

North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board



Indemnity Insurance: All Board members are covered by their organisation's indemnity insurance, this is with the exception of lay members. ***Please note that whilst we value the opinions and professional judgements of our lay members they are exempt from taking any decisions arising from the Boards and its sub-groups.***

Date of Meeting	10 th December 2018
Venue	Police HQ, Portishead
Chair	Tony Oliver, Independent Chair
Minutes	Lucy Teteris, Safeguarding Boards Co-ordinator

Agency	Membership	Attendance
LSCB Chair	Tony Oliver	Attending
DCS, Director P&C	Sheila Smith	Attending
Service Leader Strategic Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	Jo Baker	Attending
Avon Fire and Rescue (Correspondent Member)	Neil Liddington	Apologies (N/a)
Avon and Somerset Police	Leanne Pook	Attending
Avon and Somerset Police	Stuart Bell	Apologies
AWP	Jon Peyton	
Barnados	Duncan Stanway	Attending
BNSSG CCG	Jacalyn Mathers	Attending
BNSSG CCG Designated Doctor for Safeguarding)	Richard Williams	Attending
Border Force	Denise Preston	
Cafcass	Victoria Penalggon	Apologies
CRC	Peter Brandt	Apologies
Lay Member	Anna Curvan	Attending
Lay Member	Pam Pollard	Apologies
National Probation Service	Liz Spencer	Jonathan Williams
North Somerset Community Partnership	Mary Lewis	Attending
North Somerset Community Partnership	Jos Grimwood	Attending
North Somerset Council, Assistant Director Adult Support and Safeguarding	Hayley Verrico	Apologies
North Somerset Council, Assistant Director Children's Support and Safeguarding	Eifion Price	Attending
North Somerset Council, CSDAT	Jo Mercer	

North Somerset Council, Executive Member	Cllr Jan Barber	Apologies
North Somerset Council, Solicitor	Lorraine Sherman	Attending
Secondary Schools	No representative	
St Francis Primary School	Catherine Hunt	Apologies
South West Ambulance Service	Debbie Bilton	
Sub-Group Chair: Communications	Anne Ray Rowley	Attending
Sub-Group Chair: Early Help	Mike Rees	Apologies
Sub-Group Chair: Policy and Procedures	N/a	
Sub Group Chair: SE/Missing	Ruth Sutherland	Attending
Sub-Group Chair: Training and Development	Carolyn Hills	Attending
United Hospitals Bristol Weston	Sarah Windfeld	Attending
VANs	Doreen Smith	Attending
WAHT	Sarah Dodds	Beccie Watkins
Attending to present to Board:		
Avon and Somerset Police	Will White	Attending
Avon and Somerset Police	Tanya Cooper	Attending
North Somerset Council	Helen Caldwell	Attending
North Somerset Council	Shelley Caldwell	Attending
North Somerset Council	Jenie Eastman	Attending

Minutes/Actions

Agenda Item 1: Introduction and Apologies
Presenting: Tony Oliver

TO thanked Avon and Somerset Police for the room and refreshments. He highlighted to members of the Board that by signing the attendance sheet they were also signing their agreement to the confidentiality statement. He asked the Board to make introductions and welcomed new members:

Doreen Smith, CEO VANS
Jonathan Williams, National Probation Services

Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest and AOB
Presenting: Tony Oliver

There were no declarations of interest.
There were no items of AOB.

Item 3: Presentations and Good Practice Examples:
Presenting: See Below
Discussion/Challenge:

Operation Topaz: D/Supt Will White and Tanya Cooper presented.

WW gave an update on the key changes since a year ago when Operation Topaz was last presented.

