

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (MSCB) UPDATE REPORT

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Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work of the Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) and to provide Members with an update on the MSCB Strategic Plan 2017-20.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) is set up under the Children Act 2004 and has the following main objectives:

- To coordinate what is done by each agency represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway.
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by those agencies for that purpose.

1.2 The MSCB has a pooled budget made up from financial contributions from its constituent statutory partners:

- Medway Council
- Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Health partners
- Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
- National Probation Service
- Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
- HM Young Offenders Institution Cookham Wood
- Medway Secure Training Centre
- Children And Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).

1.3 A protocol has been signed between the MSCB, Health and Wellbeing Board, Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adult Board and the Medway Community Safety Partnership to ensure appropriate co-ordination and coherence between the boards.

2. Background

- 2.1 The MSCB comprises an Executive, a Board and a number of Sub Groups. The Executive is the main business forum ensuring MSCB maintains its main focus on the strategic priorities that impact on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway. The day-to-day work of the Board is managed through the sub group structure. The Executive, Board and its sub groups are supported by the MSCB Staff Team, who are employed by Medway Council and based in Gun Wharf.
- 2.2 The main responsibilities for MSCB are defined under regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Regulations and include:
- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures;
 - Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
 - Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
 - Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of authority; and
 - Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

3. Summary of Progress

- 3.1 The MSCB Independent Chair is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway. The MSCB Annual Report 2015-16 was presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2016. A further update on the work of the MSCB is below. The MSCB Annual Report 2016-17 will be presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to the Health and Wellbeing Board later in the year.
- 3.2 Training – One of the most immediate ways in which the MSCB influences the effectiveness of safeguarding in Medway is through running a range of multi agency safeguarding training sessions for professionals including courses on basic and intermediate child protection, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and Prevent. Between April 2016 and March 2017, the MSCB delivered 44 training sessions, attended by over 1100 delegates. MSCB training remains popular and is always highly rated, with very positive feedback from delegates.
- 3.3 During the last year the MSCB has been running a series of workshop sessions called 'Taster Sessions'. These shorter sessions have been designed to make training more accessible. The taster sessions have covered issues including child trafficking; parental substance misuse and engaging with young people. The MSCB is looking to facilitate further taster sessions in the coming months, including the impact of parental mental health and gangs awareness training.

- 3.4 The MSCB has in place a three month post course evaluation to measure how the learning from the training has had an impact on practice. This adds to the evaluation carried out immediately after the completion of each course. Over the last two years the MSCB has improved the response rate to the post course evaluation from 5% in 2015 to 23% in 2017. As a result, the MSCB now has evidence of how professionals have applied the skills, abilities and knowledge from the training courses, and can be assured about the value of the training.
- 3.5 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – The Medway Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Group, a sub group of the MSCB, has developed a new strategy for safeguarding children abused through Sexual Exploitation. The MASE Group regularly reviews any relevant national or local learning which can be used to inform the response to CSE in Medway. This has included reviewing the key findings from the Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs) of the multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 3.6 In December 2015, Kent Police, Medway Council, Kent County Council and health services came together to form a combined team to tackle the sexual exploitation of children alongside Operation Willow. Operation Willow is a partnership to respond to concerns and promote awareness of CSE by working closely with schools, GP's, taxi firms, hotels and pubs. Agencies involved in Operation Willow supported the National CSE Awareness Day, which was 18 March 2017. The day aimed to highlight the issues surrounding CSE; encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children developing inappropriate relationships with other children.
- 3.7 The MSCB has set up a Champions model, in which partner agencies, including Medway Council, Kent Police, health services and the voluntary sector have nominated representatives to act as CSE champions and be a point of contact for CSE concerns within their agency to provide advice to colleagues. CSE champions have quarterly meetings and are required to support good practice in their organisations by disseminating learning, feed in CSE experiences from their service, participate in multi agency CSE work streams and support training events.
- 3.8 At each MASE meeting an intelligence report from the CSE Team (CSET) is provided. The latest report highlighted that there are currently a number of young people who have been raised as being potentially at risk of CSE situations. These are coupled with certain problematic areas within Kent and Medway that have also been highlighted as potentially significant areas of interest.
- 3.9 Between 22 July 2016 and 17 November 2016, there were 128 calls into the Kent Police Force Control room that were tagged for CSE for Medway.
- The highest number of calls tagged for CSE are in relation to missing persons.
 - The majority of the calls were made by either a parent or carer (foster carer/ care home worker etc.).

