MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING BOARD

Meeting No. 12

Date:	Thursday 13th October 2016
Venue:	Hambleton Primary Academy
Time:	4.15pm

Present: Dr David Sanders (Chair)
Ms Nicola Anderson (Lead Case Worker, Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)
Mr Stuart Aris (Head of School and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Gateway Academy)
Ms Fiona Bate (SENCO and Leader of Student Services, Hodgson Academy)
Mr Simon Brennand (Senior Vice Principal, Unity Academy)
Mr Neill Oldham (Director of Student Services, Child Protection and SENDCO, Aspire Academy)
Mr Stuart Ormson (Designated Safeguarding Officer, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Ms Kelly Shaw (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westcliff Primary Academy)
Ms Gill Smith (Assistant Principal: Personal Development and Welfare, Montgomery High School)
Ms Carole Sweeting (Governor, Aspire Academy)
Ms Holly Wood (Principal, Hambleton Primary Academy)

Ms Amanda Hatton (Deputy Director, People, Blackpool Council – for part of the meeting)
Mr Paul Turner (Safeguarding Adviser, Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board – for part of the meeting)
Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Phil Anderton, Sue Burrows, Lisa Knowles, Chris McConnachie and Gail Yeadon.

Action

1. Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially new members to the Safeguarding Board.

Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted.

2. Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)

Paul Turner, Safeguarding Adviser for BSCB provided information on the role of the organisation and highlighted the potential for joint working and sharing good practice in respect of safeguarding, including opportunities for academies to access free training and quality assurance audits. He also confirmed that Hodgson Academy and Hambleton Primary Academy could access twilight sessions offered by BSCB even though they were located outside Blackpool's geographic boundaries.

Amanda Hatton, Deputy Director of People, initiated a discussion about the potential to jointly address the increasing number of safeguarding referrals to Social Services. The number of children in need in Blackpool currently stood at close to 1,000 per 10,000 population, significantly higher than that in neighbouring authorities. In September 2016, the Department had responded to 1,127 first contacts and there were currently 2,126 open cases; the highest

numbers ever.

The number of Looked After Children in September 2016 peaked at 506, and this had remained consistently over 500 for the last six weeks.

Nationally, there had been a 65% increase in the number of referrals to social care and this was reflected at local level, including in Lancashire. Amanda explained that not all cases were due to transience issues. Most were due to a range of different factors, including poor parenting and local authorities were looking at how schools could be engaged to help address this. She also highlighted the fact that the provision of critical services to children and young people as it stands currently was unsustainable for the future and that more needed to be done to prevent cases getting to this stage. She provided an example of good practice from one organisation that had recruited a business manager with a remit to identify external funding sources to facilitate the appointment of psychologists, family support teams etc as required.

Colleagues from the education sector confirmed that capacity in schools to support social care issues was also limited.

The Chair explained that he was due to attend a Blackpool based summit on Friday 18th November 2016 where the increase in caseloads would be one of the matters to be debated. It was acknowledged that participation at the summit by Health Service (particularly Mental Health Service) and Housing professionals would be extremely useful.

Paul emphasised the importance of ensuring that young people's concerns were raised at the summit. The recent BSCB Pupils' Forum had identified the scarcity of work experience places; the need for investment in the infrastructure where people live (rather than solely for the Tourist Industry) and improving safety at night time and on public transport as priorities.

A discussion took place on the potential for Blackpool Council to review its referral form and make it a live electronic document so that all stakeholders were able to see the input from each agency and could better track progress of cases. Amanda explained that Blackpool Council had considered this but, to date, had been unable to identify a software provider to supply the product. The Safeguarding Board felt that this was something that could be discussed further at the summit.

The Chair asked members of the Safeguarding Board to forward on any other issues they felt were in need of discussion to the Clerk or to him directly for consideration at the summit.

All

In response to the Chair's request for representatives from the Safeguarding Board to attend the summit in order to support discussions, SB and NA confirmed that Unity Academy would provide participants.

The Chair thanked PT and AH for their input and they left the meeting.

3. **Declarations of interest**
   None.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2016**
   The minutes were approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

5.1 Feedback from Blackpool Council on safeguarding concerns raised by students (Item 4.2 from the previous minutes) – the Chair reported back on another meeting he had had with John Blackledge at Blackpool Council. Further work had been done to raise awareness amongst leisure centre staff of vulnerable children and young people. The concerns raised by Montgomery students about the dark pathways were being investigated as were traffic calming measures outside Montgomery High School and Aspire Academy/Blackpool Sixth Form College. John Blackledge had also been invited to attend the BSCB in order to improve communication links.

A discussion on the pathway across the dark field from Blackpool Sixth Form College which had been the location of a mugging incident a few months back took place. It was noted that, with the imminent but potentially prolonged closure of Crossley's Bridge, it was likely that this would again become a popular route for students to use. SO confirmed that the College was raising awareness of the dangers of using the field in the dark. The Chair said he would raise the matter of lighting again with Blackpool Council.

Chair

5.2 Staff training on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (Item 4.3 from the previous minutes) – SO confirmed that Blackpool Sixth Form College was no longer intending to procure a face to face training session on FGM but, instead would be accessing a free online course. The Clerk agreed to forward on the link to the training to members of the Safeguarding Board.