- Now Criminal Exploitation of Children not just CSE, this reflects the national trend
- The intelligence process is key and there are online forms for partners and professionals. He emphasised that the forms are not for main stream child protection referrals.
- Building a cohort in North Somerset for those potentially, or at risk
- Risk assessment process

Tanya explained that she had been a child protection investigator for 18 years. Operation Topaz in North Somerset has only been in operation for three weeks. Within that time there is an emerging trend of 32 young people (not yet assessed) 7 high risk and 2 definite risk. Of those, she has managed to engage with 5. She explained the difficulty to get police engagement and that she works closely with Ruth Sutherland, CSE Co-ordinator (local authority)

She explained that colleagues are working with the “disruption” side. Four identified as high risk; two as medium risk and 12 yet to be assessed. Tanya’s role involves speaking to professionals and young people involved and gathering intelligence. Liaison with disruption officers and coming up with plan on how to use the intelligence. She meets up with professionals, such as support workers who the young people trust.

A multi-agency meeting is/will be held every month in North Somerset. The first meeting was 14th November ’18 when North Somerset Topaz was launched. There is good engagement from partner organisations. Other organisations, such as Substance Abuse Service (SAS) and Probation are joining this month.

Many of the offenders are linked to more than one group of vulnerable people. Therefore, if one or two are “disrupted” this can have far reaching effects on the groups of young people. Already disrupted a main offender, this was within the first week, who is in custody and going to court on Friday. A family member, who is also high risk and is due to be released, a request for him to be housed away from North Somerset to reduce the risk.

Other activity over the last three weeks include:

- Harbours notice issued to two/three people
- Child abduction arrest
- Five more intelligent packages of high risk perpetrators.

Tanya highlighted the statistics within North Somerset: 40% of our young people at risk of exploitation has had one or more missing episodes; have learning disabilities; living in care; have chaotic families; drug abuse etc.

These stats are similar for the suspects. Operation Topaz “disrupts” using their criminality.

TO thanked WW and TC and asked the Board for any questions.

JMa asked:

- how GPs are able to contribute to intelligence, TC reiterated that there is an on-line form on the A&S website. RS clarified that this is for “soft intelligence”.
- How this fits into contextual safeguarding work? WW explained for example, work in Barnardos, trying to expand the data base to pick up those at risk of wider issues; i.e. knife crime. DuncanS confirmed that it is early days for North Somerset, and the way police are able to identify victims and perpetrators has been very successful.

- Difficulty with health and which cases are flagged: benchmark if a child has had a strategy that reach threshold where information can be shared. TC confirmed three health reps are present at the multi-agency meeting and are told of high risk cases. The group are trying to find a process how to feed back to GPs and the flow of information was discussed. WW suggested that as an agency, health should work out a threshold they are happy with.

Mary Lewis queried the profile of the perpetrator being different. WW explained that this refers to the perception in, for example, newspaper stories of a man in his 40s or 50s being the perpetrator but in fact generally it is within a similar age group. North Somerset are no different than the national profile. Awareness and education about the profile of the perpetrator is needed.

JB asked about the spike (although a very small number) on the statistics of female perpetrators aged 45-50, after which there are no female perpetrators. TC explained the very short time North Somerset has been operating and that the female involved is the mother of a high risk perpetrator.

TO reminded that the Board is still waiting for a report from Dr Christine Barter and that when the report is received he would be interested in comparing it to Operation Topaz's data.

SS asked if WW and TC had any requests from partner agencies. WW explained the experience for the more established operations, is that people see it as a one-stop-shop. He reiterated that this is additional to the well-established child protection procedures and to fill in the on-line referral form, if worried about "threshold" and the team can also see whether the information adds to the "jigsaw".

RS clarified that referrals don't go straight into Topaz. Information is scrutinised first by safeguarding.

TO thanked WW and TC.

Early Years Audit

Jenie Eastman, Early Years & Children's Centre Service Lead presented to the Board. Her report was circulated with the agenda. At the request of the LSCB an audit took place in January 2018. This had never been done before. 100% response rate of 230 providers answering the questionnaire. The providers included: under 5s groups; nurseries, pre-schools, child minders, out of school clubs. The audit was very thorough with 50 different questions with rankings from 1-10, low to high understanding of various areas of safeguarding.