- 3.10 Graded Care Profile – In February 2017 the roll out of the Graded Care Profile (GCP2) began in Medway. The GCP2 is a practical tool which supports practitioners in measuring the quality of care delivered to an individual child from an individual carer or carers over a short window of time and is designed to give a representative overview of the current level of care. In turn, this allows practitioners to complete a detailed assessment of the quality of care and plan how this can be improved. All practitioners using the GCP2 must have attended and passed a licensed training programme. The MSCB hosted a train the trainer session in December 2016 to train sixteen professionals as trainers and has been running monthly training sessions with 42 professionals trained between January and March 2017. The introduction of the GCP2 will help professionals to identify areas where parents need to improve their care and achieve better outcomes for children.
- 3.11 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - The eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK within generation is a key government priority. The MSCB is part of the Kent and Medway FGM Multiagency Steering Group which reports in to the Board. The group look at national directives and local FGM prevalence as well as recording mechanisms and support.
- 3.12 The Kent and Medway FGM working group has developed a work plan for 2016-2018. The work plan includes the development of internal guidance in line with Kent and Medway procedures, FGM training, review of FGM cases, consideration of local FGM activity, FGM champions, public awareness and information sharing, all of which will be applicable to schools. The group is currently reviewing the action plan for their services and once the plan has been finalised it will be shared with all partners, including schools, to consider their own FGM position, with support from the MSCB.
- 3.13 The Kent and Medway FGM Operational Guidelines were developed by the group and are published within the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Procedures.
www.proceduresonline.com/kentandmedway/pdfs/fgm_guidance.pdf These Operational Guidelines include a pathway for sharing information where FGM is identified, mandatory reporting duties and details of specialist services for FGM and other organisations that can help.
- 3.14 A range of additional resources is available through the MSCB website. This includes e-learning courses for professionals on FGM, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence. There are also resources created by young people, including a short awareness raising video created by students from The Robert Napier School with support from Kent Police and the MSCB and a presentation developed by the Medway Youth Parliament. Further details about materials and information related to FGM for practitioners, volunteers and young people is available in Appendix 2.
- 3.15 Scrutiny and Challenge Arrangements and holding agencies to account – The MSCB has in place a programme for agency annual reports to be presented to the Board detailing actions taken to improve effectiveness, strategic issues for the organisation and what life is like for front line staff. The MSCB also maintains a Challenge Log to demonstrate how the MSCB is challenging partners on their responsibilities and provides details about the action taken to

address the concerns raised by MSCB. Over the last six months the following challenges have been raised:

- MSCB Lay members sought assurances that the MSCB budget is used efficiently and that areas to save money are being explored - The 2016-17 Budget was approved in January 2016. Cost saving measures have been implemented including changes to refreshments at meetings/ training and the costs associated with printing materials for training.
- Concerns were raised over a potential gap in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) from August 2016 for 3-4 months – The commissioning team have updated that this issue has now been resolved, Kent has extended its procurement timetable through to September 2017 to match Medway's and the joint contract with Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) extended to 31 August 2017.
- The multi agency audit on children known to mental health services completed by the Case File Audit Group (CFAG) raised a number of areas of learning of concern to the Executive – As a result, the findings of the audit were raised at the Board meeting in September 2016. A Learning Lessons Bulletin has been developed and circulated to share the learning with professionals. The Executive has also approved the recommendation that the managers of the professionals involved in the cases will be sent a copy of the report as well as the chronology report being recorded on the child's case notes.
- Concerns were raised during a Serious Case Review (SCR) into the death of a child 'Harry' (being undertaken by Thurrock LSCB, 'Harry's' home) at the HM Young Offender Institution at Cookham Wood that toxicology results provided to the SCR Panel were inaccurate – As a result the MSCB, along with Thurrock LSCB sought assurances from Kent Scientific Services who confirmed that a full and thorough investigation had been carried out, the coroner had been notified and procedures put in place to ensure that similar circumstances do not arise in any future case.
- Concerns were raised by the Executive in September 2016 that there was no outside representation at the Secure Training Centre (STC) quarterly safeguarding meetings. As a result, engagement with both the STC and HMYOI Cookham Wood was discussed at the Secure Estate Task and Finish Group and a representative of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) now attends safeguarding meetings at both Medway STC and HMYOI Cookham Wood.

3.16 Multi Agency Audits – The MSCB has a Case File Audit Group (CFAG) which meets every six weeks to undertake audits to identify good practice and multi-agency learning. In the past themes have included parents with complex needs and cases that have been stepped down from children's social care. An overview report is completed to provide a key summary of the lessons from the audits and recommendations from the group. These recommendations are built into the MSCB Action and Improvement Plan which is managed and implemented by the MSCB Learning Lesson sub group. The most recent themed audits have looked at Children known to Mental Health services; and Children on child protection plans with a component of domestic abuse.

