning and how training and learning has impacted on the workforce. Capacity in the Training team within the Safeguarding Unit is struggling and the Training Sub group is being requested to review the training being offered to determine what can continue to be sustained and what can no longer be provided. There is the potential to explore commissioning arrangements for future training in specific areas and topics.

Consideration needs to be given to whether core safeguarding training continues to be provided free – currently there is only a charge on delegates who do not attend. In addition, some consideration may need to be given to whether all specialist training incurs a charge which will then sustain the commissioning process to buy in more trainers.

The current situation in the training team is urgent, not just in relation to capacity, but also to the health of some of the deliverers. The Board has a duty of care to its trainers and it will only take one or two trainers to go on long term sick leave for training to cease altogether. Jackie Jennings questioned whether any of the partners can offer staff/share resources to ease the situation as it cannot be maintained as it currently stands.

The options for training need to be drawn into a business case which will initially be tabled at the Quality Assurance & Communications Group on 19<sup>th</sup> December with a view to making a decision at

the next meeting of the DSCB in January 2015.

Jackie Jennings pointed out that she is currently chairing the Training Group, but is struggling with capacity to continue. It had been hoped that an education colleague could take on this role and therefore Jackie requested anyone who can assist in chairing this sub to contact her as soon as possible. [Jackie.Jennings@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Jennings@dudley.gov.uk)

**Participation:** Nicki Burrows felt that the young people involved in the Take Over day today had been effective in giving a clear message about what they want for young people in Dudley. The Participation Group is a new group which now has governance in place with strong membership. The young people are skilled in leadership and will chair and lead the Participation group and its work. Nicki wished to express her thanks to the young people who had attended the meeting today and reminded DSCB members to be “doers and not donters”.

Rachael Doyle advised that Dudley has had a situation where a school has breached the Use of Images guidance and has put an adopted child potentially at risk of significant harm. She requested that the DSCB should write formally to all schools to advise they need to use the guidance. The image was used publically when it should not have and if the birth family locates the child, the adoptive family will have to move home. The DSCB needs assurance from schools that the guidance will be adhered to.

For information, Rachael advised that from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, her role will move to the Office of Public Health and she is not clear what her role will be in terms of safeguarding. Her current role will not cease immediately, but it leaves training and other issues in terms of safer recruitment, use of images and use of social media. Tim Crumpton requested Rachael to send him a list of her duties within her current role so that he could determine what could be done to protect the safeguarding aspects of her role.

**9. CSE**

Roger Clayton pointed out there was a national Action Plan, a Regional Action Plan led by Steven Rimmer and also work in Dudley. In the last few months, letters from Rotherham had been circulated and Ofsted had published a report “The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn’t happen here, could it?”

West Midlands police have now produced a problem profile which will not be published or distributed at this stage, but can be referred to. As a consequence, there is a raft of recommendations and suggested strategies. Roger feels there are a lot of different people all offering advice/guidance on what LSCB’s should do. Dudley embarked on a strategy and has had a YPSE Panel for a number of years with a number of extremely dedicated and experienced people. Roger is recommending that the Vulnerable Children Strategic Group, led by Jenny Skyrme, goes through all the advice and guidance to ensure there is a clear, concise, effective and workable plan to tackle CSE in Dudley. Once the work plan is completed, the focus can move to the operational side.

The problem profile has 7 strategic objectives which include delivering effective and coordinated training into the schools awareness programme, delivering a consistent and accurate message, review processes to address CSE, continue to promote effective protection and guidance for victims, working together to disrupt activity and to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice and an approach to prevention programmes. The report contains 33 recommendations.

A bid for funding via the Crime Commissioner was successful in securing £50,000 which will be used to work with young people who are at risk of cse or have been sexually exploited. In addition, bids are going in through the voluntary sector for small grants of up to £2000 which can all be used towards prevention/tackling of CSE including research into one-to-one interviews and focus groups.

Roger Clayton advised the report highlights there is a lot LA’s do not know about children being sexually exploited in their areas. There is clearly, for Dudley, a significant number of CSE victims who are not being identified. The problem profile lists two hot spots – Dudley town centre as far as Brierley Hill within the Dudley north locality and the Lye area in Dudley South. Roger feels board members were already aware of this, but considers it is also worrying to discount other areas not mentioned in the profile.

During the 6-month period of the profile overview, 15 children and young people were dealt with or being dealt with for CSE in the Dudley area. Four of these were deemed to be no further action. Of these 15 young people, 12 were female, 2 male and 1 unknown with an age range of 13-18.

Jassi Broadmeadow advised that the Strategy will be developed via the VCSG. Dudley has a CSE coordinator in post who is working alongside the police CSE coordinator and both are collating information. There needs to be a central point of contact for all partner agencies to ensure all information and data is collated into one place rather than be held in different systems.

Angela Whitaker suggested an extraordinary meeting of the DSCB with a single agenda item of CSE to allow a more full discussion on this issue. The problem profile is a strategic perception agreed by all Chief Executives and their Directors of Children's Services and LSCB chairs within the west midlands. The police document will be signed off in the near future. Angela felt the extraordinary meeting needs to take place prior to Christmas.

It was agreed that an additional meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December and should include representatives from the four voluntary groups seeking additional funding together with all members of the VCSG.

Karen Palk commented she had recently attended an event organised by Steven Rimmer and from the information given at the conference, felt Dudley was actually in a good place as far as CSE was concerned.

**Action: Extraordinary meeting of DSCB subsequently arranged for 9.00 am on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 with the single agenda item of CSE**

**10. Any Other Business**

**West Midlands Ambulance Service:** Andy Proctor advised a representative from WMAS will not be able to attend every board meeting given the amount of LSCB's within the WMAS area. However, he hopes to attend at least once or twice a year.

**Dudley Councillors:** Tim Crumpton advised the leader of Dudley Council, David Sparks is to resign and the election process will take place before the next meeting in early December. Tim's understanding is that his role will remain as currently.

**Dudley Councillors:** A new Chief Executive. Sarah Norman, has been recruited to Dudley Council who has a background of joint Adult and Children's Services.

**Lay Advisors:** Karen Palk advised from the Steven Rimmer conference, it would appear that schools will be held to account and penalised if they do not report missing children.

**Police Operation Sentinel:** West Midlands Police information report circulated. Jackie Jennings advised this is an information sharing form for anyone to use to report information in respect of CSE and trafficking. To obtain an idea of the picture in Dudley, referrers are requested when sending to the police secure address on the form, to also include the Safeguarding & Review Service in the e-mail at: [safeguarding.children@dudley.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding.children@dudley.gcsx.gov.uk).

The Government has organised a trafficking initiative and Dudley is one of the pilot areas to determine how many trafficked children there are in the area. For clarification, Jackie explained that the definition of trafficking is international or home trafficking, any sort of movement even if from one house to another in the same street, domestic servitude, cse or any other form of exploitation. A sample group of trafficked children will be provided with counselling from Barnardos with the aim of determining whether additional support makes a difference to the young people concerned. Anyone suspecting a child or young person is being trafficked in any way, please contact [Jackie.Jennings@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Jennings@dudley.gov.uk) or the [safeguarding.children@dudley.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding.children@dudley.gcsx.gov.uk) mailbox with as much detail as possible.

