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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SAFEGUARDING MEMBER PANEL**

**Thursday 5 November 2015**

Present: Councillor E Hill (in the Chair)  
Councillors Holmes, Ahmed, Allison

In attendance: Paul Johnson, Assistant Director (Family Support and Child Protection)  
Pauline Martin, Head of Service (Family Support and Child Protection)  
Helen Kilroy – Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer  
Chris Read, Corporate Customer Services Officer  
Martin Dearnley, Head of Audit and Risk  
Penny Woodhead, Head of Quality & Safety for Greater Huddersfield CCG  
Christina Fairhead, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children for Kirklees  
Richard Palfreeman (Senior Manager Locala)  
Carol Gilchrist, Head of Safe and Cohesive Communities

Apologies: Cllr K Pinnock, Allison O'Sullivan

#### **1 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Panel considered the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Cllr Holmes confirmed to the Panel that there were no issues of relevance to report back to the Panel following her meeting with representatives from PACE earlier in the year.

The Panel discussed the sensitivity of the information circulated by Ged McManus from West Yorkshire Police at the last Panel meeting in October. The Chair confirmed that the Panel does not have the jurisdiction to share restricted information which has been provided by the West Yorkshire Police, that could ultimately identify specific cases where investigations were ongoing. The Chair advised that a specific request had been made by Ged McManus that the information not be shared beyond the Panel due to its confidential nature. Panel Members noted that they could give a general overview of the information to their Groups.

#### **AGREED –**

- (1) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be agreed as a correct record.
- (2) That the Panel noted the information circulated by Ged McManus (West Yorkshire Police), both verbally and in writing, was strictly confidential and would not be shared beyond the Panel.

#### **2 CSE issues relating to Health**

The Panel considered a report on "Kirklees Health Services and CSE October 2015" from Health representatives on CSE issues relating to health and in particular the role

and responsibilities of health professionals in supporting the work of safeguarding children against CSE.

The Panel welcomed Christina Fairhead (Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children for Kirklees – covering Greater Huddersfield and North Kirklees CCGs), Penny Woodhead (Head of Quality and Safety for Greater Huddersfield CCG) and Richard Palfreeman (Senior Manager Locala) to the meeting.

The Panel was informed that if the school nurse referred an issue in respect of a child at school to another health professional, the nurse would remain as the key contact in the case. Christina Fairhead confirmed that where a GP referred an issue in respect of a young person, they would stay involved in the case regardless of which other health professionals became involved.

The Panel was informed that where a family moved around within Kirklees or out of the area, the family could be tracked once they re-registered at another GP practice. Richard Palfreeman advised that Health professionals within Kirklees were contacted by colleagues from other Local Authorities seeking information regarding families who have moved out of their area.

Christina Fairhead confirmed that school nurses have a cohort of schools that they were responsible for and that each nurse would make a clinical judgement as to how much time they needed to spend at each school depending on what was required.

The Panel was advised that the NHS spine supports the NHS in the exchange of information across national and local NHS systems. The Spine connects clinicians, patients and local service providers throughout England to essential national services, for example, if a young person leaves an area and cannot be contacted, the moment they re-register with a GP, children's day care centre or A&E, for example, their information would come up on the NHS Spine so that health professionals could locate them and make contact if necessary.

The Panel was informed that each of the large Health Providers have their own systems for recording information electronically, the system used by Locala and most GPs in Kirklees is called 'SystmOne'. The 'Flagging' project was where GP practices were encouraged and supported to 'flag' the records of any child or young person where there may be low levels of safeguarding concerns.

The Panel was advised that all health staff in Kirklees adhere to the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Procedures/Kirklees Safeguarding Board Procedures when dealing with safeguarding children issues. All health service providers including GP practices and Clinical Commissioning Group staff have been made aware of the:-

- CSE Checklist Tool for partner agencies;
- CSE Flowchart;
- CSE Protocol

The Panel noted that following the Casey report changes were made to the risk assessment tool used in Kirklees which led to amendments of the guidance and the flowchart for practitioners. The new documents were circulated to all Health providers including GPs ensuring that they were aware of the changes.

The Panel noted that if a family go missing or move out of the area and there were high level concerns, alerts would be put out to other Local Authorities and depending on the risk level health, Local Authority and police systems were in place to deal with this. The Panel acknowledged, however, that when people go missing if they really do not want to be found they can disappear 'off the radar'.

### **Training**

Christina Fairhead advised that high quality Safeguarding Children Training was available that was compliant with the Intercollegiate Document entitled 'Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competences for health care staff'. The guidance on training within the Intercollegiate document was very prescriptive in terms of the standards of training and what should be covered. The Panel were informed that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), through governance and quality processes, monitored the health providers on the delivery of their training.

Christina Fairhead explained that GPs provided a programme of training for all staff at their practice and signposted staff to other types of appropriate training as required.