Clerk

5.3 Impact of permanent exclusions on safeguarding (Item 6 from the previous minutes) – the Chair reported that the Principal of Blackpool's Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was in the process of developing a list of different curriculum opportunities available there and that he would make this available to the Safeguarding Board once published. It was acknowledged that links to the private housing sector would benefit further discussion on social factors impacting on student behaviour. The Chair reported that he had met with the CEO of Blackpool Coastal Housing about the matter.

Chair

5.4 2nd Report to FCAT Directors (Item 8 from the previous minutes) – the Clerk confirmed that the amendments agreed at the previous meeting had been made to the Report. The Report had been received by FCAT Directors at their meeting in July 2016.

5.5 Raising concerns about the safeguarding impacts on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Item 12 from the previous minutes) – following a brief discussion on the matter, the Chair agreed to forward the details of the contact at Blackpool Council for this.

Chair

5.6 Changes to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (Item 15 from the previous minutes) – the Clerk confirmed that the document highlighting changes had been circulated to the Board. Changes in terminology were noted and it was recommended that the FCAT Safeguarding Policy be reviewed again in respect of these. Following further discussion on the Policy, the Clerk was asked to also incorporate a job description of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and best practice procedures in respect of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in the appendices and to ensure honour based violence and the importance of early interventions/help

Clerk

were included. It was agreed to wait until just before the summer break 2017 to reissue the Policy in readiness for the start of the 2017-2018 academic year.

6. **Terms of Reference**

The Board reviewed the current terms of reference and approved them with changes to membership and the addition of a term on the Group's role in respect of scrutiny of policies and procedures across the FCAT family organisations.

Clerk

7. **Strategies to address risks of using social media**

Members of the Board reported back on some of the strategies in place across their organisations. Staff and students across all settings had been trained in online safety and this was continued across the year.   The new policies in respect of use of mobile phones at Aspire, Montgomery and Unity were discussed and it was acknowledged that these had had a significant impact on reducing cyber bullying and the abuse of social media.

Staff shared the problems being experienced in engaging with parents about online safety and highlighted poor attendance at scheduled events on the subject. HW reported that the situation was the same with primary parents and that Hambleton Academy was considering the development of a play for children to perform on the subject which should attract better attendance.

CS highlighted the importance employers place on the misuse of social media and the importance of communicating this to young people prior to them leaving school for the work place.

Clerk
(agenda)

The Chair asked that further discussion on social media strategies take place at the next meeting.

8. **Pupil/Student Engagement**

   8.1 **Primary Children**

   Following a discussion about how best to collate feedback from primary children on their safeguarding concerns, it was agreed that this might be best achieved in the primary academy settings. The Clerk was asked to liaise with HW, SA and SB on this and to report back findings at the February 2017 meeting.

   Clerk/
   Primary reps

   8.2 **Arrangements for the next three meetings**

   The arrangements for student engagement over the next three meetings were confirmed as:
   - 29th November 2016 – students from Blackpool Sixth Form College and Aspire Academy at Blackpool Sixth Form College.
   - 9th February 2017 – students from Montgomery High School and Unity Academy at Montgomery High School.
   - 27th April 2017 – students from Hodgson Academy at Hodgson Academy.

   Academy reps

9. **FCAT Safeguarding Policy**

This item had been discussed under Item 5.6.

10. **Safeguarding Peer Review Developments**

Blackpool Sixth Form College's safeguarding procedures would be reviewed by colleagues from Unity, Montgomery and Hambleton later in the month. Findings would be brought to the next meeting.

Clerk
(agenda)

11. Recent Safeguarding Case Study

The Board considered a case study provided by one of the partner organisations which highlighted the importance of passing information onto other stakeholders as quickly as possible in order to avoid confusion and ensure that issues are dealt with as quickly as possible.

12. National/Regional/Local Developments

12.1 Implications of changes to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

12.2 Government Response to the Wood Review of LSCBs

The Chair reported that this had now been published at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/526330/Government_response_to_Alan_Wood_review.pdf

The key recommendations are:

- Ensure a better coordinated and more consistent framework for protecting children by placing a new requirement on the three key partners – local authorities, police and the health service - to make arrangements for working together more effectively in the local area.
- Place an expectation on schools to co-operate with the multi-agency arrangements.
- Simplify arrangements around multi-agency working by removing the requirement for set memberships and unwieldy boards.
- Replace the current system of Serious Case Reviews with a system of national and local reviews to ensure greater consistency and more effective sharing of learning and good practice.
- Transfer responsibility for Child Death Overview Panels from the Department for Education to the Department of Health.

A change in the geographic boundaries of LSCBs is also possible though this was still to be decided.

Legislation to support the recommendations was currently being drafted and would be published next year.

13. Online Safety updates

NO agreed to forward Aspire Academy's online safety updates to the Clerk for further circulation to the Board.

NO/Clerk

14. Risk Management

14.1 FCAT Safeguarding Risk Register

The Board reviewed Risks 1 – 6 of the Risk Register and agreed a number of recalculations to the scoring which the Clerk agreed to make.

Clerk

14.2 New Risks

The pressures on social care services in respect of child protection caseloads and the impact of that on referrals from our organisations was identified as a new risk for the Register.

15. Any other business

It was agreed that, prior to the next, and future meetings, each organisation would complete a grid to track the numbers of different groups of children in

need. This would identify comparisons in terms of profiles across the different settings and potential for joint working to address common concerns.

16. Date and time of next meeting
Tuesday 29th November 2016 at 4.15pm
Blackpool Sixth Form College

Signed: _____(Chair)

Date: _____