The summary of findings were:

- High level of confidence of interagency working; neglect; sexual abuse; general CP type stuff.
- Far less sure of the use of thresholds in early help. Learning has been taken from the audit and our safeguarding training for the sector is plugging the gaps. The team deliver training to every single designated safeguarding officer twice a year. She explained that the training had been chargeable and take-up was poor, but the last few months the charges have been dropped and the training is now fully booked. Training is in the evening to fit in with work. There are six sessions twice a year over a period of one week. This is carried out by a member of her team and the local authority's training team structure it.

- Use of the DOFA. Julie Bishop did a presentation. This was mirrored and cascaded.
- Not confident around supervision of staff around safeguarding; CSE or FGM so bespoke training is being put in place.
- Domestic Violence. The training is expensive and is on at inconvenient times.
- All settings had been inspected by Ofsted with a “good” rating but since three months ago, three are now inadequate around a thorough understanding of safeguarding. Need a constant roll out of “Safer recruitment” training.

She explained that she would like to do an audit on an annual basis but 50% of providers on a rolling basis.

TO thanked JE and asked the Board for any questions.

LP noted hers and JMa’s involvement and expertise with cases of FGM and that she was already involved with BANES Early Years. She offered her expertise to JE. JMa suggested that each area have their own champion. Identify someone who can then go on FGM training. JE accepted LP’s offer and agreed that she would make contact with a Children Centre leader who has a lead on health. **Actions.**

DS stated that VANS would benefit from this training too and asked what could be available. RS explained that the Topaz Team have a Prevent officer and her role is to raise awareness across the A&S schools and other education areas. She agreed to link DS with the officer. **Action.**

Learning Review

Shelley Caldwell, Principal Social Worker, North Somerset Council presented her report. She explained a small working group consisting of Dr Mike Pimm (Lead Dr for Safeguarding), Andrew Bishop (Manager, Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit, A&S Police) and herself were tasked by the LSCB SCR panel to look at chronologies and multi-agency response leading to the conviction of a sex offender. Child B was a victim of intra familial sexual abuse. The SCR panel agreed that the case did not meet the threshold of an SCR but there were concerns which would benefit from a deep dive review.

The group looked at chronologies from June 2017 from police, health and social care and SC also met with the school, to unpick what had happened.

The SCR panel will meet to look at the recommendations of the report and SC is reporting to the Board the themes identified by the task group.

- Communication: how we communicate with families and children and multi-agency partners; thresholds and legislation.
- School: no one spoke to Child B on a 1to1 basis, there was no gathering of information to form a picture of what was going on.
- Absence of child’s voice or lived experience.
- Skills and confidence to communicate specifically with young children
- Evidence of fixed thinking and lack of curiosity and openness to fixed issues
- CSA, predominantly disclosure led.
- Respond to indicators of grooming
- Family dynamics, secrecy and shame that keeps a lot of people within household from being unable to speak out.
- Voice of the adult was challenging.

- Process of referrals; thresholds and that they are not a barrier to reporting safeguarding concerns.

TO confirmed that he/LT would send an email to the SCR panel to seek its view of whether to create a stand-alone action plan or put the learning from this review into the existing SCR action plan.

DuncanS felt it was important that the key messages from this review is shared with other schools. **Action**

Sexual Abuse and Violence Strategy

Helen Caldwell, Strategy and Policy Development Officer (NSC) briefed the Board. She explained that a multi-agency “start and finish” group was set up at the request of the Board. The strategy is an ongoing piece of work and the group is still meeting to progress multi-agency response and to produce an action plan from the strategic priorities for change within the strategy. The vision of the strategy arose from the summary of a needs assessment and is written for all ages and genders.

HC explained that a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) is possible.

JB explained about the JTAI, which is Ofsted led and that the current theme until next summer is sexual abuse in a family environment. (The next theme is children living with mental health). The inspection requires a multi-agency response (local authority, police, probation, health and youth offending team will be audited). A meeting is being held in January to prepare for this.

TO thanked Helen and Jo.