The Panel was advised that CSE training is part of the mandatory training for all health professionals and that 16 training sessions were held with GPs in Calderdale and Kirklees earlier this year on CSE.

Christina Fairhead advised the Panel that face to face CSE training was the preferred option, but if health staff could not get access to that, e-learning was an alternative form of training. The Panel were informed that the e-learning packages have assessments throughout and rigid pass rates to ensure high standards of learning was achieved.

### **AGREED:-**

- (1) That Christina Fairhead, Penny Woodhead and Richard Palfreeman be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (2) That the update on 'Kirklees Health Services and CSE October 2015' be noted.

### **3. Whistleblowing in Kirklees**

The Panel considered an update on Whistleblowing in Kirklees and welcomed Chris Read, Corporate Customer Services Officer, and Martin Dearnley, Head of Audit and Risk to the meeting.

The Panel was informed that the Whistleblowing Procedure was reviewed by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and was attached to the report as Appendix 2. Chris Read advised that following a request from the Panel, the Whistleblowing Procedure had recently been altered in response to the points made by the Panel.

Chris Read advised that the Annual report for Corporate Governance and Audit Committee highlighted that the number of referrals through the Whistleblowing Procedure remained broadly consistent with previous years and covered a far range of enquiries. The Whistleblowing Process was promoted as part of the staff induction and was periodically promoted in internal staff newsletters, however the Panel noted that it had been sometime since the Whistleblowing procedure had been promoted and Chris Read suggested that internal communications be conducted.

The Panel noted that officers were considering conducting a survey of staff to determine whether they felt confident in using the Whistleblowing Procedure. Chris Read advised, however, that given the low numbers actually using the service, any such survey may only obtain a perception of the Whistleblowing Procedure rather than an informed comment.

The Panel was informed that the last paragraph of the Whistleblowing Procedure had been amended to be more user friendly and be informative rather than suggest any kind of threat or discrimination against the employee. Some members of the Panel were unhappy with the revised wording in the last paragraph of the Whistleblowing Procedure and were concerned that it may mean some employees did not feel confident enough to report an issue. The Panel suggested that the paragraph should be reworded and simplified with an emphasis on confidentiality and not sharing sensitive information and the restrictions on some information in terms of data protection.

The Panel agreed that Paul Johnson would take the revised Whistleblowing Procedure and proposed plans for publicity to the Council's Management Board meeting for further discussion. Paul Johnson agreed to outline the Panel's concerns regarding the wording of the final paragraph of the Whistleblowing Procedure to Assistant Directors and the need to encourage staff to report concerns and that they feel safe to do so. Martin Dearnley and Chris Read agreed to rewrite some of the existing policy to take into account the views expressed by the Panel, with assistance from Paul Johnson. The Panel agreed to receive an update in January on this issue.

The Panel noted that any further changes to the Whistleblowing Procedure would need to be approved by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

**AGREED:-**

- (1) That Chris Read and Martin Dearnley be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (2) That the report on Whistleblowing in Kirklees be noted.
- (3) That the Panel receive a further update in January 2016 on the revised Whistleblowing Procedure and promotion to staff following discussion of the Panel's concerns at the Council's Management Board meeting.

#### **4. Community Cohesion in Kirklees Council**

The Panel considered an update on Community Cohesion in Kirklees and in particular perceptions within communities regarding CSE. The Panel welcomed Carol Gilchrist, Head of Safe and Cohesive Communities, to the meeting.

Carol Gilchrist advised the Panel that the Connecting Communities Programme and Statement of Intent (attached to the report) was the Kirklees approach to developing good cohesion across the district. The Panel noted that there had been a significant amount of good work which had taken place in Kirklees to help strengthen communities. The statement of intent builds upon this work and outlined the Council's common approach to building stronger communities in the future.

The Panel was informed that engagement staff were working in communities on a daily basis and engaging both individuals and groups on a range of issues, including CSE. The staff were familiar with the CSE seven point action plan, and took a lead on work with faith institutions and women from the plan. Engagement and Cohesion were then

represented on the CSE sub group which reports to into the Safeguarding Children's Board.

Carol Gilchrist advised the Panel that raising awareness within some communities was very challenging as in some muslim communities there was a stigma attached to CSE and a reluctance to report it. CSE of children could be a very uncomfortable issue for most people to openly talk about. Carol Gilchrist explained that work programmes were in place to engage and involve communities, voluntary and community organisations, in the delivery of interventions to disrupt, raise awareness and support victims and communities that were affected by CSE. Frontline staff across the partnership, including the Council's community engagement staff, KNH engagement officers and staff from other services, were provided with training to embed "difficult dialogue" training into their practice. If conversations arise in communities they were then able to have robust and productive discussions which help the Council to better understand community tensions and assist with myth busting and promoting messages.