3.17 During 2017, the MSCB has developed a new Learning Lessons Bulletin which is circulated to professionals and published on the MSCB website. The

publication aims to share the learning from audit activity to allow professionals to reflect on their own practice.

4. Serious Case Reviews (SCR's)

- 4.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards undertake Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) when children die or are seriously injured, and abuse and/or neglect are suspected or known to be a factor, and/or there are concerns about how local agencies worked together. The purpose of such reviews is to learn lessons and improve practice. Such reviews result in action plans that should drive this improvement.
- 4.2 The MSCB has commissioned three SCRs within the last six months that are currently in progress. The first is in relation to the death of a young girl who had a number of health conditions including diabetes and sickle cell anaemia. Her death was due to natural causes linked to medical complications arising from her diabetes. The final panel meeting to consider the draft SCR report is on 7 June 2017. The report will be presented to the MSCB Board on 14 July 2017 and subject to the Board's approval, published at the end of July 2017.
- 4.3 The second SCR is in relation to the death of a two year old girl who was found dead at her home alongside her mother. The report will be presented to the MSCB Board on 14 July 2017 and subject to the Board's approval, published at the end of July 2017.
- 4.4 The third SCR is in relation to the abuse of children at Medway Secure Training Centre (STC), which was first aired in the BBC Panorama documentary. Following interviews, an Independent Author has been appointed and the recruitment for an Independent Chair is currently underway.
- 4.5 Conditions in the secure estate for children across England and Wales have continued to be a matter of considerable concern and national debate over the past sixteen months. The MSCB has established a 'task and finish' group to come forward with practical ideas of how safeguarding can be improved locally and these will be implemented over the next six months.

5. MSCB Strategic Plan 2017-20

- 5.1 The MSCB previously agreed six priority areas for 2014-17. The priority areas were:
 - To improve the life chances of children living with family members with mental health, substance misuse or disabilities;
 - To develop and implement a strategy for co-ordination and provision of support for children subjected to, or at risk of, sexual exploitation;
 - To educate children and young people to recognise risk factors to their own, and to their peers, safety and wellbeing;
 - To reduce the negative impact on children and young people who live with Domestic Abuse;
 - To develop understanding of factors that make children and young people more vulnerable aged 11 and over; and
 - Improving the effectiveness of MSCB including MSCB communications.

5.2 In February 2017, the Executive held a priority setting workshop to consider the new MSCB priorities from April 2017 onwards. The MSCB has now agreed the following priorities for 2017-20.

- Develop the effectiveness of the Medway Safeguarding Children Board. The MSCB will do this by:
 - Developing links between educational establishments (to include primary, secondary, pupil referral units, independent and colleges) and the MSCB.
 - Championing new and evidence based initiatives which will help achieve positive outcomes for children and young people in Medway.
- Ensure that the principles of Early Help, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and thresholds are understood and embedded across partners.
- Support a local recruitment strategy to help ensure there is an effective workforce for safeguarding children in Medway.
- Raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people to ensure they are appropriately identified and safeguarded.
- Enhance the understanding of neglect amongst professionals and ensure children experiencing neglect receive timely and effective support.
- Address the challenges to children and young people at risk of specific vulnerabilities including exploitation (including online exploitation), sexually harmful behaviour and mental health.

5.3 The new priorities have been built into the MSCB Strategic Plan 2017-20 which is due to be published in June 2017. A draft copy of the Strategic Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

6. Wood Review and Children and Social Work Act 2017

6.1 Following the national review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) undertaken by Alan Wood, the Children and Social Work Act received the Royal Assent in April 2017. The act has been described by the Children's Minister, Edward Timpson, as an important step forward for vulnerable children. "It defines what good corporate parenting looks like and secures the involvement of the whole council in looking out for children in care and leaving care." It introduces changes to LSCBs and includes a wide range of measures.

The measures include:

- Providing extra support in schools for children in care;
- Requiring councils to provide personal advisers to all care leavers up to age 25;
- Ensuring children's long-term needs are prioritised by courts considering adoption or other placement options;
- Strengthening local multi-agency coordination in safeguarding cases;
- Improving national arrangements for the analysis of serious incidents.

7. Risk management

- 7.1 Whilst there are no specific risks identified, the MSCB annual report 2016-17 will present an analysis of safeguarding in Medway and work to challenge and support the Council and its other partners to address and reduce risks to children.

8. Financial and Legal implications

- 8.1 MSCB is a statutory body funded through financial and “in kind” contributions from local agencies. There are no financial or legal implications for the Board arising from this report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Board is asked to consider the contents of the update report and provide any comments.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Medway Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Plan 2017-20
Appendix 2 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Materials and Information

Background Papers

Medway Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16
www.mscb.org.uk/aboutus/mscbannualreport.aspx