EP asked whether the strategic priorities will be defined into a set of actions within a timescale which will come back to Board. JB confirmed this but wanted to present the strategic priorities and that it will be up to each agency to come up with a SMART action plan which the Board will hold to account. She confirmed that the action plan will be presented to March Board. **Action**

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of Safeguarding Board 10th September 2018
Presenting: Tony Oliver

The minutes were signed-off as an accurate record by the Board.

TO went through the outstanding actions, these were either complete, agenda items or updated as detailed below:

		Lead	Outcome	
Item 3 1FD Presentation	“Drive Project” feedback on evaluation to come back to Board	Helen Caldwell	March ‘19	Carry over to March Board
	Health .6 post at 1FD – open action for Board	JMa	Open action	Open action
8 (vi) Tackling Exploitation and Missing	Hotelier and CSE Training. Get feedback from Bristol’s involvement before sending another letter to hoteliers.	TO	December	Open action

Item 5 : Standing Items
Presenting: TO
Discussion/Challenge:

5 (i) Executive Group:

TO let the Board know that the LSCB Executive met on 06.11.18 and that the minutes are attached for information. Actions from the group have either been completed or agenda items.

5 (ii) Consortium Feedback: Working Together update: Sheila updated the Board.

Over a year ago, five local authorities, the police and the different CCGs all agreed to commission an internal project working group to come up with some proposals around a more effective way to carry out our safeguarding responsibilities.

In any area there is a commissioning group, local authority and the police who have accountability of safeguarding across the patch. LSCBs vary in quality, attendance and ability to be strategic. It was up to each area to determine how to configure local arrangements going forward. North Somerset's aspiration was to have "something" across the Avon area. Jo Baker was the local authority representative who contributed to this working group.

Due to key personnel changes the result was that Bristol joined their LSCB, LSAB, Safer and Stronger Board and Children Partnership Board into one, which they felt would enable agencies to attend less meetings. BANES's CCG is not co-terminus with ours and lean towards Wiltshire. This leaves ourselves and South Gloucestershire.

A consultant was engaged who suggested it would be sensible to have a strategic group to have accountability and then to look at local arrangements. A meeting was held last week where members stated that they did not want to invest their accountability on such a group.

The areas agreed on:

- working across A&S regional footprint for some of the groups for example a joint SCR and Policy and Procedures group

Agreements need to be reached about how the future boards and sub-groups are to be funded and the consultant has been reengaged to carry out further work regarding the options of the format of the Boards and funding arrangements.

TO noted that Ofsted have to be notified of arrangements in June next year which must be implemented by September. JMa suggested that there is another deadline prior to that to ensure archive arrangements are in place before June.

Action: JB, LT and TO to meet and report back to March Board.

5 (iii) Agency updates from inspections and audits:

Early Years Audit: see above.

HMI Probation South West South Central NPS Inspection: Jonathan Williams updated the Board:

- overall rating good;
- divisional inspection;
- first division to be inspected since split;
- effective leadership, performance and quality;
- seven recommendations to the division, an action plan has been drawn up and recommendations are being implemented.

There were no questions from the Board.

CQC Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children Readiness Case Audit – North Somerset: JMa updated:

- single agency inspection process similar to JTAI, case tracking across health providers;
- 18 cases, children under health services, mental health, substance misuse, linked to maternity services;
- report produced and signed-off by all providers;
- the aim is to carry out the inspection every six months. The next is due around February, providing there is enough staff to facilitate;
- good communication across health partners; info some people had received minutes from case conferences and some hadn't; difficult to identify some cases across all cohorts;
- assurance to the Board that this process is being done and on a theme that CQC will inspect.

JMa suggested to TO's request that the inspection report will be sent to the Q&P sub-group who will report its findings back to Board.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection: As above.

5 (iv) Partner organisations' annual reports: None presented.

5 (v) Headline data: JB led on this item. The dashboard had been circulated with the agenda and she asked the Board for any questions.

Care Leavers: EP explained that the one "red flag" is because, although the figure is above the national average, the local authority has set themselves a challenge target of 80% which they aspire to. TO let the Board know that this was debated at Executive and it was decided to stick with this figure. EP explained, that like any parent, these are our children and we want the best for them.