The Panel noted that there was a Mosque and Madressah engagement programme in place which was currently delivering training to 20 organisations as part of a wider engagement plan which enabled the Council to raise awareness of issues, improve and promote best practice around areas such as Safeguarding, behaviour management and tackling extremism (as well as CSE).

Carol Gilchrist confirmed that training in mosques and madressahs provided a list of all numbers for safeguarding and the link to the Council's website so people can either ring or report an issue of concern on the website. The Panel were informed that feedback from members of the community who have attended the training has been very positive.

The Panel was informed that Islamic hate crime reporting was very low in Kirklees, as it is nationally and officers were concerned that cases were going unreported. Further work on hate crime reporting was ongoing within the Council and Carol Gilchrist advised that the Council could potentially deliver a campaign on this. The panel were made aware of an event on Islamophobia which was being organised locally by an organisation called MEND who were unfortunately linking islamophobia to the Prevent agenda which was unhelpful.

The Panel agreed to receive a future update on the ongoing work within the Council on hate crime and expressed concerns regarding the need to raise awareness of hate crime within communities.

**AGREED:-**

- (1) That Carol Gilchrist be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (2) That the report on Community Cohesion in Kirklees be noted.
- (3) That the Panel receive an update to a future meeting regarding the ongoing work on hate crime reporting within Kirklees and the need to raise awareness of hate crime within communities.

**5. Discussion regarding attendance by Charity reps – Panel preparation of questions**

The Panel was informed that Charity representatives from Barnardo's and CRI & Base (Crime Reduction Initiative) would be attending the Panel in December 2015 and thanked Pauline Martin for making the arrangements.

Pauline Martin confirmed that she had undertaken research regarding the NSPCC charity and confirmed that the charity did not currently undertake work within Kirklees on CSE. The Panel noted that the NSPCC would not be invited to the Panel.

The Panel agreed to make enquiries to ascertain if the Children's Society currently undertook work within Kirklees and that a representative from the organisation be invited to attend a future meeting of the Panel if appropriate.

The Panel considered their approach and line of questioning to be discussed with the charity representatives at the December meeting and agreed that they would like to cover the following areas during the discussion:-

- Brief overview of work of Charity (including aims and objectives) - each Charity representative to give a short overview of the work that they undertake, including their aims and objectives;
- What work does the charity undertake within Kirklees on CSE and who is involved?
- Charity to share experiences of working with Kirklees Council on CSE – has the charity had any issues with Kirklees Council in the past and if so, have those issues been resolved?
- What is the Charity's take on CSE within Kirklees?
- External perception of Kirklees and other Local Authority's activity on CSE– Is there anything that Kirklees and other Local Authorities should stop doing/start doing?

**AGREED:-**

- (1) That Pauline Martin be thanked for making the arrangements for attendance by the Charity Reps.
- (2) That enquiries be made into whether the Children's Society undertake work within Kirklees and that they be invited to attend a future meeting of the panel if appropriate.
- (3) That the Governance Officer makes contact with the Charity representatives from Barnardos and CRI & Base prior to the Panel meeting in December, to provide a brief on the issues the Panel would like to discuss.

**6. CSE Management Information**

The Panel considered an update on CSE Management Information.

**AGREED:-**

- (1) That the update on Management Information be noted.

**7. Quarterly update to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

The Panel considered feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> October and discussed the quarterly update to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The Panel agreed that the Chair of the Panel, Councillor Erin Hill, would give an overview of the work of the CSE & Safeguarding Member Panel to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and make a general reference to the information provided by Ged McManus (West Yorkshire Police) at the October meeting regarding 'Update report on historic CSE cases (including progress) and Prosecution of Perpetrators of CSE'.

## **Questions from Leading Members**

Councillor Hill gave an update to confirm some of the questions from leading members had been delegated to services for response. The Panel noted that responses received so far had been positive. The Panel was informed that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had confirmed they would consider the questions that appertain to Scrutiny. Councillor Hill advised that work was continuing to progress on formulating the responses to the questions from Leading Members and it was hoped to complete the work by the end of the 2015/16 financial year.

### **AGREED –**

- (1) That the Quarterly update to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be noted.
- (2) That the progress on the responses to questions from Leading Members be noted.

## **8. CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel agenda plan for 2015/16**

The Panel considered the agenda plan for the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel for 2015/16.

The Panel welcomed the fact that Charity reps from Barnardo's and CRI & Base would be attending the Panel in December 2015.

The Members had a discussion regarding the future focus and work programme of the Panel and agreed to revisit this issue again in February. Cllr Hill advised that there were ongoing discussions within the Council regarding how the different areas of safeguarding fit together and how they and the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel link with other partners.

### **AGREED –**

- (1) That the agenda plan for the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel for 2015/16 be noted and updated as discussed.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

### **AGREED –**

- (1) That the date of the next meeting of the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 10.30 am in Meeting Room 3, Huddersfield Town Hall.