Children missing: RS confirmed that she would provide data of return from missing interviews undertaken. **Action.**

RW raised the green rating for **Child Protection Plans** which was discussed at Executive, asking for more context. SS felt this related to the increase in early help.

JB let the Board know that the local authority carry-out a themed audit every month. Currently, children subject to a child protection plan SE, she will report back to the next Board. **Action.**

The next theme is children Living with mental health issues (about that child) identification and how we respond.

5 (vi) Police data: Leanne Pook highlighted the following: MissPer figures. LP has asked Simon Eames to audit CLA Missing figures. LP to report back to March Board. **Action.**

SS raised the issue which she has discussed with colleagues from other parts of the country, the need for the Board to know where there is a pattern of children homes on our patch, where there are high levels of children running away. The issue of the police becoming assertive when returning a person for the umpteenth time, refuse to take them back.

It was suggested that TO, as Independent Chair wrote to other Boards with regard to this issue. **Action to raise at February Executive.**

Lack of notification of placements is a national problem.

Hike **number of crimes involving children.** 42% increase year on year. 64.4% in North Somerset. Numbers involved are smaller so the percentage looks greater. Trend of crime rate had been going down but it is now rising. LP has also spoken to Simon E about this and felt that domestic abuse could be related to our demographics.

5 (vii) CCG data: JMa reminded the Board that health data is being reviewed. Draft “standards” have been sent out to providers and Board managers/Chairs for comment. Regarding particular request for CAMHS data, she has told that she will be able to provide:
Number of children referred into CAMHS
Number of children transitioned into a service
But cannot give data around suicide risk or self-harm

The “standards” will be in place in April, with one common offer across the three safeguarding boards.

Item 6: Sub-group reports
Presenting:
Discussion/Challenge:

The sub-groups report updates followed the presentation.

6 (i) Quality and Performance:

JB let the Board know that the audit for Children not in Education has taken place. All audits have been returned. The results need a lot of analysis and a full report will be presented to March Board. **Action**

6 (ii) P&P sub-group.

TO reminded the Board that this is now a virtual sub-group and that the Board still needs a permanent chair and co-chair.

Sexual Abuse and Violence Strategy: As above.

Multi-agency guidance for injuries for non-mobile babies: This is uploaded onto the website.

Early Help Strategy: EP updated the Board. The Early Help sub-group formerly chaired by Sadie Hall is now Mike Rees. Help is needed from all agencies to reinvigorate the life of group. The Early Help strategy should have been reviewed last year but wasn't. The strategy belongs to the safeguarding board. A significant proportion of early help activity is within the Troubled Families programme. Funding ceases in March 2020. Letter from Troubled Families unit encouraging all LAs to look at how the early help provided under Troubled Families is incorporated into the ongoing early help provided by universal services. Exit strategy needs to be included in the strategy and how we are going to manage across all partners particularly universal services. In the New Year there will be increased requests to attend the sub-group to look at the strategy. Eifion asked for the Board's support.

DuncanS asked and EP confirmed whether schools are to be part of the conversation. EP confirmed that he asked schools what pastoral support services they are running.

- 6 (iii) Learning & Development sub-group:** TO reminded the Board that a Training Needs Analysis document had been produced and circulated to all partners with a request to populate. There have been no replies. He had hoped that Carolyn Hills would be in a position to do a presentation with a populated document.

TO informed that he still intended to close off the Ofsted action plan on the basis that the document required has been produced but hold this as an open action.

He asked Board members to fill in the analysis and return to LT in time for the Executive in February and the report to be presented to Board in March. **Action.**

- 6 (iv) Early Help sub-group:**

As above.

- 6 (v) Communications sub-group:**

There were no questions from the Board.

- 6 (vi) Tackling Exploitation and Missing sub-group:**

There were no questions from the Board.

The sub-group asked the Board guidance on confidentiality and how to deal with relevance of topics for some of its members since it has broadened its scope.

TO agreed that it was not appropriate or proportionate to share certain information across broader group. He suggested a confidentiality statement, including some key principals about data exchange to be used on minutes. LT and TO to **Action.**

- 6 (vii) Young People's sub-group:**

TO thanked Leanne for volunteering Mike Jordan as the Young People's sub-group facilitator. TO has met with Mike. Mike proposes to meet with the schools and have the group up and running by end of January. He also proposes to involve the college.

- 6 (viii) SCR Sub-Group:**

- Siblings A&B
- Darry

JMa queried whether the action plans had been signed-off by the Board. TO reminded JMa the process the action plans had gone through. Discussion that what was presented were more strategic intentions and that a multi-agency SMART action plan needed to evolve from this. JB confirmed that on behalf of the local authority she

has carried out briefings on both SCRs and has produced her own SMART action plan, doing a single agency response.

Actions:

- TO and LT to state named lead agencies and circulate to individuals
- Agenda item for the Executive
- TO and JMa to meet to discuss health's input
- Learning Review update by Shelley Caldwell: see above
- EF and EP: JMa, JB and Nailsea beat police officer met to produce key messages to be circulated to all agencies. Awaiting a few amendments before this can be circulated to the SCR Panel for authorisation. **Action**

Item 7: Ofsted Action Plan
 Presenting: Tony Oliver
 Discussion/Challenge:

See above. The Ofsted action plan is closed.

Item 8: Annual Report and Business Plan
 Presenting: Tony Oliver
 Discussion/Challenge:

The completed LSCB Annual Report has been circulated. LT to upload and arrange circulation to police crime commissioner's office and children's scrutiny. **Action.**

Item 9: Governance including Individual Liability:
 Presenting: Tony Oliver
 Discussion/Challenge:

TO confirmed that to overcome the issues around individual liability a statement has been drawn up which is on both the Governance Page on the website and on Board minutes.

Item 10: Key Messages:
 Presenting: Tony Oliver
 Discussion/Challenge:

More formal and structured SCR action plans (current process not compliant with one of our key partners). This emphasises the gap with the lack of Board manager and this is the best we can come up with the resources.

TO asked that it was minuted that LT does a mountain more work than her role, as board coordinator, is tasked to do and thanked her.

Next Meeting: Monday 18th March 2018 @ 2.00pm, Probation Offices, Worle

ACTION LOG from today's minutes

		Lead	Date
Item 3: Early Years Audit	LP and JE to meet with regards to FGM training	LP	March
	RS to link DS with Prevent Officer	RS	March

Learning Review	Key messages of review to be shared with schools	SC	March
Sexual Abuse and Violence Strategy	Action plan to be presented to March Board.	HC	March
Item 4: Outstanding actions	1FD“Drive Project” feedback on evaluation to come back to Board	Helen Caldwell	March '19
	Health .6 post at 1FD – open action for Board	JMa	Open action
Item 5 (ii)	New safeguarding arrangements: JB, LT and TO to meet to ensure archive arrangements are in place.	TO	March
Item 5 (v)	LA Headline data: RS to provide data of return from missing interviews undertaken.	RS	March
Item 5 (vi)	Police data: LP to report to March Board following audit on CLA Miss Per figures.	LP	March
Item 6 (i)	Q&P: JB to present report on Children not in Education audit.	JB	March
Item 6 (iii)	L&D: Training Needs Analysis to be returned to LT prior to February Executive.	LT	February
Item 6 (iv)	TE & Missing: TO and LT to produce a confidentiality statement for sub-group minutes re information sharing.	TO	February
Item 6 (viii)	SCR: Action plans:		
	TO and LT to state named lead agencies and circulate to individuals	TO/LT	January
	Agenda item for February Executive	LT	February
	TO and JMa to meet to discuss health's input	TO/JMa	January
	EF and EP: awaiting a few amendments before circulation to SCR panel for authorisation.	LT	January
Item 8	Annual report to be published and circulated.	LT	December